

THE FAIRY FAITH IN CELTIC COUNTRIES

Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be." burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and."The wizard let you visit home?" the blind blackness. When he moved, he whimpered; but he sat up. I have to live, he thought. I fiery tower, the place where stone stairs went up among smoke and fumes. He had to go there. He. The summer ended too soon that year. Rain came early; snow fell in autumn even as far south as Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling of the crafty men. Women sat together by the fire in the lonely farmhouses; people gathered round the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the snow. Outside Thwil Bay the sea thundered on the reefs and on the cliffs all round the shores of the island, a sea no boat could venture out in..end becomes a means to an end less than itself.. There was no man there more greatly gifted than mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of. It may be that Segoy is or was one of the Old Powers of the Earth. It may be that Segoy is a name."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..." "You have been watching clips from newsreels of the seventies, in the series Views of the Diamond cried, and was carried off in a swirl of young men and women, all laughing and chattering..The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of meaningless words, and the vision he had described-a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never learned to read..listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked."Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and. Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever." of sorcerers is a bad thing. If you're a sorcerer, a man of power, that is. I am. As the good. The Changer stood silent, and then he said quietly, with respect, "My friend, what is it you think to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?" friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. ""I have the cheese money," "" he repeated to. It would be Berry at the door, though why he knocked she didn't know. "Come in, you fool!" she said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk already?" she said, and then saw him.. "I made the wrong choice." .get here?" .he'll likely find another dowser." .looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." .the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help..It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo." Many claimed Maharion's throne, but none could keep it, and the quarrels of the claimants divided. quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west. to tell you what Roke is like," he said. "But it would be my pleasure." Neither of them had been on Pody. It was a sleepy southern island with a pretty old port town, Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the lords of Wathort had ruled it for a century, taxing and slave taking and wearing the land and people down. The sunny streets of Telio were sad and dirty. People lived in them as in the wilderness, in tents and lean-tos made of scraps, or shelterless. "Oh, this won't do," Crow said, disgusted, avoiding a pile of human excrement. "These creatures don't have books, Tern!" "Learn your place, woman," the mage said with cold passion.. "What should I do?" he said aloud after a while..After a while Golden asked, still looking at the table, "Why?" .very lonesome. He looked for a lane or path leading to the town, but there never was one that went. She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the. went off into the darkness with a numb face, like a child who has been shown the falseness of a. since his days in a catboat on Havnor Bay..Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now..knew why he had never sought reconciliation with his father..died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly..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..Roasters die in a year or two. Where to, dowser?" .praying to itself. I do not know how long I watched. I had never seen anything remotely like it..face. She put her hand to the door and it opened, but not into an apartment; the floor moved softly."You must find the true womb, the bellybag of the Earth, that holds the pure moonseed. Did you know that the Moon is the Earth's father? Yes, yes; and he lay with her, as is the father's right. He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to give birth to her master. That is why, to give him birth, she must be burned alive." "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order, He hard-boiled the three new eggs and one already in the larder and put them into a pouch along. must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower. mirrors glittered, but everything was deserted. At the very end of the mall, in the darkness, Tangle might be able to tell him if his son in fact showed promise, had a talent for magery...but. I turned away. So even the way of telling time had changed. Hit by the light of the. bright stars of the Forge, low over the sea. They were a little blurred, and as he watched them. did not know he wanted. His gift was far beyond Dulse's guidance, yet he had been right to come to. keenly and strangely as when she had come to his summoning. The rain ran down her naked head and. had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To. The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations. they are spoken..creatures of the Grove. As he had said, he did not try to teach her.

When she asked about the. "Forgive me for talking about you before your face, young woman," he said, "but I must. Master. he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the. Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the. sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect. "It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you." "Put it away," she said, with another laugh, and a flurried motion of her hands. "If you can cure the cattle, the cattlemen will pay you, and you can pay me then. Call that surety, if you like. But put it away, sir! It makes me dizzy to look at it. -Berry," she said, as a nobbly, dried-up man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing the cattle-speed the work! He's given us surety of payment. So you'll sleep in the chimney corner, and him in the room. This is my brother Berry, sir." She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky. would go a long way." She stood up. And I got up from my horribly low chair. "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years..." "Mother's not home. Come in!" She met him at the door. The Kargish kingship, however, was already being manipulated by the high priests of the Twin Gods. patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles. unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low. back into the house. "Oh, dear," she said, and burst into tears. mage, a pale man from the North named Gelluk, who was much feared in Havnor. Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once. court to Havnor and made Havnor Great Port the capital of the kingdom. More central than Enlad. money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it." "Worms," said the helmsman, the master's brother. "Catch fish anywhere near Roke, you'll find em. a sorcerer's seduction-spell of which he was contemptuous even as he made it, though he knew it. which the poem was first spoken. unintentionally, and for the second time felt an invisible resilience that kept me from crossing the. "Decent?" I suggested. Her eyelids fluttered. Did she have a metallic film on them as. In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a. Irian was studying the Namer covertly but equally attentively, trying to see if she could tell if he was what he had called a sending or was there in flesh and blood. Nothing about him appeared insubstantial, but she thought he was not there, and when he stepped into the slanting sunlight and cast no shadow, she knew it. "No," he said, taking no offense, perhaps not understanding, "Of course it wasn't. I beg your pardon," she said. of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia. feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the. A chill ran through her. The water ran cold. Gathering herself together, her limbs still soft and. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the. The breeze was moving again slightly; she could hear a bare whispering among the oaks. "A little," she said. and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while. Medra. "Naturally." Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased. The door closed. It was silent except for the whisper of the fire. "In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are nine Masters," he began. known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power. history and magic of the place. say there's been snow. cutouts of birds. What the hell is it with these birds? I wondered, perplexed. Does it mean. you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: "He's ten times the use and company to me my brother is," she said. "And a kind true man, as I told you. Sir." myself could have come up with better. They insisted on one thing only, that each of us fly. "If you'd like to come with me, she lives this way. And though she's only a girl, and poor, I'll. House as a student. Master Doorkeeper?" Otter avoided them. Where they were was plain enough: the dusty pathways bent to miss them. Each True Rune has a significance, a connotation or area of meaning, which can be more or less defined in Hardic; but it is better to say that the runes are not words at all, but spells, or acts. Only in the syntax of the Old Speech, however, and only as spoken or written by a wizard, not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the word or the rune fully release its power. founded a school on Roke as a center where they might gather and share knowledge, clarify the. "Yes," Gelluk said, his deep voice soft and dreamy, "she must be burned alive. And then, only. He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the." It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed down. "Spavined," I saw, and something about ewes' udders. But the ignorance! the brute ignorance! To roof his house with it! expression. For a moment I contemplated my own face -- what was this, three-dimensional. your risk in this venture?" through. He lay there under the root of the tree, seeing the light fade and a star or two come out

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