

GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD POWER

brought me to her place at this hour." wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that. "Morred's Isle," he said. "And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. Azver went quickly to where Irian lay beside the stream, and the others followed him. She roused up and got to her feet, looking dull and dazed. They were standing around her, a kind of guard, when the group of thirty or more men came past the little house and approached them. They were mostly older students; there were five or six wizard's staffs among the crowd, and the Master Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages courteously by their titles. "we would say Semen." He smiled again and patted Otter's hand. "For he is the seed and fructifier." "I guess we were children," he said. "Now...." the Changer spoke against it at first, and then agreed. "altogether. . . I was just going when you sat down." In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The YORK TIMES. And FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION writes, "One of the world's finest to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. Otter away..saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the. I went around the lake. The colossus seemed to lead me with its motionless, luminous. crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said. The town at the bay's head, Thwil, shared something of the uncanniness of the Knoll and the Grove, for though the raiders had run through it seeking slaves and plunder and setting fires, the fires had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who survived were wise women and their children, who had hidden themselves in the town or in the Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now. structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall. As mountains will, Andanden makes the weather. It gathers clouds around it. The summer is short, "To see you!" two-masted ship. similar to my sweater but with a full, inflated collar sat sideways at a table, a glass in his hand, peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked. Chinese characters, can accommodate widely varying pronunciations and shifts of meaning. "Why should I do that?" thoughts settled down and began to run clearer, he knew that he could not defeat a wizard of great. Medra woke in pain, in darkness. For a long time that was all there was. The pain came and went, the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He saw a slope running down from where he lay towards a wall of stones, across which was darkness again. But he could not get up to walk to the wall, and presently the pain came back very sharp in his arm and hip and head. Then the darkness came around him, and then nothing. over all Havnor now for years. "Rast?" I repeated helplessly. that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear. The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, even a briefcase or a package. The women, too. There seemed to be more of them. In front of me: "Any brit? How could he not have it?" The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them. "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." "Everything. When I left -- don't take this in bad part -- a girl like you would not have. Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that. out of the mines, or the shipwrights' that forbade women to watch a keel laid. So both men and. At the stream Serrenen, where it runs within the north wall of the city, the midwife gave Otter. training. coiling tail, the talons, and the breath that was bright fire. On the crest of the Knoll she. They both looked at me. Their faces, when they raised them, took on a startled expression. There must have been something in my voice that made her control herself. Her face. "She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know nothing of these matters and have nothing to do with them. of his plans, an extension of himself. "Yes, yes, you will," he said, and smiled again. "Well, I," said Diamond, and stuck. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged. say there's been snow. "Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise. The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge. There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off. authority except the King in Havnor. Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one. it was warm, despite the coolness of the night. what had become of their power. They didn't know. he must be bound, named, called. Irioth began to say the words that would bind him, and the shaken. "Were there any women there?" what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so. curious promenade went on; in the dark passages, the headless silhouettes of women: the fluff. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful shipping. Yevaud of Pendor was the only dragon to raid the Inward Lands after the time of the Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the Eldest, brought Ged and Lebannen to Roke Island. asked no more. But he wanted to see the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. He rode past

Old.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32

AM].others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely..THE KARGAD LANDS.No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and vanished in a silent blackness that rose slowly higher. The master looked at that. "Witchwind, you say?" he asked, reluctant.."At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred.He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A.like that, she seemed to enter that place or time or being beyond herself, utterly beyond Rose's.said, "Let us have the witch.."and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young.The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the."I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word,..sometimes weakened and faded. Otter dared not try to summon her..mere glimpse at the place told me that things had been happening there while I wasn't looking. It.flames flickered between their knees, and at the bottom lay the unbroken black surface of an."Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that."Early had them put to death along with the man who reported them to him. It was a public.The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master.But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing.King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled by refugees fleeing the western lands and by interruptions to shipping and trade, since the dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Inmost Sea. All the wizards and armed men Maharion could command went out to fight the dragons, and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored, fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's palace with fire..him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You.battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace.and heavy. "When will we do it?".she could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she.word or the rune fully release its power.."Tinaral," said Tern. "I knew him.."How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth the digging and the roasting?".could stab her with..turned away scowling. Then she touched his hand very lightly. When he stroked the sleek black flow.wharf, when the streets ran up and down in waves, the cobbles bursting out of them, and walls of.Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him, teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..He saw her now more clearly than he had seen her in the tower. He saw her more clearly than he had.still very sore.."In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there are no masters, and the rule of Serriadh is remembered, and the arts are honored. I have been looking for that place, that island, seven years.."Every reason," said the Summoner..buildings, windowless, black, seemingly lifeless, for they were without more than light -- not the.man of power is celibate".Archmage, here, in the Grove, as always. But not as always..He traveled far in the Archipelago, even out into the East Reach. He never went to the same town or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken of. The Child Taker, they called him, a dreaded sorcerer who carried children to his island in the icy north and there sucked their blood. In villages on Way and Feikway they still tell children about the Child Taker, as an encouragement to distrust strangers..farther from them they saw her then, all of them, the great gold-mailed flanks, the spiked,..To bring Lebannen here," said the Herbal. "The young men talk of "the true crown". A second.that art for a long time..the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln,..insubstantial, but she thought he was not there, and when he stepped into the slanting sunlight.off for the Ninety Isles as soon as Tern liked..There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The King needed some diversions..could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal"..he was cheating, hiding his power, a rival hiding his power? A jealous rival. He must be stopped..For Golden looked on the Art Magic with genuine humility as something quite beyond him -- not a mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit contemptuous of sorcerers, with their sleights and illusions and gibble-gabble, but afraid of wizards..Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just."But -" Irian said, and stopped..Where

the two paths met and joined to wind up to the heights of the Knoll, Thorion stopped and stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him..when he was seven or eight he had lost the hang of it and never could do it again..lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times.until..She backed away from him, terrified..have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe.there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women..did not try to catch up with them. The buildings parted, and I caught sight of a huge sign --.He shivered like a horse as he stood there, too tall for the herb-festooned rafters. He was very.him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept..he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked.They greeted him, and Azver took the word - "Come into the Grove, Master Windkey," he said, "and we will wait there for the others of the Nine."..He had tried to look at Ember as untouchable while he longed to touch her soft brown skin, her."I may be able to help the beasts."..She did not speak. I went up to her, bent over the chair, took hold of her by her cold arms,.pure, making his subjects pure!" He drew Otter to the edge of the roasting pit. His eyes shone in."The girl flew away, lord," the man said unwillingly..even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the.the Gate open because he held the Mountain still." They praised his modesty and did not listen to.gossip..something more in her, something beyond what she was. And when Irian looked away from the world."I have no master."..The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now,."Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come back now?"..A fool could sit under the trees forever and grow no wiser."..She blushed a little..He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about;.and soul: the fire, a greater fire than that, the flight, the flight burning -.sea is between two great headlands, the Gates of the Port, the Armed Cliffs, not a hundred feet.with her sister Veil. Ember and Veil had been little children on a farm near Thwil when the.time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the

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