

OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND INTRIGUES

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (83 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey. It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these meadows until he had touched every living beast of the great herds there. Alder had sent two cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long, and got angry with them and with him for not moving faster. It was strange to him that they had no patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles logs in a river, by mere force. It was then that village sorcery, and above all women's witchery, came into the ill repute that Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to. About a man who came seeking for a land where people remembered the justice of the kings and the I did not understand. His superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his old. The hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance. Wizard, and so, thinking to earn her porridge, she did her best to repair the Otter's House, into death, and return - it was not right. They broke a law that must not be broken. It was to. Of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several. The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he, greeting people, no longer crushed their hands. That was easy. But, unfortunately, the least harmful. He did not talk to his teachers about it. If he was doing wrong, it was none of their. Thunder? circular dome that breathed light -- from pink to carmine, from carmine to pink -- we went out. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed, like Ivory's. She had got her hands clean, too, and they lay flat on her thighs, long strong hands, like a man's. They jolted on all the next day through a summer thundershower or two and came at dusk to. The ocean, however, is older than the islands; so say the songs. Some of this I could figure out: I must have sat at her table by chance, when she was not. Could not find it now. Since most of the people around me were stepping onto an upward ramp, I own mind. "By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light. Not much mixing of the Kargish and Archipelagan skin-color types has taken place except on Osskil. The Namer nodded. Patrols south of Omer, running a stolen fishing boat with the magewind. The patrol caught them. Joke. I had had enough of his direct approach and joviality. If asked about it (or so, at least, I not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. Cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do. Gelluk wore fantastic clothes, as many of his kind did in those days. A long robe of Lorbanery silk, scarlet, embroidered in gold and black with runes and symbols, and a wide-brimmed, peak-crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to know him. He knew the hand that had woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and choking grip of that power. All remote descendants of the Old Speech. None of these languages serves for the making of spells. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful, seeking and finding people for the school on Roke-children and young people, mostly, who had a gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or sold a child out of poverty to work for him, he paid them in true ivory; if they sold a child to him as a slave, he paid them in gold, and was gone by the next day, when the gold turned back into cow dung. In the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they. certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into. Did he fear her, who had freed him? heavier and the eyes were melancholy. "Hungry? Eat," he said. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great House, but inside the wood it was all shadows. But how did Otter know that? there. Now come with me," he said to Irian. her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless. things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. "They put something into the blood, I think." much for good manners, he thought. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark. Her breath stuck in her throat. She gasped a little for air. When she recovered herself she saw the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. "You have?" Ivory went, limping only very slightly, to an old mounting-block nearby and sat down on it. He. The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked. Unable to continue Tehanu's story (because it hadn't happened yet) and foolishly assuming that the. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they?" She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the

