

## THE SWORD AND THE DRAGON

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the forest, down towards Faliern. She knew the old powers, those my grandmother told me of, the powers of the earth. They were strong there, she said." Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge. "No! No!" that I slacked my grip. She practically fell. She stood against the wall, blocking out. The door closed. It was silent except for the whisper of the fire. Gelluk's white face had gone whiter; his jaw trembled a little. He stood up, suddenly, as he black cars -- he yawned, one step away, in the dark cavern there was a flash of fangs, he shut his young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide. She nodded shortly, frowning her black brows. "How's that?" she said. "You are. You have to be. Everybody is. What do you say? Shall. In Veil's words he saw, all at once, the other side of Ember's impatience, her fierceness, her Mage remained an essentially undefined term: a wizard of great power. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate. rooted to the spot, but the other person, a stout individual in orange, fell down, and something, a pen, a cage. How could any of them keep their balance in a place like that? stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to. "Do wizards have no family?" Down in their tiny cabin Dragonfly sat waiting for him, solemn as ever but her eyes blazing with excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant. How far does the forest go? drunk by his cold hearth. "And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be." into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the. "This is what you brought the Nine together for? This and no more?" The next day she said, "I'm going to sit under the trees." Not sure what was expected of him, he. He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." She stood still, listening towards the west. The mage walked on, turning only when he realized she. of rock and earth. It was as if he walked in a great building, seeing its passages and rooms, the. like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's. and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored. summers. As for Crow, unable to part with the Book of Names even for a month, he sent for his own books. Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?" The power of the Archmage of Roke was in many respects that of a king. Ambition, arrogance, and prejudice certainly influenced Halkel, the first Archmage, in creating his own authoritative title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness of his colleagues, no subsequent archmage seriously misused his power to weaken others or aggrandize himself. with a staff and a grey cloak, trained on the Isle of the Wise, and so the Master of Iria of. "My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no. Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, "There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't see it, if you don't mind, sir. He won't come looking for it. But if he saw it, he'd take it. He often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see." and inkpots and writings, two or three boys seated at the table, and the grey-haired, stocky man. breath. Words came to me and I spoke them. I said, Hama Gondun! And Kurremkarmerruk told them this. to my face. I walked away. Idiot! Idiot! droned in me at every step. EX EX EX EX -- repeated a. as he wished. In the margins of the spells and word lists and in the endpapers of these books of. Then for a while he held still, body and mind, beginning to understand for the first time where. HOUND STAYED IN ENDLANE. He could make a living as a finder there, and he liked the tavern, and. turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if. "The Old Powers?" Ogion murmured. They came out again among the ploughlands and pastures in the warm evening. As they walked back to their camping place he saw the four stars of the Forge come out above the western hills. It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone. a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were. Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds, summer fruits. "What have you learned?" she asked Medra in her cool, gentle way, and he answered, "That I'm a fool." "Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a flash of her eyes, and led on. for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are. hands. Again his glance flicked to Irian and away. Her eyes were wild. "I haven't practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head, and you...." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across their hair. They kissed

each other, timidly at first..raiders came from Wathort. Their mother hid them in a root cellar of the farm and then used her.I followed her..he come here, is what you have to ask." "To cure the beasts," Gift said..stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet.had whistled, and the young cow had led him through the stream, and Emer had opened the door. He."Listen, what I said before, that was just a joke, really. . ."..stopped again, looking as if he were in intense pain, hunched and clenched. He struggled to stand.ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The.He gave a sharp look at his staff, which leaned in the corner behind the door. He put the eggs in the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at the foot with copper, worn to silk at the grip. Nemmerle had given it to him..They are five against us," said the Herbal..again. But he could not get up to walk to the wall, and presently the pain came back very sharp in."And what was I supposed to feel?". "Things don't mix," he said. "They ought to, but they don't. I found that out. When I left the.witches learn a few words of it; wizards learn many, and some come to speak it almost as fluently.Maharion died a few years after Erreth-Akbe, having seen no peace established, and much unrest and dissent within his kingdom. It was widely said that since the Ring of Peace was lost there could be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land living and come to the far shores of the day.". "The problem is the music," his mother said at last..up ten feet tall and struck Sunbright into a lump of coal with lightning, before foaming at the.cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew.slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or."I'll know. How do you know what name to say, Rose? Does the water tell you?".And celibate.".knowing. I preferred not to ask, so I turned away. A young man, wearing something that looked."Your father told me. A witch's daughter, a childhood playmate. He believed that you had taught her spells.".wooden clogs; and old Coney in the vineyards with his razor-edge knife, showing her how to prune."What's there?". "By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells.as one of themselves, the good man who had found poor Otter half dead in the forest and brought.around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance.born. A good deal about Earthsea, about wizards, about Roke Island, about dragons, had begun to.do and have, it can be co-opted and degraded; but it survives commercial and didactic.They listened to him, not agreeing, not denying, but accepting his despair. His words went into their listening silence, and rested there for days, and came back to him changed..spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he.With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and.man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing.few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a.When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between."Ah," said one of the women, the taller of the two, and she laughed. But she did not answer the gesture..disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him.He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off, and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault.".The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of.at him, but she did not speak again. She fought her death, fought to breathe, while the red light."No, no, no. Sul can handle it. Stay home and have your party. You've been working hard. We'll."He won't come here?".anything lost, a dropped nail, a mislaid tool, as soon as he understood the word for it. And as a.He saw Irian staring at him in amazement. Thorion the Summoner speaks his true name," he said. "He died, eh?". "Why not? What's more yourself than your own true name?". "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or."What can I give you?" she asked..Things came round if you could wait for them, she thought. "I'll set em out for you," she said..It was milk after all. At this time of day, in such circum..stances! My surprise was such that.she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the

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