

THE AMETHYST

In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and returned to the marvels of the Allking's realm. He never noticed that his prisoner's dreams had escaped him..The Osskili use the Hardic runes to write their language, since they trade mostly with Hardic-speaking lands..Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you understand that?" "No," Diamond said..constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a."Then you'll be more than welcome. The plague is terrible among the cattle. And getting worse."..spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They.put in compilations..I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders."."What is that?".Old Hardic differs in vocabulary and pronunciation from the current speech, but the rote learning..not see that word forgotten."..falcon, mistress, and to see the earth below you with a falcon's eye. And summoning, which is..Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that..After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped

now.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (22 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. "Irian, here's what you must do to enter the Great House..."..And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a..and dark eyes under dark brows, eyes that held his, held him, brought the truth out of his mouth..A Description..slip, forget. That was not his language..black machines. I took these for cars. But when the two nearest me emerged and, before I had..Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of..but fair's fair, right? You wouldn't ask me to pay you what I have in mind to pay you, would you..By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came..But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made..After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is ... always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no summoning. No bringing back across the wall. No wall."."Ride back," he said. "Leave me here. There's enough food for one man for three or four days more..He stood in his own form. He had not made the change himself. He stood alert, uncertain..house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said..size and prosperity..themselves to work "high magic" by scrupulously avoiding "base spells," "Earthlore," and women. A..mother..right enough! I'll have him here as long as I choose, and that's the end of it."..for a man it's only one thing ever. But I miss hearing you sing."..windows, no wheels, not even lights, and careered as though blindly, at tremendous speed. The..the name..liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart.. "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two buckets, going to the pump. She would not use the stream water for anything at all, these days. She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind?.It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue..The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master..Roke were originally..practice magic puts the Kargs at a disadvantage with the Archipelagans in almost every respect..bulging pearly square when something was pressed. In the bathroom there was no tub or sink..The sense of huge strength was draining out of her. She turned her head a little and looked down, surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green around her sandaled feet. She looked back at the Patterner and he still seemed a fragile being. She pitied and honoured him. She wanted to warn him of the peril he was in. But no words came to her at all. She turned round and went back to the streambank by the little falls. There she sank down on her haunches and hid her face in her arms, shutting him out, shutting the world out.."I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not..bright stars of the Forge, low over the sea. They were a little blurred, and as he watched them."..You never saw a shirt? Sort of, well, clothing. Made of nylon."..It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home..from Alder's stable, where he left

the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained.. "A shirt..cheese, roast kid, company," he said..Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to be trivial. He disliked the old man for that, and because he was unshakable. He never praised Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use..When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth.. "And?"..summoned myself again into life, to do what must be done..".monster emptying its lungs of air, the light reappeared, the girl pushed open the door. A real..There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept..often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see..".wizard might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the..".Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to us, to life, to bear that word. So we grieved for our lord..well? No, it must have been eye shadow. She lifted her head..how to do it. And she had no share in their wisdom, no part in their decisions. She drew away from..could sink in the sea as deep as Solea. But she thought with love of the roads and fields of Way..The weatherworker knew his trade, at least. Sea Otter sped south; they met summer squalls and..".Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many..". "Got in?"..things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went..Again he paused. All at once he looked straight at Otter, who froze in terror thinking the wizard had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode, playing and delaying. But now that I've come, you serve me, and have nothing to be afraid of. And there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and obeys him, and the father rewards him as he deserves." He leaned very close, as he liked to do, and said gently, confidentially, "I'm sure you can find the great lode..".midair, whereupon some of the people stepped down onto the approaching branch of another..mouthful. "Being a wizard, going to Roke, all that, it never seemed real, not exactly. And with..with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely..".hands in the salt water..could he think of her..They had to share a room at the crowded inn with two other travellers, but Ivory's thoughts were perfectly chaste, though he laughed at himself a little for it..When he saw Diamond come down the stairs without touching the stairs, he thought his eyes had..go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a..To find her on Hemlock's side was a blow..information, communication, protection, and teaching..or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken..lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously..But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling..Magic..given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a..".All wrong..". "He only taught me names..".ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed..the gardens and the fields beyond them; beyond the fields were the high trees, and the swell of..anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of..greeting people, I no longer crushed their hands. That was easy. But, unfortunately, the least..Long Fields where most of his beeves were. Nobody had horses but Alder, and they were for his..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (92 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]..He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair and dark eyes under dark brows, eyes that held his, held him, brought the truth out of his mouth..wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute..She stared at me. She did not speak. Her lips moved, opened, closed. What was that in her..or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles..".And when he doesn't have any?"..He stopped and felt the dirt under his feet. He was barefoot, as usual. When he was a student on Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff, and kicked his shoes off. He stood still and felt the dust and rock of the cliff-top path under his feet, and the cliffs under that, and the roots of the island in the dark under that. In the dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his teachers on Roke had said. But this was his island, his rock, dust, dirt. His wizardry grew out of it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was something Dulse could teach him: what went deeper than mastery. What he had learned here, on Gont, before he ever went to Roke..".Sitting with old Ferny. She died this afternoon, Mother will be there all night. But how did you get here?"..portions thereof in any form whatsoever except as provided by the..practices of wizards and witches, and all too often rightly so..She glanced back at the land then. It was the only time he ever saw her look back..On the island of Ark,

and in Orrimy on Hosk, and down among the Ninety Isles, there are tales."Now you," Diamond said to Rose, and she started to do what he had done, but the rock only twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad."castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not.,galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put.at me. Her eyes froze. But to that I had grown accustomed. I asked where the Inner Circle was..He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter.after all, her fault..way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had."Yes, sir. I decided that I don't want to be a wizard."the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous.Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could."I think you feared him."Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a.I put them on my knees. Everyone was seated now..silence that might have been awe or disapproval or mere stolidity. "This is a nice little town,".The roasting pit took up the center of a huge domed chamber. Hurrying, sticklike figures black.summon them, in spirit or in flesh, to come to us. Only the dead may we summon. Only the shadows..bedsheet, had it done and hung out one sunny day before she knew what he was doing. "You needn't.He stood there for a while, bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or.The people of the Archipelago speak Hardic. There are as many dialects as there are islands, but none so extreme as to be wholly unintelligible to the others..not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the."It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people say he ought to go. He's not canny."..was silent and patient..quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage."Sunbright had not been gone three days when a new stranger appeared in town: a man riding up the.were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago..know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers.writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the.it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face,."If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature.Back in the cell room, when Licky had unleashed him and untied his gag, he said, "There's some ore there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet."

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