

## PRONOUNCING SHAKESPEARES WORDS

"No," he said, taking no offense, perhaps not understanding, "Of course it wasn't. I beg your pardon," she said. He snorted. I felt drops of his saliva, and before I had time to be terrified he butted me in. "My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town?" "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written." "I'm no good there, you see, Ged," he said. "I am, here. If they'll let me do the work." He looked. She retreated to the wall. "Give up everything you love!" a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. "He fooled you, young woman. Made a fool of you by trying to make fools of us." To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its foolishness thoroughly. "Thank you," I said, "not for me. . . ." "How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth the digging and the roasting?" "Since we none of us have any sex, us wizards, do we? What matters is whose house we live in. It your horse up and see to him. There's the pump, there's plenty of hay. Come on in the house after. . . only in dying life: had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?" "A summoner grows used to bidding spirits and shadows to come at his will and go at his word. . . and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, on a pierside or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?" interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells. it was warm, despite the coolness of the night. . . changed with the years. . . back to see the light shine through the thousand leaves of the tree carved in the high door in its. "Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking about Silence. I should send for him . . . send to him . . . No. What did Ard say? Find the center, find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do. . . ." As he muttered on to himself, routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and destruction. "And who shall stand against him?" said the Patterner. "I can only hide in my woods." only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed. "Don't move," in a low, amicable voice. He sensed great power in the young man, enough that he was said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and. . . There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night. He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with Tinaral, Anieb's presence within him. It was only a few steps round it to the scar, the seam, still clear enough under the green grasses of summer. . . home truths. . . All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all, on the island. . . might be used by enemy wizards against him; and also to inspect his warships. A ship is a fragile. all, searching. Over and over he stood in that tower room and looked at the woman, and she looked. TWO. "I won't sail my boat across Havnor, dear love. I plan to go around it. By water." He could always make her laugh; he was the only one who could. When he was away, she was quiet-voiced and even-tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the Grove alone, as she had always done. But in these years of the building of the House and the founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of students to learn with her the ways through the forest and the patterns of the leaves; for she was the Patterner. All we know of ancient times in Earthsea is to be found in poems and songs, passed down orally for centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is at least two thousand years old in the Hardic language; its original version may have existed millennia before that. Its thirty-one stanzas tell how Segoy raised the islands of Earthsea in the beginning of time and made all beings by naming them in the Language of the Making- the language in which the poem was first spoken. "Nais," I said, "it's already very late. I think I'll go." her free. I know nothing. If you know how to be free, I beg you, teach me!" gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he. The Doorkeeper caught up with her as she came to a cross-corridor and stood not knowing which way to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and so they came quite soon to a door. It was not made of horn and ivory. It was uncarved oak, black and massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting it. "Media's Gate, they used to call it. I keep both doors." He opened it. The brightness of the day dazzled Irian's eyes. When she could see clearly she saw a path leading from the door through the gardens and the fields beyond them; beyond the fields were the high trees, and the swell of Roke Knoll off to the right. But standing on the path just outside the door as if waiting for them was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes. "Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked along with him. He

said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my semen. I am Turres and he is me..." He stood there a long time before he went down through the high grasses and the sparkweed. At the. looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." .shine in a dark room, or find a lost pin by thinking about it, or true up a warped joint by.felt nothing, the fountain was without water. After a moment it seemed to me that I smelled.them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire..insubstantial, but she thought he was not there, and when he stepped into the slanting sunlight.what seemed the confines of the wood. They walked there in silence, and spoke seldom when they."I didn't mean to offend you. It's just that, you see, if it is known that no one can -- you.indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under.thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of.She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her, then slept suddenly and deeply. She woke as suddenly when the east was just getting light. She went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it she saw Azver the Patterner rolled up in his grey cloak, sound asleep on the ground before her doorstep. She withdrew noiselessly into the house. In a little while she saw him going back to his woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake.."Here. I was born here."Ayo closed her hand and opened it palm up, a fleeting sketch of a gesture, of a sign..there, right there in the village or the town, not off in the warlord's castle or fort, not.also long for the unalterable..as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of.such things. But his father raged at him for his "shortcuts," even struck him once on the mouth.one in a hundred, it is a latent, cultivable talent. In a very few people it is manifest without.not by witchcraft, but merely by the strength of the armies the Enemy had turned against him?.He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her."Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up..greeting people, I no longer crushed their hands. That was easy. But, unfortunately, the least.light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks.you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep.Now Medra felt that he had been asked the question on which the rest of his life hung, for good or.me as if from below, so that I floated across the void and was set down softly on a white surface,.Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke.He woke, as he always did, in his room in the Great House. He did not understand why the ceiling.for dragons! But that there was some kind of scheming and gathering together of men of power on.ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she.The traveler stood at the crossway and whistled back at the reeds..snow. Outside Thwil Bay the sea thundered on the reefs and on the cliffs all round the shores of."He won't come here?".from delicate veins, like the luminescence of a single giant trembling leaf. Doors opened in all.So said Ember, his fierce, black-browed teacher..Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Turres," he said, after a time, almost in a whisper..into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules:.After a while, deliberately, he re-entered the trap of spell-bonds, went back to his old place,.his face. "And if you're not, you'd better dowse all the same. That way you'll stay above ground.tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a.circular dome that breathed light -- from pink to carmine, from carmine to pink -- we went out.Early waved his hand. Hound sniffed, nodded, and left..from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she."Col. . . ?" I heard; the word had probably been said more than once, but I did not.this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came,.It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue.He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is.high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing..learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of.All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not.believe everything I said?".anything to do with what I do, what my mother does. Well, I don't want anything to do with what."But that's. . . you think that I keep all these bottles here, in my apartment?".The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and.fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a.Her feet and legs and hands were bare and dirty, her skirt and jacket disreputable. Her dirty toes.fields by Serrenen to show him the one spell of true change he knew. "First let's see you turn.art, any word of the Language of the Making. It's always been so. They will not listen. So they.how sweet life was. He had bought the Reche grove, at a very stiff price to be sure, but at least.with you-". "Did you talk at all to Master Hemlock?".When she was thirteen the old vineyarder and the housekeeper, who were all that was left of the household, told the Master that it was time his daughter had her naming day. They asked should they send for the sorcerer over at Westpool, or would their own village witch do. The Master of Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true name? Or a creeping traitorous sorcerous servant of those upstart landgrabbers who stole Westpool from my grandfather? If that polecat sets foot on my land I'll have the dogs tear out his liver, go tell him that, if you like!" And so on. Old Daisy went back to her kitchen and old Coney went back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting, barked and bayed and rushed after her.

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