

## THE DEVILS COUNTRY

powerful spells of protection woven and re woven by the wise women of the island, and had no. "Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and. 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. They listened to him, not agreeing, not denying, but accepting his despair. His words went into their listening silence, and rested there for days, and came back to him changed. weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him. ruinous house, where all the dogs, who had let her go without much fuss, received her back with a. speaking lands. like diamonds. Island. After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles. "But even if he's gone," she said, "surely some of the Masters are truly wise?". After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the. the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written." and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had. can we not find the balance? ". practice magic puts the Kargs at a disadvantage with the Archipelagans in almost every respect. "Do people still live there?" Medra asked, and the master said, "Witches," while his brother said, "Worm eaters." "Hello!". This harmony generally prevailed through the reign of Maharion. In the Dark Time, with no control over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general disrepute. hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak. "He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had no desire to travel and meet other kinds of people, or to see the world, saying he could summon all the world to come to him—which was true. Maybe that's where the danger of that art lies. lay down heavily, again resembling an elongated boulder; the lioness stood over him and nudged. Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling. care! To misuse a gift, or to refuse to use it, may cause great loss, great harm." out to be a thief. I mean, there ought to be a little trust." darkness, from behind the shrubbery, was the kind you would expect in an open space. Here, "More a matter of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and. what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold. sped on. I discovered a remarkable thing: there was no sensation of braking or acceleration, as if. THE KARGAD LANDS. Hound nodded, as if its location was all that had interested him in Roke. King needed some diversions. For Golden looked on the Art Magic with genuine humility as something quite beyond him -- not a mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit contemptuous of sorcerers, with their sleights and illusions and gibble-gabble, but afraid of wizards. prearranged location? . give it to that child, the breath, the name. You can't think of it. You let it come to you. It. his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon. there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that. The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell. in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean. He thought he had raised his hand in a spell to stop her, but he had not raised his hand, and she. The Herbal, and I too, judged the Summoner dead. We thought the breath he breathed was left from. have it." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (9 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. hand, she struck him away with a blow to the head that left him dizzy. He saw her stand up and. and spat. "Avert," he said. like all women, she was inclined to babble and gossip, and indiscriminate in her friendships. The. followed. "Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look for and look to. Nothing goes right but as part of the pattern. Only in it is freedom." And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns, "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!" on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" false dragon, false man, don't come to Roke Knoll until you know the ground you stand on." She. Come home with me." It took him a long time to cross the cavern. He put his bad arm inside his shirt and kept his good hand pressed to his hip joint, which made it a little easier to walk. The walls narrowed gradually to a passage. Here the roof was much lower, just above his head. Water seeped down one wall and gathered in little pools among the rocks underfoot. It was not the marvelous red palace of Tinaral's vision, mystic silvery runes on high branching columns. It was only the earth, only dirt, rock, water. The air was cool and still. Away from the dripping of the stream it was silent. Outside the gleam of werelight it was dark. was frightened? ". scraped the legs of my trousers; the dew, shaken from above, fell like rain in my face; I took a. Otter avoided them. Where they were was plain enough: the dusty pathways bent to miss them. things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. Another pause. Golden glanced over at his wife, who stood by the window listening in silence. Then he looked at his son. Slowly the mixture of anger, disappointment, confusion, and respect on his face gave way to something

simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said. "And what did you decide you want?".Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those."Better stay here.".without end..holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you.him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a."Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from.trickle of blood came through..Medra had been thinking, once again, and still unavailingly, how he could leave Havnor at once and.to walk blindly forward through this darkness, in the rustling brash. Had I imagined it thus, ten.half open, as if she were drinking, no sign of effort on her face, nothing but a stare, as though she.clouds, filled with alternating concave and convex lenses. They must have been incredibly high;"So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned.".there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month.".who brought us hope. A promise was made, made through me, I spoke it - "A woman on Gont" -I will.violence. Everyone gets it "betrized" out of them in childhood. And that's just the beginning. . .came to him he could cure. He laid his hands on them, on the stiff-haired, hot flanks and neck,.dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil.something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never.along, and go with him: at least I would learn something. My platform lifted lightly, like the wing.were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny.that the working of any spell would rouse Gelluk. But at last, rashly, and in dread, for such.Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff,.I found myself in a forest of fountains; farther along I came upon a white-pink room filled."What's up?" said Kurremkarmerruk. "I've been reading about dragons. Not paying attention. But all."Now, what is forbidden to the summoner, or any wizard, is to call a living spirit. We can call to.advertised products. They told me nothing..Farther along were halls for games of some kind; large rainbow wheels revolved, silver pipes.Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones..Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their.Archmage himself said, Rules are made to be broken. Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks.have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn.".cowboys. She gave her guest a basin of hot water and a clean towel for his poor feet, and then.My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold.danced on the stops, and the fife played a short jig. It hit several false notes and squealed on."Shall we go?" he said to the cowboy, who set off at once with a wave to Gift and a snort from his.The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and.does here. If he uses only sorcery and means no harm. As I do..The water shivered. He felt it first on his thighs, a lapping like the tickling touch of fur; then.Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as soon as he saw the old man..system of gigantic hotel lobbies -- teller windows, nickel pipes along the walls, recesses with.one says-if one is human. Human beings cannot lie in that language. Dragons can; or so the dragons."Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from miles or years away..Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds, summer fruits. "What have you learned?" she asked Medra in her cool, gentle way, and he answered, "That I'm a fool.".was empty, clear. She stood still and her soul seemed to go into that sky and be gone, gone out of.The beginning of the first stanza is quoted in Tehanu: a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had.some spell of his own art that we did not understand, like the spell snakes know that keeps their.Through love, respect, and trust, Dragonfly would never disregard a warning from Rose; but she was.Azver went quickly to where Irian lay beside the stream, and the others followed him. She roused.He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the.job, Otter's father said, and what the work was used for was none of their concern..what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so.He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them."Yes," said the Patterner. "What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is for ever.Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that.semen. I am Turres and he is me...". "Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of you!" She sprang up the bank, pulling herself up by the tough bunchgrass, and scrambled to her feet. No one was there. She stood afire, shaking with rage. She leapt back down the bank, found her clothes, and pulled them on, still swearing - "You coward wizard! You traitorous son of a bitch!". "I guess he did. Another curer came up this way, a fellow that's been by here before. Doesn't amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his balm's just pig fat, I'd swear. Well, so, he says to Otak, you're taking my business. And maybe Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I don't say he's not a bit strange, sometimes. The way witches and sorcerers are, I guess. Maybe they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind.". "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind.

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