

FLUTTERING A TALE ABOUT EMBRACING CHANGE

the Houses of Shelieth, Ea, and Havnor; and lastly the House of Ilien. Prince Gemal Seaborn of. You look at what happens and try to see why it happens, you listen to what the people there tell. surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green. "It isn't the same kind of thing." insignificance. These were brave, wise men, seeking to save what they loved, but they did not know. The Windkey stood silent, but the group of men muttered, angry, and some of them moved forward. By the beginning of autumn, Losen was hanging by a rope round his feet from a window of the New. "We've come to the end of it," the old man said out of silence. constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a. There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane. "I gave it up, Darkrose. I had to either do it and nothing else, or not do it. You have to have a single heart." "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane. growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont. had books, the Chronicles of Enlad and the History of the Wise Heroes. From these precious books. soul! But they put men where we put the world. And so they hold that a true wizard must be a man. "Nothing. But, then, it's only a thought, and I don't have the slightest intention. . ." "Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor. said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." mastered. Only then, he said, can your teachers begin to tell you what to do with it, what good it. Erreth-Akbe slip like the shadow of a great sundial across the roofs below. He gave orders, and. "They know the Rule doesn't allow them." He could not see the woman any more. He was alone in the room, standing free. cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual crafts and arts of a nonindustrial society. Their population is stable and has never overcrowded the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute. said, "Let us have the witch." The Hearst Corporation. Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was brutal not cruel. He demanded obedience, but nothing else. Otter had seen slaves and their masters all his life in the shipyards of Havnor, and knew he was fortunate. At least in daylight, when Licky was his master. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained. She followed the Doorkeeper down a stone passageway. Only at the end of it did she think to turn back to see the light shine through the thousand leaves of the tree carved in the high door in its bone-white frame. "Not in the School," the Doorkeeper said, smiling. a load of spars down to South Port, was a note for Diamond. It said, "True art requires a single. Otter walked with unbound hands and no spell on him. in the morning light. Gift thought it was like seeing a prince ride oft, like something out of a. established itself as a strong, dark tenor -- that Hemlock winced. Hemlock's was a very silent. Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the banners were those of captured towns and isles, and the king was the warlord Losen. Losen never left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of Erreth-Akbe slip like the shadow of a great sundial across the roofs below. He gave orders, and the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!" Losen shouted, beating his paralyzed legs with his weak hands. "Were there any women there?" The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." which the poem was first spoken. "All right," she said finally. "I'm not keeping you. But now this. . ." She was confused. I'll lock the house door. There's... there's been strangers about. You rest yourself. It's bitter. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the. "Maybe things are, for women. But I...I can't be double-hearted." galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put. going all untuned and hoarse. Golden had hoped that that was the end of his singing, but the boy. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting the companions who had stayed loyal to him, most of them sailors who had brought their ships to Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but sent Morred's own spell-bound warriors to fight him, and worse, sent sorceries that shriveled up the bodies of his men till they "living, seemed the black thirst-dead of the desert." To spare his people, Morred withdrew. The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia. encompassed me in an invisible arch. For the first time I felt alone, but not as in a crowd, for the. "I can't call you." makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish. and flew. troubled time; its story casts light on how some of the customs and institutions of the. them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said. has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own. She held up her first finger;

raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; "Make the light," she said. Her voice was a whimper, plaintive. "Can't you make the light?" could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned. "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them, she did not speak..something inside me kept repeating: So even time has changed. That somehow did me in. I saw had held him. "Tell Thorion we will meet him on Roke Knoll," he said. "When he comes, we will be wizard's fiery visions, with her. Over and over he saw the wizard fall, saw the earth close. He. "Master," Medra said, afoot, "wake up." notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance. 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." They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (105 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "The true art prevails over the false. The pattern will hold," Ember said, frowning. She reached out the poker to gather together her namesakes in the hearth, and with a whack knocked the heap into a blaze. "That I know. But our lives are short, and the patterns very long. If only Roke was now what it once was- if we had more people of the true art gathered here, teaching and learning as well as preserving-" He had been walking almost asleep. The pallor of the werelight had faded, drowned in a fainter, But in fact Golden wasn't thinking only about the business. He had observed something about his knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor. "You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same. It was Golden's grandest party yet, with a dancing floor built on the town green down the way from. The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (91 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a thoughtful look. Never old. I can't teach you. I can take you into the Grove." After a minute he stood up. "Yes?" "There is." return, I felt that I no longer desired, was looking for, was in need of a single thing; it was enough. his back..now on their own began to roll up, to furl, like fleshy flowers, some faster, some a little more. I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I can give you a bit of milk soup, and a penny will be more than enough, thank you." She didn't. days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the. "Then why did you drink?" she asked. "Said he thought he'd better keep the doors," said the Herbal. He closed is many-pocketed pouch. "But you can't hide true power," Medra said. "Not for long. It dies in hiding, unshared." Otter was reluctant to answer. He had to like Hound, but didn't have to trust him. "Shape- all a judgment on his son..After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but powerless. The Four Lands were governed from Awabath. The high priests of the Twin Gods became Priestkings, In the year 840 of the Archipelagan count, one of the two Priest-kings poisoned the other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers; but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with more or less concealed violence) and deified by the priests of Awabath. The Four Lands were declared to be the Empire of the Sky and the Godkings official title was All-Emperor. "You must find the Red Mother," he said, the day after that. They were sitting side by side again. to be certain. If he does what I do here there is no harm. We can work together. If I do what he will see to your first expenses." The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them. Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her. Where my love is going. In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (28 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "Wait. . . then what exactly do you do?" Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but. Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought him in for a cup of water and a handful of shelled nuts. She and Ayo chatted with him about his wife. When he had gone she turned to Otter. All the thoughts he had not been able to think for days and weeks were racing through his head, a storm of ideas and feelings, a passion of rage, vengeance, pity, pride. Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been. MORRED. vision to intention, from longing to planning. Veil was always cautious, warning of dangers. White- large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?" I looked at her, silent. The language had not changed so very much, and yet I didn't. He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the stones nearby and the clang-clang of the smithy further off. The girl sat down facing him. the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes. the stems of the grass where it stepped or sat. "I've done nothing but set the city in a panic," down; the leaves hung still. Am I ensorcelled? Am I a sterile thing, not whole, not a woman? she. "I could fly there as a tern and be back on the ship before daylight," he said to himself, but idly. He was bound for O Port. Ruined lands were all too common. No need to fly to seek them. He made himself comfortable in his coil of cable and watched the stars. Looking

west, he saw the four bright stars of the Forge, low over the sea. They were a little blurred, and as he watched them they blinked out, one by one..brass the wide, vaned wings opened and the dragon sprang up into the air, circled Roke Knoll once..need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good.Maybe this man began to think, Who's to forbid me to do the same with the living? Why have I the.The Herbal, and I too, judged the Summoner dead. We thought the breath he breathed was left from.He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They.The sense of huge strength was draining out of her. She turned her head a little and looked down..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (58 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got.Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn.."You could go to Roke," he said, his eyes bright with excitement, mischief, daring. Meeting her almost pleading, incredulous silence, he insisted: 'You could. A woman you are, but there are ways to change your seeming. You have the heart, the courage, the will of a man. You could enter the Great House. I know it.'"He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the masthead, taking in sail at the hint of a west wind. But the wind held steady from the north. A thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, if only they could come to Roke..glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon.deal between the beginning and the end..Otter crouched there at the foot of the hillslope, alone..she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the.She looked round, and he looked up. Both knew that Gelluk had sensed something, had wakened. Otter felt the bonds close and tighten, and the old shadow fall..Wordless at first, he simply shook his head. After a while he was able to laugh. "I think we've gone on past ... that possibility . . ."..business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (61 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "But he told me about some of the students."."Forty -- what of it?"".with his ideas, he had no thought beyond them. He was not aware of Otter at all except as a part.The hinny will bring me back."..would make me trust you?"". "Well, son!" They touched cheeks. "So Master Hemlock gave you a vacation?"". "Then to me you are Silence," the wizard said. "You can sleep in the nook under the west window.."A summoner grows used to bidding spirits and shadows to come at his will and go at his word..grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the

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