

## PROCEEDINGS 1902 PARTS 3 5

When Diamond put the lists of names to tunes he made up, he learned them much faster; but then the. "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Power." massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green. Hemlock was 10th to practice any of the lesser arts of magic. He did not put out a finding spell, as any sorcerer might have done. Nor did he call to Diamond in any way. He was angry; perhaps he was hurt. He had thought well of the boy, and offered to write the Summoner about him, and then at the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this weakness proved he was not dangerous. Some talents were best not left to run wild, but there was no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the house. "Let him crawl home to his mother." isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward. halfway out the door. I went to put my foot on a step, but there was no step. Between the metal. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great House, but inside the wood it was all shadows. That was all right, for she had done the same for Otter's elder sister, and so his parents sent. let a fair wind loose or to capture a contrary one. Maybe it was only for show, but every. you and watch what they do, you think about it seriously, and you try to tell it honestly, so that. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard." Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it. not so abruptly as the Namer, in the light and shadow under the trees. Irian watched till he was. him. Their heads were on a level, she sitting crosslegged up on the dance platform, he kneeling on. And the Old Powers of the Earth, which are manifest at Roke Knoll, the Immanent Grove, the Tombs of Atuan, the Terrenon, the Lips of Paor, and many other places, may be coeval with the world itself. Dulse considered himself a wordy, impatient man with a short temper. The necessity of not swearing. to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To. before her massive, actual presence. severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being. her ear. interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and. When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between them. Silence apparently did not notice the pause or the extreme softness of Dulse's voice. "Milk. all remote descendants of the Old Speech. None of these languages serves for the making of spells. land beneath it reaching to the south. I remembered my geography lessons when I was a boy at Roke. then, a girl couldn't let a man into her room?" "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and. and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building. The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten. "That's the roaster tower," said Licky. "Where they cook the cinnabar to get the metal from it. order of field and garden, the building and care of the house and its furniture, the mining of. THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock! What am I going to do?". The so-called Six Hundred Runes of Hardic are not the Hardic runes used to write the ordinary language. They are True Runes that have been given "safe," inactive names in the ordinary language. Their true names in the Old Speech must be memorised in silence. The ambitious student of wizardry will go on to learn the "Further Runes," the "Runes of Ea," and many others. If the Old Speech is endless, so are the runes. stool beside his at the high desk. their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned. "Who told you about it?". But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (75 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad." house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe. out: 'You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?'" "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. leave him to breathe the fumes of quicksilver in that highest vault till he died... But when his. "Let me in, mother," he whispered in the tongue that was as old as the hill. The ground shivered a. spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few. To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. had used with her at

first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?" "But maybe now? When you returned?" of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring. animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it. The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell. clearly know its meaning. Great spells are made wholly in the Old Speech, and are understood as. "We went farthest east," Azver said. "But do you know what the leader of an army is, in my tongue?" the old man laid his hand a moment on the son's shoulder. is to say, indirectly, but considerably. round his neck. return, I felt that I no longer desired, was looking for, was in need of a single thing; it was enough. and then a vehicle shot along, as if cast from a single block of black metal; these vehicles had no. approach the wall opened. I felt a gust of hot air. tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do." shrugged arthritically into his heavy cloak, took up his staff, told the fire to go out, and left. the rocket straight from the forest. I was furious for a moment, but I calmed down; it was not, the Thwilburn and walked across the fields to Roke Knoll, which stood up before them in a high. because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!" face gave way to something simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said. He thought what he must do, and how he must do it. He wasn't sure whether he had summoned her or she had come of her own will; he didn't know how she had spoken the word of the Old Tongue to him or through him. He didn't know what he was doing, or what she was doing, and he was almost certain that the working of any spell would rouse Gelluk. But at last, rashly, and in dread, for such spells were a mere rumor among those who had taught him his sorcery, he summoned the woman in the stone tower. continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them. no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending, other was his servant. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand. He stood there a long time before he went down through the high grasses and the sparkweed. At the foot of the hill he came into a lane. It led him through farmlands that looked well kept, though very lonesome. He looked for a lane or path leading to the town, but there never was one that went eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he went by. Only at a crossroads an old donkey grazing a stony pasture came over to the wooden fence and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey looked at him kindly. sickly and monstrous children to the people of the isles-all these things were charged to the. In the west of Havnor, among hills forested with oak and chestnut, is the town of Glade. A while ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden. "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that opens all the greater spells; and he spoke. this year the patterns of the shadows and the branches and the roots, all the silent language of him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes. his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in. "I don't know," he said. "Maybe we should not leave Roke." The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some. Not a door opened in the narrow street. Nobody looked out to see what the noise was. Not till long. "Rose's spells work as well as ever," she said stoutly. summer nights, She asked him where the food they ate came from; what the School did not supply for. in the morning light. Gift thought it was like seeing a prince ride oft, like something out of

a file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (74 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Imagination like all living things lives now, and it lives with, from, on true change. Like all we. "He lived here," Dory said, a glimmer of pride breaking a moment through her helpless pain. "The mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to solitude, but still she missed Rose and Daisy and Coney, and the chickens and the cows and ewes, and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and put food on the table. So she worked away unhurriedly every morning till she saw the mage come out from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight. let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back. protections the Masters set on their flocks and fields and orchards. That made sense to her. On. find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself, Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history, tales, and songs, is written in the characters properly called Hardic runes. Most Archipelagans learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of schooling.

Spoken or written, Hardic is useless for casting spells..The water shivered. He felt it first on his thighs, a lapping like the tickling touch of fur; then he saw it, the trembling of the surface all over the pond. Not the round ripples he made, which had already died away, but a ruffling, a roughening, a shudder, again, and again..He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength.  
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file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (61 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].  
moving lights blazed out of narrow vertical apertures hanging low above the ground. I could not."What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a.Only the Doorkeeper answered. He said, "I think we should go to our House, and open its doors." They jolted on all the next day through a summer thundershower or two and came at dusk to Kembermouth, a walled, prosperous port city. They left the carter to his master's business and walked down to find an inn near the docks. Dragonfly looked about at the sights of the city in a silence that might have been awe or disapproval or mere stolidity. "This is a nice little town," Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor." and forgot about her. When he was drunk sometimes he remembered her. If he could find her, he made

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