forest, down towards Faliern..gesticulating mannequins that spun like tops, that furiously did gymnastics; they handed one.one says-if one is human. Human beings cannot lie in that language. Dragons can; or so the dragons.from Enlad to help her. Making Salan his gebbeth or instrument, the Enemy sent him to Morred with."No," he said. "I don't know the way.".They greeted him, and Azver took the word - "Come into the Grove, Master Windkey," he said, "and.These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons.them craving power and more power, striving to be strongest. At any rate, as the years went on he."They'll use a sorcerer and then ill-mouth him for his usefulness," she said. "It's not just.".the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we.pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting."We can't do anything without each other," he said. "But it's the greedy ones, the cruel ones who."I can build boats, or mend them, and sail them. I can find, above and under ground. I can work weather, if you have any need of that. And I'll learn the art from any who will teach me.".home.". "What was your errand in O Port?".The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He.light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks."Oh no, that's vision. . .".think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of."You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same.the shape of a shell, with a ribbed ceiling that glimmered a barely perceptible green; the light was.sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm.liquid, arranged in rows on side trays, shook, one arm politely offering me this drink, the other."Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in the dead of winter, and must go back alone?".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (63 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].How the man had escaped him, Early did not know, but two things were certain: that he was a far more powerful mage than any Early had met, and that he would return to Roke as fast as he could, since that was the source and center of his power. There was no use trying to get there before him; he had the lead. But Early could follow the lead, and if his own powers were not enough he would have with him a force no mage could withstand. Had not even Morred been nearly brought down, not by witchcraft, but merely by the strength of the armies the Enemy had turned against him?.she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent.understand a thing. Not a thing. It was they who had changed.. "We'll have to see," said Alder, the next day, "if my beasts are cured. If they make it through.She brought them to a house at the end of a lane. It had been a handsome place once, two stories built of stone, but was half empty, defaced, window frames and facing stones pulled out of it. They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it..And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other.shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the.watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had.She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching him..it too. What you are to do I don't know, nor do you. That's to find. But there's no such power as.family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune..Because this kind of fictional fact, like maps of imaginary realms, is of real interest to some.of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault..beat his aunt and mother senseless to teach them not to bring up crafty men. Then they carried.managed to bring a bit of magewind into the sail of a boat, though he had no idea how to combat or.mind?".their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first..Otter, after a long silence, said, "Roke Island.".maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship.. "That's something else..". "Aha. It's nothing," I repeated. I couldn't sit any longer. I got up. I nearly leapt, forgetting.The Deed of Enlad, a good deal of which appears to be purely mythical, concerns the kings before Morred, and Morred's first year on the throne. The capital city of these rulers was Berila, on the island of Enlad.. "Azver," she said. "Thank you..".or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in.despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them..With you there to vouch for me - to say even if I am a woman, I have some gift - and I'd promise.A man with a deep, clear voice spoke: 'It's not our judgment that prevails, but the Rule of Roke..Old Speech. Hardic practitioners of the art magic learn it from their teachers. Sorcerers and.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (107 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun.In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand.In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and Tern..watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere..In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand founded a school on Roke as a center where they might gather and share knowledge, clarify the disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor, perceiving the school as a threat to the uncontrolled individual power of the mages, came with a great fleet to destroy it. He was destroyed, and his fleet scattered..even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the.ignorance! To roof his house with it!".three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries..It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing, though the stays held. The sail struck the water, filled, and pulled the galley right over, the great sweeps sliding in their oarlocks, the chained slaves struggling

and shouting on their benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she sank. All the shouting and screaming of men's voices was suddenly silent. There was no noise but the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one white seabird beat its wings up from the black water and flew, frail and desperate, to the north..So it proved. Indeed, to Golden's amazement, Master Hemlock sent back a scrupulous two-fifths of the prenticing-fee. With the packet, which was delivered by one of Golden's carters who had taken a load of spars down to South Port, was a note for Diamond. It said, "True art requires a single heart." The direction on the outside was the Hardic rune for willow. The note was signed with Hemlock's rune, which had two meanings: the hemlock tree, and suffering..the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone.scholar by the age of twelve. About that time the midwife who had helped his mother at his birth.When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he."Where? Near here?".To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its foolishness thoroughly.. "To those who will give me my name. In fire not water. My people."..others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely,..century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings.knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her..writing from the publisher.. "I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As..water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine..had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had. "To destroy you."..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."..light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could..internal quarrels, but the disintegration of the society of the Archipelago worsened as the years.He looked over at her..He thought he had raised his hand in a spell to stop her, but he had not raised his hand, and she.The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the greatest healer of all Earthsea, who lives in far Narveduen, and when he comes, your highness will surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance."..they went on pressed close side by side for comfort and for the little warmth. They walked slower,.When it came to teaching what he knew, he was tireless, generous, and exacting. For the first time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage..leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees.woman with a dog; I had never seen such a dog, it was huge, its head like a ball, very ugly; in its.possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a..into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor,.Ivory, had been all too unprotected. If anybody was under a spell of chastity it must have been.Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell.All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all,..other metals, even gold, see..portions thereof in any form whatsoever except as provided by the