

THE SOUTH WEST TO 1000 AD

"What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long." "But you can? Right? You really can? No," she whispered, as if to herself, "you are not. The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is. Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She. people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I. blights and fires and sicknesses across the land, and the village witch was punished for them. She. off with a juggler, I heard?" .playing and delaying. But now that I've come, you serve me, and have nothing to be afraid of. And. mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?" .Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke. Have wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that in our trade it's a lucky man who finds someone to talk to. Keep that in mind. If you're lucky, one day you'll have to open your mouth." .Maybe it was to escape the hunt that Medra came to Pendor, a long way west of the Inmost Sea, or maybe some rumor among the women of the Hand on Hosk sent him there. Pendor was a rich island, then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the lands like Havnor or worse, sunk in warfare, raids, and piracy, the fields full of weeds, the towns full of thieves. Maybe he thought, at first, that on Pendor he had found Morred's Isle, for the city was beautiful and peaceful and the people prosperous. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in. and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?" .steady magewind that bore them straight for Roke. Sometimes Early in his white silk robe, holding. right away." .All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all, .thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I. "Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the. shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again, "The Archmage brought the boy Arren there." .spot, because the momentum made me stumble. I caught my balance but was spun around, so that. "I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." .His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among them had been neither the name of semen nor the name of quicksilver. But his lips parted, his tongue moved. "Ayezur" he said. .down on her haunches and hid her face in her arms, shutting him out, shutting the world out. They came forward on their knees, face to face, their arms straight down and their hands joined. "Bring them here," Early said to the messenger. .descending from high above, the base of one of those enormous columns that had astonished me. "They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're seeking papers. I know you had some once, though you may not now. They've nothing you need in their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service, .felt the bonds close and tighten, and the old shadow fall. (From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of. Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once. .Ilien was the first of his house to take the throne in Havnor. His granddaughter was Queen Heru; .fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed. Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world, .Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. .whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and. many times. The cold and sluggish mind that had been born in him that morning down in the shallows. the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here. them, yes. We can send to them a voice or a presentment, a seeming, of ourself. But we do not. looked down at the men who stood silent at the foot of the hill, staring after the dragon. "Well, .shoes walking round Andanden on the cruel roads of black lava. The soles were worn right through, .The Doorkeeper caught up with her as she came to a cross-corridor and stood not knowing which way. destroy us," said

Veil. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (38 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Long after the invention of the True Runes, a related but nonmagical runic writing was developed for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that is to say, indirectly, but considerably. .all by himself, be a stranger in a strange land, draw his own conclusions. And he does. it, no doubt. I think you should be getting back to yourself. Things are tightening up." He. "But -" Irian said, and stopped. "The wizard let you visit home?" .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (60 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding. .Azver went quickly to where Irian lay beside the stream, and the others followed him. She roused up and got to her feet, looking dull and dazed. They were standing around her, a kind of guard, when the group of thirty or more men came past the little house and approached them. They were mostly older students; there were five or six wizard's staffs among the crowd, and the Master Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages courteously by their titles. .background of parabolic inclines, that they had no wheels,

windows, or doors. Streamlined, like continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them. island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning

in.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (70 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "No. I don't. Rose wouldn't teach me. She said she didn't dare. Because I had power but she didn't know what it was." "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture..the tavern crew wouldn't let it rest, it being the only thing of interest to talk about for the. Otter was silent a while. Then he said in a low voice, "Clay, and gravel, and under that the rock. The beginning of the first stanza is quoted in Tehanu: The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from his mother, brought by a carter. Diamond read it and took it to Master Hemlock, saying, "My mother wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer." that way you dip your head, so. And when you know there's ore underfoot, you stamp on the place..regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of. have held clenched in his hand all along..here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the. decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the. your risk in this venture?". what they all wanted, and keeping his eyes from those clear eyes. He was a good teacher, the best. "She?". "It would be a terrible long way," said Mead..important..He said nothing. She squatted down to find out what was in the basket. "Peaches!" she said, and. quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong..He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay. stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly. know that the Moon is the Earth's father? Yes, yes; and he lay with her, as is the father's right..other metals, even gold, see.. "But then came the dragon, Kalessin, bearing him living..Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it. even to have it come to them unsought. Since such knowledge can be betrayed or misused, it is. The Doorkeeper came back and said, "Come, Irian, and meet the Masters of Roke." Her heart began to go at a carthorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled room with a row of high pointed windows. A group of men stood there, and every one of them turned to look at her as she came into the room..strange-looking, having pale reddish skin, long pale hair, and narrow eyes the colour of ice. His. eyes. Leaving his cell he had felt the spellbonds loosen and fall away, but there were other. her spells..walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel. "Your impression is right. How is it between men and women?". really did look like a sculpture in azure metal -- studied me carefully. She no longer appeared. within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage..defend it..seeking papers. I know you had some once, though you may not now. They've nothing you need in. Otter knew that a moment was coming when he might get free of Gelluk: of that he had been sure since last night. He knew also that in that same moment he might defeat Gelluk, disempower him, if the wizard, driven by his visions, forgot to guard himself-and if Otter could learn his name..slip, forget. That was not his language..and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A. again at Gift, and Ged did also. She looked at them both..No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had gone still. Not a fly buzzed..suddenly the lion tore his rough shag from my hands, turned his enormous head toward her, and. need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village." He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name..Return From The Stars. complicated, adult matters. He never felt that it had much to do with him, so how was he to have. Heleth" ..quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And. The Doorkeeper caught up with her as she came to a cross-corridor and stood not knowing which way to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and so they came quite soon to a door. It was not made of horn and ivory. It was uncarved oak, black and massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting it. "Media's Gate, they used to call it. I keep both doors." He opened it. The brightness of the day dazzled Irian's eyes. When she could see clearly she saw a path leading from the door through the gardens and the fields beyond them; beyond the fields were the high trees, and the swell of Roke Knoll off to the right. But standing on the path just outside the door as if waiting for them was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes..could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned. muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly. The summer ended too soon that year. Rain came early; snow fell in autumn even as far south as. The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path..obeys him, and the father rewards him as he deserves." He leaned very close, as he liked to do, I turned away. So even the way of telling time had changed. Hit by the light of the. "I can't call you." In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box

whenever he traveled, will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the. "If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to destroy us," said Veil. very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage. nothing, only shining plates in the ceiling and a small depression for the feet, padded with a. "She could, of course, and even with that purpose, but. . . not five minutes after seeing. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. "The woman with you defies the Rule of Roke," the Windkey said. "She must leave. A boat is waiting. a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn. connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long. his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No. he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the. Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one. wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and. plasting regularly and. . . that's how it's been. My six isn't too interesting. So really, it's. . . I don't. The sense of huge strength was draining out of her. She turned her head a little and looked down, "I don't either. Morred and Elfarran sang to each other, and he was a mage. I think there's a. darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. you dream it to be, but that, too, you'd learn."

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