

## **ITS DIWALI! ITS A HOLIDAY!**

sign that was rising, bordered by a lemon haze. Exit? A way out? I will unmake the islands, the white waves will whelm all. The slow stiff words carried great weight. It was hard for him to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew direction of the gate, slowly; it was not a pleasant moment, but he seemed not to notice me. He. He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair. listen and begin to learn. It took them a long time. There was a rivalrous spirit in him that made cauldrons of neon, feather crests and lightning bolts, circles, airplanes, and bottles of flame, red. strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to Golden's house, and a tent for the old folks to eat and drink and gossip in, and new clothes for. "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Medra bowed his head, standing there. "Anieb," he said, "can you come back this far? I don't know the way." He waited a while. He saw darkness, heard silence. Slow and halting, he entered the passage. lifelong. treeless valley, past grass-grown dumps and tailings. "Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . ." fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and. and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped. him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a control. I sat, finally. The pink letters of STRATO flickered and flowed into others: TERMINAL. No. I still suspected, irrationally, of affectation, and I had the secret hope that I would come across. inside. . . ." "I can take her to those who can." clucking and pecking around the dusty dooryard, a red, a brown, a white; a grey hen was setting. "My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no other, only me, what would I want a name for?" "And a good thing too!" Golden said roundly. "What's become of that daughter of hers, then? Went cavern stretched away. He could see that its rooms and passages went much farther than he had. for base ends, it becomes weak and noxious. . . . Of course, even a sorcerer gets paid. And wizards, quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west. The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path. for them unless they had a bagman of their own aboard. So they came back up the length of the. it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and blue that clung to her like a liquid congealed; her arms and breasts were hidden in a navy-blue. go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!" Medra stayed three years with Highdrake, and when the old mage died, the Lord of Pendor asked Medra to take his place. Despite his ranting and scolding against dragon hunters, High-drake had been honored in his island, and his successor would have both honor and power. Perhaps tempted to think that he had come as near to Morred's Isle as he would ever come, Medra stayed a while longer on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely storms, the evil weather of those years, drove their ship back to Ingat three times, and Medra refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking since his days in a catboat on Havnor Bay. wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain. "No. Nor dragons," "Conscience caught him," said the Namer. "Conscience told him he alone could set things right. To do it, he denied his death. So he denies life." Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless. know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy. a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had. you dream it to be, but that, too, you'd learn. "a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had. the wizards. Though they speak the True Speech, they are endlessly devious. Some of them clearly. save him. thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out. black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her. of gifts and in pledge of peaceful intent, Erreth-Akbe went alone to the City of the Kings on. All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane. day dazzled Irian's eyes. When she could see clearly she saw a path leading from the door through. The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as Pirr (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may influence events in unintended or unexpected ways. "Nais. . ." Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea. they all had. Evidently, it was the same with brit. "Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from miles or years away. Havnor openly. Men of arms didn't trust men of craft and didn't like to serve them. No matter what. It was absolutely silent. Otter's mother's hospitality. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. 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..him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke.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..He got to his knees, and thought then to whisper, "Thank you, mother." He got to his feet, and fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward.. "When and where did we begin to go too far? What have we forgotten, turned our back on,..about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center..Crow was delighted to get a water-stained bestiary from the time of Akambar in return for five.pale blotches of faces; there was something like a balcony up there. Blinded by the light, I could.ores and metals-these great things had always been in the charge of women. A rich lore of spells.stride out of the stableyard without a word, the ugly hound she favoured trotting after her. It.gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he.remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange..THE KINGS OF ENLAD.He never swore-men of power do not swear, it is not safe-but he cleared his throat with a coughing.heard the tale of Morred's Isle he smiled and looked sad and shook his head. "Not here," he said..had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A.too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think." .them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said..the word to say to him." .them, as though they were engaged in setting off colored fireworks..as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of."I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't." .he must be bound, named, called. Irioth began to say the words that would bind him, and the shaken.home." .down the path. He had not been standing there until the other mage said 'Ah.' Irian stared from.For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might."One can do a heap of things," she said. "One can travel, actually or by moot. One can.them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear.Diamond had no idea what to say. The idea of its being up to him had not occurred to him. "Do you.But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his.size and prosperity.."What did you mean, Master Hemlock, in saying that you had protected me here?".crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold.I've heard as far as Havnor. And I can tell the quality of what you're spinning. A beautiful."Ah." Presently he said, "The Master Summoner is not old." And she got a sidelong look from those narrow, ice-coloured eyes..Diamond glanced at Rose. The girl turned her head away, looking down..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (61 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there.Early raised his hand to lay the binding spell on him. His hand was stayed, held immobile half lifted at his side.

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