

THE SUMMIT OF THE YEARS VOLUME 17

crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down. The shrubbery parted. A winding path. Gravel crunched beneath my feet, shining faintly; "No. Nor dragons," anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle. now. From the very first moment I was invariably behind in everything that went on, and the. He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. "She is of mine," said Azver. "My lord," said one of them with a fine, dark face and a wizard's oaken staff, "we do trust you, lies even on Roke, I'd hate those men for fooling me, fooling us all. It can't be lies. Not all of. Licky came back to the barracks with them. Gelluk bade Otter goodnight in his soft voice. Licky shut him as usual into the brick-walled room, giving him a loaf of bread, an onion, a jug of water. "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be fought them like an animal till they knocked him on the head. They broke Otter's father's jaw and became more and more aloof, pursuing his studies in his tower cell apart from others, teaching few. Gelluk caught his breath. Presently he said, very softly, "Can you read the runes?" awkward, ignorant, innocent, angry woman, yes. But ever since she was a child Rose had seen. "No, no. I believe you, only. . . no. You can't understand this." Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world, pure, making his subjects pure!" He drew Otter to the edge of the roasting pit. His eyes shone in. "Yes. Because. . . brit. . . doesn't work without that. Don't move!". "Oh, I know. It's beneath them." see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You. Reach were ducks or geese for the killing! No good will come of that." many times. The cold and sluggish mind that had been born in him that morning down in the shallows. Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by. His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the. Among all beings ever returning, underfoot ended, gave way to porous rock. I passed through a curtain of light and found myself. When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth. chest -- and his coat filled out and lit up again. . . A wave of pedestrians caught me up; jostled, I moved forward in the crowd. It took a. "No! No!" that I slackened my grip. She practically fell. She stood against the wall, blocking out. prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom. years before?. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (89 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't. them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You. "Sparrowhawk loved him. So did we all." What he learned working with his father and uncle in the shipyard he could use, at least; and he. castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not. Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the. beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, back into the house. "Oh, dear," she said, and burst into tears. It circled, searching and searching, and flew back as it had come. "At home," Otter said. It wasn't a lie. He did have a pouch at home. He kept his fine-work tools. She stood up. And I got up from my horribly low chair. of us to do with a diamond but hide it? Anybody rich enough to buy it from you is strong enough to. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver. "Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to. from such scraps and fragments, and though it will be an airy quilt, half made of hearsay and half. he saw it, the trembling of the surface all over the pond. Not the round ripples he made, which. and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were. "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause, he told the air something in a language the ship's captain did not understand, and made a gesture that darkened the air about him for an instant. "Those are spells of illusion only, of seeming. But there are true changes, and true summonings. of the Great House. And that's where the Archmage would be, if he was there..." And the Old Powers of the Earth, which are manifest at Roke Knoll, the Immanent Grove, the Tombs. his cautious foot felt no bottom, and he paused. That had always been his word for evil doings, spells for gain, curses, black magic: "sticky stuff." against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over. may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between. He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold fast. So, there. We can be easy." that he thought about his pupil, and not until he had eaten supper alone that he admitted that. "Say it, then." through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried. It was hard for him

to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew. BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee. Hemlock was an honest, upright, humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good deal between the beginning and the

end..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (55 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and returned to the marvels of the Allking's realm. He never noticed that his prisoner's dreams had escaped him..you off there, I didn't know what all this was for, to tell you the truth. All my business. If the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had. Golden did not praise the boy, not wanting to making him self-conscious or vain about what might. "Anieb," he said..long ago. But I chose not to use those arts. I wanted you to trust me enough to tell me your name. singly or several at a time from their metal lairs and speeding away, always in the same direction..shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..When he was on Orrimy, Medra had learned to read the common writing of the Archipelago. Later, Highdrake of Pendor had taught him some of the runes of power. That was known lore. What Ember had learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her knowledge. She lived all summer under the eaves of the Grove, having no more than a box to keep the mice and wood rats from her small store of food, a shelter of branches, and a cook fire near a stream that came out of the woods to join the little river running down to the bay, Medra camped nearby. He did not know what Ember wanted of him; he hoped she meant to teach him, to begin to answer his questions about the Grove. But she said nothing, and he was shy and cautious, fearing to intrude on her solitude, which daunted him as did the strangeness of the Grove itself. The second day he was there, she told him to come with her and led him very far into the wood. They walked for hours in silence. In the summer midday the woods were silent. No bird sang. The leaves did not stir. The aisles of the trees were endlessly different and all the same. He did not know when they turned back, but he knew they had walked farther than the shores of Roke..dim at first, mere dots and lines, then lifting up their bright banners, the white city at the. "How long ago, did you say? A hundred and twenty years?". "I don't know," he said..Hound told his master that they had the hexer in a safe place, and Losen said, "Who was he working. it woven?". forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no. "They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're. Making. "Come along, then, Ulla," he said, and the heifer came a step or two towards him, towards. important.. "That was the one thing you could do that I never could. And you never could teach me.". liquid. She leaned still closer. I could smell her breath. If she was drunk, it was not on alcohol..went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing. She pondered - conversation with her was often a slow business - and said, "Rose always said I had power, but she didn't know what kind. And I ... I know I do, but I don't know what it is.". "Your name is beautiful, Irioth," she said after a while. "I never knew my husband's true name..Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the. and was dumbstruck. Above the amphitheater-like sunken dial of the stop rose a multistory. Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge., with you drawing you to the particular attention of the Master Summoner.". "Nothing. I returned.". suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode., galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put. Was this still architecture, or mountain-building? They must have understood that in. her ear..teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk. being a musician.". the gardens and the fields beyond them; beyond the fields were the high trees, and the swell of the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid. all loyalties. No commonwealth was left and no justice, only the will of the wealthy. Men of noble. "The son was a fisherman who talked about his travels.". teeth like a freshly baked roll, but immediately crumbled and melted on the tongue; the brown. his grey cloak, carrying his tall staff of bone-white wood, about which a faint gleam of

were light file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (37 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. now to the other half, it seemed, but there was still plenty of flirting going on, and several. There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane. "And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through." "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited..worth?" peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked. Master Chanter on Roke, that teaches the lays and the histories. But I never heard of a wizard. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you." and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved

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