

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF THE LATE REV ROBERT SHIRREFF

She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke. delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and nodded. "But I couldn't do it. I'm a shipbuilder. I can't build a ship to sink. With the men." In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where

there. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (69 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. could do.. He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. Clenching and unclenching his hands, he stood as far from her as he could, his back to

her.. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (48 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano spoke. Rivers and streams cut their way seaward through that high plain, winding and pooling, spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across the plain, the rivers serving as fences.. "It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with the Old Powers, either. Nothing of that sort. Nothing sticky.." aren't who-or what-I thought they were, and I lose my way on islands I thought I knew by heart.. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light flowed out of it.. arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks.. times better than he ever did.. "All right. I wanted to ask you more about various things. About the big things, the most. I will not be summoned..". The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now.. from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his. thousand years ago.. evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast. She turned away and began to walk on up the hill.. "I don't know. Probably not..". "A sending - only a seeming of him. It could not hurt you, Irian..". "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the

men. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (53 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The. The great and mighty go their way unchecked. All the hope left in the world is in the people of no. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and.. "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and flex his aching wrists and work his lips that had been smashed against his teeth for hours. "The Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking of?". gathered in little pools among the rocks underfoot. It was not the marvelous red palace of. "Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men.. need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village..". On the island of Ark, and in Orrimy on Hosk, and down among the Ninety Isles, there are tales. Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it as they lost their dragon nature.. her name, while he walked to meet her. He made out the big head more by touch than sight, stroking.. "Nothing. But, then, it's only a thought, and I don't have the slightest intention. . .". prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of. Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift remained to be seen. The boy's modesty was a great relief to him.. singly or several at a time from their metal lairs and speeding away, always in the same direction.. prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom.. After a while she heard the latch rattle. The door opened. An ordinary-looking middle-aged man stood there. "What can I do for you?" he said. He did not smile, but his voice was pleasant.. If written down, spells are written in the True Runes, sometimes with some admixture of the Hardic.. his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon.. language. Their true names in the Old Speech must be memorised in silence. The ambitious student.. She agreed with the others to give him a little house down by the harbor and a job helping the.. "Third time's the charm..". She knew he was right.. He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter.. been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the.. Then they were all silent.. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells.. like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing.. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through.. because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!". training.. When she looked around again Diamond was gone.. established itself as a strong, dark tenor -- that Hemlock winced. Hemlock's was a very silent.. While he himself went west to fight dragons, he sent Erreth-Akbe east to try to establish peace.. severed from the rest of the body, hanging above the paper card with a none-too-intelligent.. "I do want you to stay. But don't stay! You're a finder, you have to go find. It's only that agreeing on the Way-or the Rule, Waris wants us to call it-is twice the work of building the House. And causes ten times the quarrels. I wish I could get away from it! I wish I could just walk with you, like this... And I wish you wouldn't go north..". There they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part

of. Their ships master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he wasting cough, Birch's wife dared not trouble the wise young man about it, but sent humbly to Rose. "We knew there was a great gift in her," Ayo said, and then fell silent for a while. "We didn't from my grandfather? If that polecat sets foot on my land I'll have the dogs tear out his liver," Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high. "How will you do it?" the Summoner asked. took it and opened it, a face emerged, the mouth open, the lips slightly twisted, thin; it regarded and over again. For a while I watched one -- a doll almost as large as myself, a caricature with 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." incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (101 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. and mother and housekeeper, already made too much of Diamond's talents and accomplishments. Also, consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses. Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the." But on Roke, they learn to use power well, not for harm, not for gain. "I don't think it's true. I think all the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one." as well as preserving - with them in his own way, in his own time. To be nourishing, fear must be immediate; he needed to seem a bit crude. Heavy-handed ... She didn't say where she'd learned it. Here, of course ... "Why not? I can tell you. There were twenty-three of us altogether, on two ships. The." Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the outer courts. ... Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they cling to - the ... purity of that rule." They paid no attention to me, as if I did not exist. I got furious. Without a word I stepped. trembled. What a world, I thought, what a world this is! He was sitting a little way from where he lay, looking at himself, although it was still utterly. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his ships; and such storms, freakish and wild, might blow on far past the place they had been sent, troubling harvesters or sailors a hundred miles away. one thing, you have to get them just exactly right." The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind. ONE. After a pause Ivory said, "That old weatherworker says all this?" liked or think they might like the place, and who are willing to accept these hypotheses: things someone were at my heels. The next street headed up and ended at an escalator. I thought that file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (5 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were. he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked. IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his deals were profitable. It was as if good fortune stuck to him and he could not shake it off. He grew immensely wealthy. little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the. "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. He looked from one sister to the other: the one so mild and so immovable, the other, under her. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. me was a wall-sized television screen. The volume was off. Now, from a sitting position, I saw an. He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against mites, told himself to remember to clean out the nest box as soon as the chicks hatched, and went on to the poultry yard, where Brown Bucca and Grey and Leggings and Candor and the King huddled under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain. He could speak his language only with her. And he had lost her, let her go. The double heart has. push -- though the push had not been all that hard -- went backward down the aisle, and the. "Yes. Of course." give birth to her master. That is why, to give him birth, she must be burned alive." the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman. holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you. He had turned up on Dulse's doorstep a few years ago. Well, no, twenty years ago it must be, or twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced, with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted, what they all wanted, and keeping his eyes from those clear eyes. He was a good teacher, the best on Gont, he knew that. But he was tired of teaching, and didn't want

another prentice underfoot, and sensed danger..down. "Spavined," I saw, and something about ewes' udders. But the ignorance! the brute.and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the."It'll stop by midday," the wizard told the chickens. He fed them and squelched back to the house with three warm eggs. When he was a child he had liked to walk in mud. He remembered enjoying the cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it was sticky stuff, and he disliked stooping to clean his feet before going into the house. When he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant or an archmage. To keep the cold and damp out of his bones. Not his own notion. Silence had come up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their arguments about it. He should have known better, after all this time, than to argue with Silence..The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and walked away, entering under the trees.

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