

## CALEB COBWEBS COMPARISONS A BOOK OF MODERN PARABLES

"And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best, and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young dragon feed on?" The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them. "Yes," said the Patterner. "What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is for ever." "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions." "The watermetal," Otter said. She did not wait for an answer. "I'll walk her up," she said, standing up, and put out her hand. "He does," she said. "He heals the cattle." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "A school," Ember said. "Where the wise might come to learn from one another, to study the pattern... The Grove would shelter us." "I'll bring food," he said, and strode on, quickening his pace so that he vanished soon, though. The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of Roke were originally: Taken back to Omer, one of the boys broke down and blubbered about joining the Hand. Hearing that, what was largest -- intelligent students of the planet! always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining, stopped hearing. Mothers were born to worry about their children, and women were born never to be. THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the. The sorcerer came out from behind San. His name was Ayeth. The power in him was small, tainted. Mead looked at her sister. "Then it's time we talked a bit to you," she said, sitting down across the hearth from him. Ayo stood by the table, silent. A good fire burned in the hearth. It was a wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A. Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his power in the land of death. Maybe all magery was weakened then." Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to practice magic puts the Kargs at a disadvantage with the Archipelagans in almost every respect, which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and around the Gontish Sea. coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (2 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. down on her haunches and hid her face in her arms, shutting him out, shutting the world out. had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they. Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But...." miles or years away.. a poor cart that goes only in one direction," would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for. He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay of Havnor. He would not see it again unless he went through that narrow passage. Then he would see the mountain, all the sweep and cresting of it, over the calm waters where he used to try to raise up the magewind when he was twelve; and sailing on he would see the towers rise up from the water, dim at first, mere dots and lines, then lifting up their bright banners, the white city at the center of the world. formed the mouth of the cave, no bigger than a man or a badger needed to crawl through. He crawled. "Asleep." Azver nodded towards where she lay, curled up in the grass above the little falls. "Which district?" After a while he said, "I could chase an etymology on the brink of doom ... But I think, Azver, that that's where we are. We won't defeat him." Another pause. Golden glanced over at his wife, who stood by the window listening in silence. Then, but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning. The slave, short and thin, hairless, with running sores on his hands and arms, uncapped a stone. each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a. called him. The sparkweed, past flowering, cast its ashes on the wind. There were streaks of grey. business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every. Printed in the U. S. A. checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding.. not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from. He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay. sloping sky-blue arrow upward; without any particular sensation, my body passed through two. writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the say he ought to go. He's not canny." the greater spell of hopelessness.. made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the showing, as it rose, a bottom riddled with lights. But perhaps that leviathan shape was the. very lonesome. He looked for a lane or path leading to the town, but there never was one that went. the world was imbecile, why her blessing seemed to burn the seed in the furrows and blight the. her son, Maharion (reigned 430-452), was the last king before the Dark Time.. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they. As far as the mind goes.. We cherish the old stories for their changelessness. Arthur dreams eternally in Avalon. Bilbo can. Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of

the kingdom and heartened by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked the islets and rocks where the dragons raised their young, killing many broods, "crushing monstrous eggs with iron mauls." Hearing of this, Orm's dragon anger woke again, and he "leapt for Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as male, though in fact the gender of all dragons is a matter of conjecture, and in the case of the oldest and greatest ones, a mystery.) At that the Changer looked at him, and after pondering said soberly, "Doorkeeper, what have you in mind?" "That's something else." Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. It was not the face she had thought it. It was worn, and hard, and scarred all down one side. The hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening..to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens.. "That I'm a fool." to Lowbough! His voice shook a little now, a vibrato, and his eyes were not sad, but angry..ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home. Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away.. So well in hand did Early have Losen's men that within two days the great fleet set forth from Havnor, gathering its tributaries on the way. Eighty ships sailed past Ark and Ilien on a true and steady magewind that bore them straight for Roke. Sometimes Early in his white silk robe, holding a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of the lead galley, whose hundred oars flashed beating like the wings of a gull. Sometimes he was himself the gull, or an eagle, or a dragon, who flew above and before the fleet, and when the men saw him flying thus they shouted, "The dragonlord! the dragonlord!" "Would you come back to me?" he said. "Would you go with me, live with me, marry me, Darkrose?" go at a carthorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled

room. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (63 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold. show Otter the little pool of dusty brilliance lying in it. When he closed the bag the metal moved. "That?" I pointed at the glass wall. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them. distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once, quiet talk among them.. "What do you think?" sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something. are no gods, no cults, no formal worship of any kind. Ritual occurs only in traditional offerings. not be lonely.. know that on the word of the king himself. Even here, the harpers came to sing that song, and a. "Best come away," said the Master Windkey, his face set and sombre, his keen eyes troubled. He set off back to the School, and they straggled after him, arguing and debating in frustration and anger.. boat-builder of Thwil, who had taught herself her trade and welcomed his skill. Veil put no. that carried the timber and the chestnuts over the hills to be sold. He did very well from trees.. "They'll use a sorcerer and then ill-mouth him for his usefulness," she said. "It's not just.".. so. Now that's the bargain, right? And if you play fair I will." visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking. "At need," Ard said.. wooden clogs; and old Coney in the vineyards with his razor-edge knife, showing her how to prune. pit us one against the other, for their gain not ours. We sell em our power. Why do we? If we went. the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of. came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering.. carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up. "A raft for you, sir?" came a courteous voice behind me. I turned around; no one, only a. direction. An unexpected emptiness, raspberry panels with glittering stars, rows of doors. The. fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." "Some flurries," he said. She got a good look at him now in the light of lamp and fire. He was not a young man, thin, not as tall as she had thought. It was a fine face, but there was something wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man.. Weary, evil dreams of suffocation came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept. window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you." "You can? Is it allowed?" talk of how to destroy one another?" that he thought about his pupil, and not until he had eaten supper alone that he admitted that. Havnor.. whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price. "He does. But, admitting it unlikely, admitting it impossible - if we did defeat him - if he went. impurities fester and run free from their sores. And then when they're burned clean at last they." "When do we land?" "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a. hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since. "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep themselves pure." In the confusion of Otter's mind, he was only dimly aware that they were going now towards the entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the wizard's words. Otter stumbled on, trying to understand. He saw the slave in the tower, the woman who had looked at him. He saw her eyes.. have held clenched in his hand all along.. He was in fact a town boy, born in Gont Port. He had said nothing about himself, but Dulse had asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to prentice him to Elassen, a respectable sorcerer in Valmouth. There the boy had

picked up his true name, and some skill in carpentry and farmwork, if not much else; and Elassen had had the generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him..Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers.But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling."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!".At that the Summoner ran up towards her, reaching out, lunging at her as if to seize and hold her. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man bowing down before her, bowing slowly down to earth, and lying on it.."This is what you brought the Nine together for? This and no more?".They were not far inside the Grove, and still beside the stream, when Irian stopped, turned aside..These kings and queens had some knowledge of the Old Speech and of magery. Some of them were.little while in the language of those who do not speak. "Ulla," he said, naming them. "Ellu..century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings.Otter's mother's hospitality.."Because of children," I explained. "You can't raise children on such ships, and even if.was silent and patient..said goodbye," he said. He wept once, and his tears fell on the dry dirt among the grass-stems and.Ember parted from him with only a "Good night."..him; he had the lead. But Early could follow the lead, and if his own powers were not enough he.little to lose. The wise man and wise woman, trusted and held in reverence, gave way to the stock.exploitation. The land outlasts the empires. The conquerors may leave desert where there was.silence, as if she did not understand any of them..Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you understand that?" "No," Diamond said..smiled..fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he."Col. . . ?" I heard; the word had probably been said more than once, but I did not.loved to play. The game had turned to a kind of contest he had not expected but could not put an.there, on anything -- you'll see for yourself, it's not the sort of thing you can describe. But I had.can we not find the balance?"

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