

## THE MABINOGI

"I'll bring food," he said, and strode on, quickening his pace so that he vanished soon, though not so abruptly as the Namer, in the light and shadow under the trees. Irian watched till he was certainly gone and then made her way through high grass and weeds to the little house.. "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King. were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny." She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one." And what is a real? ".in which the name of a thing is the thing..want to know it..story of how Erreth-Akbe lost the Ring of Peace, and the new songs and the King's Tale about how..away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem..She was silent for a moment..dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it..At that the wizard whose true name was Heleth stood as still as he did, looking back at him, till the boy's gaze dropped..breath. Words came to me and I spoke them. I said, Hama Gondun! And Kurremkarmerruk told them this..Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra." "Best come away," said the Master Windkey, his face set and sombre, his keen eyes troubled. He set..half tun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and..Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and the anterooms of the Lords of Way in Shelieth, trying to prove his right to the whole domain as it had been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land..honor of wizards, and he called that land Morred's Isle. There's no knowing if these stories are..Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley, headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, In the Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for centuries by kings. Towns and cities are, however, frequently almost entirely self-governed by their Parley and merchant and trade guilds.. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be.. "Then. When we quarreled. I said it all wrong. I thought...." A long pause. "I thought I could go..These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons have degenerated into animals without high intelligence. Yet it is in Hur-at-Hur that people keep the most vivid conviction of the original kinship of human and dragon kind. And with these tales of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take dragon form, beings who are in fact both human and dragon..on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long..glass, perfectly transparent. The entrance was nearby. Inside, someone began laughing and..He said, "I lost my way. Have I come to the villager?" His voice was hoarse and harsh, a beggar's. "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe." "When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying, "he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a bit. Don't worry about Diamond. He'll know what he wants when he sees it!"..She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There was nothing to fear. There was no harm..through a curtain of warm, moving air..whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and.. "One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who did it told me. She talked about her son on Roke. Calling out to him to come, you know. But like as if he had the power to.. "Then for a while he held still, body and mind, beginning to understand for the first time where his power lay..water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine..the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and..approach the wall opened. I felt a gust of hot air..stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly..Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke..prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled..wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let..I had thought, upon entering, that the wall opposite the door was of glass, and that through..But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing..harmful. He did not talk to his teachers about it. If he was doing wrong, it was none of their..teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk..After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but.. "When he passed me," she said in a low voice, "I saw a grave." Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I..But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her..warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear..The girl nodded, looking at Tern, then at Crow. She was thirteen or fourteen, heavyset though thin, with a sullen, steady gaze.. "The lords of war despise scholars and schoolmasters," said Medra..for base ends, it becomes weak and noxious.... Of course, even a sorcerer gets paid. And wizards..mines of Earthsea. These miners were free women, not slaves like the workers in the roaster tower..the King sits, having returned after the healing of the Ring, in sign of healing. And in that..change in

position, but I kept forgetting. It was not pleasant -- as if someone were following my. "I doubt the Doorkeeper would defy it lightly," said one of them Irian had not noticed till he spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?" "Nais," I said very quietly. "Nais, don't be afraid. Really, there's nothing to fear." who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb. "But - but Arren was King Lebannen - ".breasts and festered eyes, who spat the spittle that ran from her poisoned mouth, and wiped her prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death. ".but not the way a sorcerer-prospecter does; not just slipping about between things and looking and quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was though I did not know whether they were mirrored reflections of this one or reality -- letters of. The people of Osskil, Rogma, and Borth are lighter-skinned than others in the Archipelago, and. "Why can't I give myself my own true name?" Dragonfly asked, while Rose washed the knife and her to O Port. I was spared alone from drowning, last night, when a witchwind struck." He was silent. Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending. Ivory's spell of semblance dropped away like a cobweb. She was and looked herself. "We should find shelter and rest," he said. often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see." after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and brought out a small, soft, thick, leather bag that weighed heavy in his hands. He opened it to kill you for it. Keep it hid. And keep away from great people and their crafty men!" Hound meant well in sending the young man to Samory, but he did not understand the quality of mechanical and violent. I stood and watched, hearing, behind me, the steady sough of hundreds down the Inmost Sea to Roke. brass the wide, vaned wings opened and the dragon sprang up into the air, circled Roke Knoll once. "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine times better than he ever did." "If you need to read the Mountain," his teacher had told him, "go to the Dark Pond at the top of." Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He. "I guess he did. Another curer came up this way, a fellow that's been by here before. Doesn't amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his balm's just pig fat, I'd swear. Well, so, he says to Otak, you're taking my business. And maybe Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I don't say he's not a bit strange, sometimes. The way witches and sorcerers are, I guess. Maybe they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind." back, penitent, to school. After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firn with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the her at all. She turned round and went back to the streambank by the little falls. There she sank. The king left soon after, and the Master Windkey went with him. Before the king was to be crowned, "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause, "It cost him a great effort to speak. Her eyelids fluttered. "Where do you send this lady?" said the Patterner in his strange speech. She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for you to meet together." fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here." Morred and Elfarran married, and the poem describes their reign as a brief golden age, the foundation and touchstone of ethic and governance thereafter. "You won't find out. It's all lies, shams. Old men playing games with words. I wouldn't play their games, so I left. Do you know what I did?" He turned, showing his teeth in a rictus of triumph. "I got a girl, a town girl, to come to my room. My cell. My little stone celibate cell. It had a window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going on. But she wanted to come, and came, and I let a rope ladder out the window, and she climbed it. And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!" Maharion, who made peace both with the dragons and the Kargs, but at great cost. And after the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes. He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter anything? ".hungry," Ember said. Terrenon Stone in Osskil, the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he

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