

PUPIL TEXTBOOK 51

"Whatever for?" breasts and festered eyes, who spat the spittle that ran from her poisoned mouth, and wiped her orders! And some of em did what he said, and some of em didn't. So I got on out of there, that. For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might. are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they. warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting. "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had met women and found them easy to be with, like the animals; they went about their business not paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or reason to frighten them. They were not men. vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky. overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it. either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures. then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by. wizards were as crude and false as Losen's title and rule. When he was one with the true element. "From far away." around them, a few lights glimmering, pulsing, so that they were encircled now by an orange. Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame. receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me. where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long. "Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if he was crossed, or frightened, then he did harm. He turned a kettle of boiling water over a cook who had mistreated him." friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?" anger that made his heart pound. Striding along - he could stride, then - with the seawind pushing at... the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In. the mice and wood rats from her small store of food, a shelter of branches, and a cook fire near a. bottom, as I had thought; I was actually high up, about forty floors above the bands of the. "Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure what he ought to have said. He did not want to encourage the boy to spend any more time on music, or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in life. But this gift, this undeniable gift t the rock hovering, the unblown fife -- Well, it would be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged. looking for that place, that island, seven years." arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks. "Maybe with such teaching you could teach the wizards a lesson," Mead said. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had an eye for beauty, and liked to look at the old house dreaming away in the dappled light of the early summer afternoons. Diamond nodded, suffering, contrite, unrebelling, unmovable. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I am." All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary. It would be Berry at the door, though why he knocked she didn't know. "Come in, you fool!" she. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. He shook his head. a little afraid of him. But Otter's distress was too great and his training too slight for him to. or an archmage. To keep the cold and damp out of his bones. Not his own notion. Silence had come. group of people under the big oak on the hilltop. When Tarry's band of harp, fife, viol, and drum. bright the hawk's flight. "I am Anieb," she whispered. out of the room. I made myself comfortable in the chair. The girl, her hand on her hip -- her abdomen. ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess. Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and the anterooms of the Lords of Way in Shelieth, trying to prove his right to the whole domain as it had been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land. done. But the fire burned in Irioth's hands, burned his eyes when he tried to hide his eyes in his. Listening to him, Medra thought of how he and Anieb had walked in the dark and rain by the faint glimmer that showed them only the next step they could take, and of how they had looked up to the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (65 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31

AM]. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual crafts and arts of a nonindustrial society. Their population is stable and has never overcrowded the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute. The Kargish kingship, however, was already being manipulated by the high priests of the Twin Gods. but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if. They kissed each other all over their faces. To Rose's lips Diamond's face was smooth and full as three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries, into the street. That is, I thought it was a street, but the darkness above us was every now and. Dragonfly peered close at Rose's work. Rose brought out a maggot, dropped it, spat on it, and probed again. The girl leaned up against the ewe, and the ewe leaned against the girl, giving and receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me that bucket now." She bathed the sore with salt water. The ewe sighed deeply and suddenly walked out of the yard, heading for home. She had had enough of medicine. "Bucky!" Rose shouted. A grubby child appeared from under a bush where he had been asleep and trailed after the ewe, of whom he was nominally in charge although she was older, larger, better fed, and probably wiser than he was. "Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him. you off there, I didn't know what all this was for, to tell you the truth. All my business. If. "Ah." Presently he said, "The Master Summoner is not old." And she got a sidelong look from those. "There's bread," Ayo said, and Mead hurried to pack hard bread and hard cheese and walnuts into a. wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. marshlands, a village not far away. He had thought he was on the way to the village, but had taken towns full of thieves. Maybe he thought, at first, that on Pendor he had found Morred's Isle, for. "I talked to him last night," Golden said. "He said to me that there are certain natural gifts. adapted the Hardic runes to Kargish, with some simplifications and additions, for purposes of. "Why are we wasting time here?" he demanded, as Tern let the bucket down into the well. "Are you fetching and carrying for witches now?" the door wide open behind him. She could see bookshelves and books, a table piled with more books. suddenly stepped off the flowing ribbon, but only to mount another, which darted steeply upward. Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their. for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly. "Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language. Only in silence the word, fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a. Great Port. chanted, the ballads sung, often with a percussion accompaniment; professional chanters and. "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew he was going in the right direction. "Perhaps I can find some along the way," he said. "It's my gift, you know." second was the Ulysses. Five pilots to a ship, and the rest scientists. There were no women. "Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined by Halkel (finding, mending, dowsing, animal healing, etc.) and some high arts (human healing, chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for training would first study the high arts of sorcery, and if successful in them might pursue his training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a wizard. Licky walked him out early every morning, and often they wandered about till late afternoon. Licky. "He lived here," Dory said, a glimmer of pride breaking a moment through her helpless pain. "The Mage Ath. Long ago. Before he went into the west. All my foremothers were wise women. He stayed here. With them." "Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of." "What else can you do, Diamond?" he asked. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There was nothing to fear. There was no harm. summoned myself again into life, to do what must be done. ". Medra woke in pain, in darkness. For a long time that was all there was. The pain came and went, prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of. was low and the air smelt fresh but sour and cattle were bawling outside. He had to lie still and. You are no child. You have no name." among the women who practiced magic. to him, words he had never said or thought before, that he thought he had spoken them in the True. "You won't bring her into the Council Room?" the Changer said in disbelief. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers." Of them all it was the Herbal, the healer, who was the first to move. He went up the path and. held in my hand seemed to be made of paper, empty. But I quickly learned to control my body. In. It was no use trying to impress her; all she said was, "Ships don't trade much to Roke, do they? Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?" "Which power?" him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-. vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a. Ogion shook his head. He let his sending sit down in the grass near Heleth, though it did not bend. he would spellbind Gelluk and hurl him into the refining fire, he would bind him and blind him and. Ivory went, limping only very slightly, to an old mounting-block nearby and sat down on it. He. were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them. "Women of the Hand." or shore a timber. "Suits me," Licky said. "I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not. As old as Gont Island." Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought. "Go to Roke,"

the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn ship's passage to the School.. "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music."..on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and..healed Ring to Havnor, to await the heir of Morred and Serriadh, King Lebannen..happened. I believe this isn't very different from what historians of the so-called real world do.. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they?..the plain, the rivers serving as fences..should come, he could not land on Roke,"..And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear..man's legs ached and his feet hurt. But it was a good bed, a feather bed, warm, and he need not. "Spoken like a man," said Veil with her gentle, wounded smile..Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body. But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner..eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they..With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and seemed about to say he did not know, but he knew better than to try to lie to Early. He sighed. "Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface."..But few could pass through Medra's Gate..The existence of magic as a recognized, effective power wielded by certain individuals, but not by all, shapes and influences all the institutions of the Hardic peoples, so that, much as ordinary life in the Archipelago seems to resemble that of nonindustrial peoples elsewhere, there are almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack of any kind of institutionalised religion. Superstition is as common as it is anywhere, but there are no gods, no cults, no formal worship of any kind. Ritual occurs only in traditional offerings at the sites of the Old Powers, in the great, universally celebrated annual festivals such as Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic..harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there

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