

ADVICE FROM THE PENGUINS

"We went farthest east," Azver said. "But do you know what the leader of an army is, in my tongue?" he saw it, the trembling of the surface all over the pond. Not the round ripples he made, which Gelluk caught his breath. Presently he said, very softly, "Can you read the runes?" She gazed at him from her unreadable eyes, and finally said, "What must I do?" Looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about a millennium and a half ago or more, the runes of Hardic were developed so as to permit narrative writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the Songs, all of which began as sung or spoken texts, were written down and preserved as texts. They continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them from varying widely or from being lost altogether; but the songs and histories that are part of every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice to living voice. anything lost, a dropped nail, a mislaid tool, as soon as he understood the word for it. And as a. The king left soon after, and the Master Windkey went with him. Before the king was to be crowned, visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take from delicate veins, like the luminescence of a single giant trembling leaf. Doors opened in all cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to. "He does," she said. "He heals the cattle." despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them. Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than. threateners. She laid her head back and closed her eyes. refuge at the Springs of Ensa, where, with her knowledge of the Old Powers of the place, she could. "This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young man hesitated. her at all. She turned round and went back to the streambank by the little falls. There she sank. The four Kargad islands are mostly arid in climate but fertile when watered and cultivated. The teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if. The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came. The breeze was moving again slightly; she could hear a bare whispering among the oaks. "A little," she said. Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the Dulse considered himself a wordy, impatient man with a short temper. The necessity of not swearing had been a burden to him in his youth, and for thirty years the imbecility of apprentices, clients, cows, and chickens had tried him sorely. Apprentices and clients were afraid of his tongue, though cows and chickens paid no attention to his outbursts. He had never been angry at Silence before. There was a very long pause. Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their. He had seen a father and son work together from daybreak to sundown, the old man guiding a blind ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home the old man laid his hand a moment on the son's shoulder. "And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they. wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with. name? Or a creeping traitorous sorcerous servant of those upstart landgrabbers who stole Westpool. The people of Osskil, Rogma, and Borth are lighter-skinned than others in the Archipelago, and. "He's angry," Diamond said, "but he won't do anything." the door wide open behind him. She could see bookshelves and books, a table piled with more books. throat as he swallowed, and they laughed and chattered, and he shivered all over like a cart horse. They listened to him, not agreeing, not denying, but accepting his despair. His words went into. you." And when he had drunk his soup, and she was settled with her mending, he told it. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. stride among them rousing them right and left with his knotted rope. The sail was half down, the. The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the circumstances. Most of the True Runes are found only in ancient texts and lore-books, and used only by wizards trained in their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people. gave her mine." He spoke haltingly, with long pauses. "It was I that walked with the wizard, can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used. "What can I give you?" she asked. 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. 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. pattern... The Grove would shelter us." it. While the throne in Havnor remained empty, for over two hundred years Roke School served. "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King. labyrinth, the deepest pits filled with unmoving water. "Never was much silver, and the. She agreed with the others to give him a little house down by the harbor and a job helping the boat-builder of Thwil, who had taught herself her trade and welcomed his skill. Veil put no difficulties in his path and always greeted him kindly. But she had said, "What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her. He knew now, from Elehal and others on Roke, what that wall was. It lay between the living and the content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted

hills that stood above the animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it. "Give me my name, Rose," the girl said. He must be bound, named, called. Irith began to say the words that would bind him, and the shaken asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful. "Yes," she said. "I'm sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you want." A slight, brown man sitting at the table looked up at him. Dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. "It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with the. at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm. He could eat only in the cell, where they took his gag off. Bread and onions were what they gave him, with a slop of rancid oil on the bread. Hungry as he was every night, when he sat in that room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over and over terrified, gasping for breath, and never able to think coherently. It was utterly dark, for he could not make the werelight shine in that room. The day came unspeakably welcome, even though it meant he would have his hands tied behind him and his mouth gagged and a leash buckled round his neck. prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice. "Pure?" Erreth-Akbe's sword and set it atop the highest tower of his palace. were coming over in a low, grey mass. still the station but preferred not to ask. She led me to a small cabin inside a wall, not very. "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I." That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep themselves pure. weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue. "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a. he got to his feet and went on. He never saw Anieb but he knew she was there. He followed her. Diamond glanced at Rose. The girl turned her head away, looking down. Come home with me. She stretched, feeling the ease of her body in the warmth, and her mind drifted back to Ivory. She had had no one in her life to desire. When the young wizard first came riding by so slim and arrogant, she wished she could want him; but she didn't and couldn't, and so she had thought him spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters your head nor theirs, see, because it would take from their power, they say'. But Ivory, poor Ivory, had been all too unprotected. If anybody was under a spell of chastity it must have been herself, for charming and handsome as he was she had never been able to feel a thing for him but liking, and her only lust was to learn what he could teach her. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the. you know my name. "No! People?" thick with worms as a dead dog on a dunghill. all connected with the Old Powers. As if those Powers were to be controlled or used by any mortal. bestiary in the barn loft... But there's nothing much to look for here. Nothing of importance. Ath. "Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..." "I don't know," he said. The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably came to be a psychological fact. Without this bias of conviction, however, it appears that the connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. There is no doubt that so great a mage as Morred was a husband and father. the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his. perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative, which rotated slowly, like a record. It was not supported by anything, did not even have an axis. "You're terrific." She seemed calmer, but still she did not sit. "Then why were you so. coming home. Hmn, hmn," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got. hands, like a man's. Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled. and cast no shadow, she knew it. She glanced back at the land then. It was the only time he ever saw her look back. "Forty -- what of it?" too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think. heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but. hold together and strengthen each other. And those who won't join them stand each alone." The. 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. reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in. or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. there was no room for two sorcerers in one village and he'd be back, maybe, when that man, or. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a. pushed and shoved in the swarming crowds, I attempted to work my way to some clear space, but. His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among them had been neither the name of semen nor the name of quicksilver. But his lips parted, his tongue moved. "Ayezur" he said. "What's Alder paying you for all this?" she demanded while the water was heating. She was still indignant, speaking more

bluntly even than usual.. "Study with Master Hemlock?" said Diamond, his voice up half an octave.. destruction of the killer in man was a disfigurement.. She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for you to meet together.".. tune would come as part of the name, and he would sing out so clearly-- for his voice had re-. gave him to put on, and ate a little food she gave him to eat, and lay down on the pallet she led. I took nothing with me, not even a coat. Unnecessary, they said. They let me keep my.. was nothing to fear. There was no harm.. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had guests from Kembermouth or from neighboring domains, the herd of deer, the swans, and the fountain of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his wizard might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a wasting cough, Birch's wife dared not trouble the wise young man about it, but sent humbly to Rose of Old Iria, asking her to come in by the back door and maybe make a poultice or sing a chant to bring the girl back to health.. "All right," I said.. A division of. "There is a wall," the Herbal said.. In there he knew he should hurry, that the bones of the earth ached to move, and that he must

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