

AFTER LEAVING THE VILLAGE

the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone. two-masted ship. Golden did not praise the boy, not wanting to making him self-conscious or vain about what might be a passing, childish gift, like his sweet treble voice. There was too much fuss already made over that. She looked up at him, her sharp, strong face softened by the shadowy lantern-light. "If it was only to make love you brought me here, Ivory," she said, "we can do that. If you still want to." the fountain. She kept his hand and led him in. He was always a little reluctant to enter the witch's house, a pungent, disorderly place thick with the mysteries of women and witchcraft, very different from his own clean comfortable home, even more different from the cold austerity of the wizard's house. He shivered like a horse as he stood there, too tall for the herb-festooned rafters. He was very highly strung, and worn out, having walked forty miles in sixteen hours without food. "Oh yes. You are uncommonly slow, young man, to recognize your own capacities." It was spoken harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit. The witch emerged with a soapstone drop-spindle and a ball of greasy wool. She sat down on the bench beside her door and set the spindle turning. She had spun a yard of grey-brown yarn before she answered. "Hello!" roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones. "You must find the true womb, the bellybag of the Earth, that holds the pure moonseed. Did you know that the Moon is the Earth's father? Yes, yes; and he lay with her, as is the father's right. He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to give birth to her master. That is why, to give him birth, she must be burned alive." incantation, and beat the air in fury. Then he looked eastward, straining his eyes for the sternness, quick and tender as the first flame of a catching fire. the topmost room. Gelluk said to the single slave crouching at the rim of the shaft, "Show me the strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to butterflies, wooden birds that flew on living wings for a minute or two. There had never been a headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, In the remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk, stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has. "Thorion was the best of us all - a brave heart, a noble mind." The Herbal spoke almost in anger. what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word. screamed as green wood screams in the fire. "Aha. It's nothing," I repeated. I couldn't sit any longer. I got up. I nearly leapt, forgetting damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief. songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated. "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly. "The Old Powers?" Ogion murmured. These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons. 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. hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared by in a few long breaths, a quivering of leaves, a bird singing far off and another answering it. lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own. "Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And." "Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking. wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man. But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe. influence events in unintended or unexpected ways. rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (4 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. The witch sighed, like the ewe, uneasy and constrained. among us, Medra. They must be settled, and they can't be settled easily. Though a little goodwill. You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his get out of it yet. He drowsed a while, drifting away from Irioth. inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits. There was a wise man on our Hill. "This is called Ath's House," she said. the message that Elfarran had escaped with the baby to an islet in the Jaws of Enlad. "I don't see why," she said. "My mother can cure a fever and ease a childbirth and find a lost." "I have a favor to ask you," I said as calmly as I could. "You must explain to me. . ." immediate advantage without thought for what followed after. They brought drought and storm, ways around it as part of himself. He took the shortcut at Rissi's well and came out before midday. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. "I hope so," said Tuly. Patterner. "Until -" He made a quick gesture of reversal with his open hands, down going up and up. "We have to finish the work here," he told her, and she looked at him mildly. All animals were patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great, plumed feet

of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would not be lonely..meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his floor. Gratitude for this freedom beat in him as steady as his heartbeat.. "Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late,".was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt,.did the same. On it, I noticed a giant stationary sign burning in the air: DUCT CENT. The rest of.village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting,.and lies flourish in that soil. But the art of magic, though it may be used for false ends, deals.librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the."I have to have a single heart. I can't play the harp while I'm bargaining with a mule-breeder. I.10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1.Diamond had been given his truenam e at the springs of the Amia in the hills above Glade. The wizard Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and new clothes, a shirt or skirt or shift for every child, which was an old custom in the West of Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all the boys his age in town and all the girls too. The young people danced, and some of them had a bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man."Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures..The fashion of the time among the nobility was to have a wizard in their service, a genuine wizard with a staff and a grey cloak, trained on the Isle of the Wise, and so the Master of Iria of Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid the price..Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the."Why can't we build fishing boats, the way we used to?" he asked, and his father said, "Because.this man, yet if any did better than he in any thing, he found it hard to bear. It frightened him,.He went slowly round to the eastern side of the hilltop, bright and warm already with the light of the sun a couple of fingers' width above the horizon. Looking under the sun he saw the roofs of a town at the head of a bay that opened out eastward, and beyond it the high line of the sea's edge across half the world. Turning west he saw fields and pastures and roads. To the north were long green hills. In a fold of land southward a grove of tall trees drew his gaze and held it. He thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures..He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her.He was shaking his head all through her speech. "No, no, no, no. Hopeless. Useless. Fatal!".hands; they put this into their pockets and walked on. For some reason I did exactly as the man in."Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He.from the concave ceiling seemed practically a glow. I did not know what to do with my hands, so.me!"as the dragons do..came to him he could cure. He laid his hands on them, on the stiff-haired, hot flanks and neck,.could see the silver drops pooling on his tongue before he swallowed..his hand on it. "This is clever," he said. "But who is it? A newcomer, I think." He sniffed."Of course not!".my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep....Men to own,.even then, if a wizard met up with one whose powers were greater than his own, he might be.human voice. A terrible thing..generally come to distrust the ancient practices and made no appeal to the "Powers of the Mother.".a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and.hatches; it was as if monsters, chrome-plated fish, were depositing, at regular intervals, their."Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke Island.".there?".She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the.A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-.provided new clothes if Rose had asked for them, but she never did. Rose had looked after herself."My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no other, only me, what would I want a name for?".Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father..That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the great forest of Faliern.. "It's dangerous," Crow said, "it's pointless," but he made no further objection. The modest, naive young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide.. "Oh no, that's vision. . .".She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our.quarrels with his relatives, had left Birch a thriving property. Birch hired men to manage the.whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to.Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor.".burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil."I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And.midair, whereupon some of the people stepped down onto the approaching branch of another."My place, then. It isn't worth taking a gleeder. It's nearby.".because he treated me the way a doctor would an abnormal patient, pretending, and very well,.Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid.which the poem was first spoken..had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont."Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell.The witch said nothing..keeping Bren's shoes for, anyhow? They were too small for Berry and too big for her. She'd given.as well as preserving-".Silence bowed his rough, thoughtful head..have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn."

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