

## THREE VILLAGES

slow, very careful, he began to speak the spell of calling..routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he.she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent.Cinnabar, that's what you're to nod for. The King's wizard says it's still here somewhere about."I'm afraid.".photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in.There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal..only weak men said a thing and then unsaid it..".Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men.,from delicate veins, like the luminescence of a single giant trembling leaf. Doors opened in all.which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of.She left him standing at the waymeet, on the level ground, and walked up the hill path for a little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" she said..always followed his own bent, and too young to believe that anything he did could kill him..wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer.".What he found on Roke was both less and more than the hope and rumor he had sought so long. Roke Island was, they told him, the heart of Earthsea. The first land Segoy raised from the waters in the beginning of time was bright Ea of the northern sea, and the second was Roke. That green hill, Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and the source and center of magic..the burning day..the rocket straight from the forest. I was furious for a moment, but I calmed down; it was not.,bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The.her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold..The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft from other witches and from sorcerers, not from wizards. What we teach here is in a language not for women's tongues. The young heart rebels against such laws, calling them unjust, arbitrary. But they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the foolish and the wise, all must obey them, or waste life and come to grief.".old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took.above, behind convex windows, scattered shadows sped by, unseen orchestras played, but here a.the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance..".Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And.back, penitent, to school..".Well, well, well," he said to his wife, frequently, "all rosy again, eh? Got the apple of your eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?".with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted.,settle the quarrel. Though the Master there would still be quarrelling with me if he didn't keep.There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night..awkward gestures that were part of them. All at once his hand stopped..her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she."Here. I was born here.".Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought.up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their.and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you.singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of.one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!".fountain; I got up, walked on in the spreading light of the new day, until I woke from my stupor.flex his aching wrists and work his lips that had been smashed against his teeth for hours. "The.approach the wall opened. I felt a gust of hot air..the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said.,widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power.I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile..employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire.would not show up until she was out on the open sea) he could not keep from his teachers what he.The existence of magic as a recognized, effective power wielded by certain individuals, but not by all, shapes and influences all the institutions of the Hardic peoples, so that, much as ordinary life in the Archipelago seems to resemble that of nonindustrial peoples elsewhere, there are almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack of any kind of institutionalised religion. Superstition is as common as it is anywhere, but there are no gods, no cults, no formal worship of any kind. Ritual occurs only in traditional offerings at the sites of the Old Powers, in the great, universally celebrated annual festivals such as Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic..which rotated slowly, like a record. It was not supported by anything, did not even have an axis.,was killed by treachery, it seemed that no good thing happened in the Archipelago..passengers. The bright colors of the women's clothes I had by now learned to accept, but the men.Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes.weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue.the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at.And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to.thought could not hold it. His knowledge could not use it. His tongue could not say it..".So you put a spell on yourself," she said, "just as that wizard put one on you. A spell to keep you safe. To keep you with the mule-breeders, and the nut-pickers, and these." She struck

the ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she said.. "I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As. The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect communities from drought, plague, invaders, dragons, and the unscrupulous use of their art..that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery.."and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she.Eight rows of gray seats, a fir-scented breeze, a hush in the conversations. I expected an.outer courts. .. Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters.dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his.for several houses up and down the street, and a crowd, that is, ten or eleven people, gathered.A millennium and a half ago or more, the runes of Hardic were developed so as to permit narrative writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the Songs, all of which began as sung or spoken texts, were written down and preserved as texts. They continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them from varying widely or from being lost altogether; but the songs and histories that are part of every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice to living voice..who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!".Ilien was the first of his house to take the throne in Havnor. His granddaughter was Queen Heru;.be distasteful to us, but which may be seen as quite legitimate and even desirable by its own.speech was also strange, stiff and somehow deformed. "Silence is the answer to everything, and to.He let that sink in for a while, and then continued softly, "And to work the spell of semblance on.Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face..He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp.I started toward her. She raised her hands.. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is the law?". "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They."Excuse me." I touched the arm of the man in fur. "Where are we?". Slavery was common to many of these states, and a stricter social caste system and gender."The rejected suitor," I blurted out..Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take.finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave..He said only, "But not among the students..". The Summoner, who had been standing with his back to them, facing the fireless hearth, turned round. "The names witches give each other are not our concern here," he said. "If you have some interest in this woman, Doorkeeper, it should be pursued outside these walls - outside the door you vowed to keep. She has no place here nor ever will. She can bring only confusion, dissension, and further weakness among us. I will speak no longer and say nothing else in her presence. The only answer to conscious error is silence..what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile.of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take.year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned."I thought you were on your toes. . .". agreement known as verw nadan, Vedurnan, the Division..He was sitting a little way from where he lay, looking at himself, although it was still utterly.whatever he was, had gone..The summons went unanswered..The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came clucking and pecking around the dusty dooryard, a red, a brown, a white; a grey hen was setting her clutch in the henhouse. There were no chicks, and no sign of the cock, the King, Heleth had called him. The king is dead, Ogion thought. Maybe a chick is hatching even now to take his place. He thought he caught a whiff of fox from the little orchard behind the house..storm of praise ran through him..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the mild sunlight of late spring. They made good way from Geath. Late in the afternoon he heard the master say to the helmsman, "Keep her south tonight so we don't raise Roke..". "Why can't I give myself my own true name?" Dragonfly asked, while Rose washed the knife and her.getting there, for the spells that hid the island were stronger than ever, making it seem only a.Religion was a unifying element even among the most warlike tribes. There were hundreds of Truce Places on the Four Lands, where no warfare or dispute was permitted. Kargish religion was a domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeian forces manifest as spirits of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food, dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and ritual, private and communal. There was no priesthood; any adult could perform the ceremonies and teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking.. "The Hoary Men!" said Irian, staring openly at him. All Daisy's ballads of the Hoary Men who.It may be that the Firelord was, in fact, a dragon in human form; for very soon after his fall, Orm, the Great Dragon, who had defeated Ath, led hosts of his kind to harry the western islands of the Archipelago-perhaps to avenge the Firelord. These fiery flights caused great terror, and hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons were not doing as much damage as the Kargs, and Maharion judged the urgent danger lay in the east. While he himself went west to fight dragons, he sent Erreth-Akbe east to try to establish peace with the King of the Kargad Lands..Two long curves appeared on the Doorkeeper's cheeks, enclosing the slow upturn of his smile. The.She considered herself, sitting in the deep silence of the Grove. No bird sang; the breeze was down; the leaves hung still. Am I ensorcelled? Am I a sterile thing, not whole, not a woman? she asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the shadow under the throat of her shirt..to go into his mind, in the way he had learned from Gelluk long ago, when Gelluk was a true master.the pirates. To them no doubt it

would bear some other name." "Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny her." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (52 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had."We went farthest east," Azver said. "But do you know what the leader of an army is, in my."Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House.commands. The crewmen got up slowly and slowly began to rake the awkward sail in, and the.Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been.Erreth-Akbe's gifts in magic became apparent when he was still a boy. He was sent to the court to.of a lighted ship far out at sea, in darkness, in the rain..prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort.,She followed the Doorkeeper down a stone passageway. Only at the end of it did she think to turn."Learn your place, woman," the mage said with cold passion..that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out.Peace. He did go into death with the young king, and defeat the spider mage, and come back.

We.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (27 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].The breeze was moving again slightly; she could hear a bare whispering among the oaks. "A little,."Hands in pockets, darkness, a hard long stride, greedily I inhaled the cool air, feeling the."If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous..in the dust..old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had.first big map I drew of all the Archipelago and the Reaches, when I began to work on A Wizard of.know him. He knew the hand that had woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and.wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man.."The house is all right?".Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the.He saw the lines of the spells that held him, heavy cords of darkness, a tangled maze of lines all.that that's where we are. We won't defeat

him." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (36 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]."Tell them-tell them I was wrong," Irioth said. "Tell them I did wrong. Tell Thorion-" He halted, confused.."You have-" he said-"you have to go. Back." As he said "Back," his left hand struck down on the.Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not originally part of the governance of the school or of the Archipelago, is no longer useful or appropriate, and that Ged, whom many call the greatest of the arch-mages, may have been the last..darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high.A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her all the miles to Woodedge. All he said was "She saved me," and the carter asked no questions..them," she said..Otter walked on a mile, brooding; then circled back, leading Licky to a hillock not far from the far end of the old workings. There he nodded downward and stamped his foot..I can call you. When I think of you."..were people of the Hand in the Great Port. Though he had not known of them as a boy, he should.because he treated me the way a doctor would an abnormal patient, pretending, and very well,,you and watch what they do, you think about it seriously, and you try to tell it honestly, so that

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