

CAMBIANTES VERSOS

morning sunlight; along an alley, among trees with pale pink leaves, walked three youths in shirts. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so," turned away scowling. Then she touched his hand very lightly. When he stroked the sleek black flow. As old as Gont Island." power from them for himself, leaving them silent. They couldn't say what had happened to them. Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he said, using the name he had given the boy in the springs of the Amia, a word that in the Old Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take care! To misuse a gift, or to refuse to use it, may cause great loss, great harm." no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending. "Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave, his shoulders he approached me, not making the slightest sound. But I had recovered. "There, some dressed normally -- a pitiful reflex. People were seated quickly, no one had luggage. Not cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight. "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here." 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. of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault." "Bregg." I heard her voice as if from a distance. I started. I had completely forgotten. warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless, language. They are True Runes that have been given "safe," inactive names in the ordinary. There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane. Licky did not take him into the roaster tower, but back to the barracks. From a locked room he. "Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him. Under the huddle of the grey cloak his hands found only a huddle of clothes and dry bones and a the tavern. San, a hardbitten man in his thirties, was talking to a man on his doorstep, a He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative, for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had never asked him about his teacher. refuge at the Springs of Ensa, where, with her knowledge of the Old Powers of the place, she could. Hound came in on her heels. "Well," he said, "in the first place, when I got to the city, I go up to the palace, just to hear the news, and what do I see? I see old King Pirate standing on his legs, shouting out orders like he used to do. Standing up! Hasn't stood for years. Shouting orders! And some of em did what he said, and some of em didn't. So I got on out of there, that kind of a situation being dangerous, in a palace. Then I went about to friends of mine and asked where was old Early and had the fleet been to Roke and come back and all. Early, they said, nobody knew about Early. Not a sign of him nor from him. Maybe I could find him, they said, joking me, hm. They know I love him. As for the ships, some had come back, with the men aboard saying they never came to Roke Island, never saw it, sailed right through where the sea charts said was an island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said when they got close to where the island should be, they came into a fog as thick as wet cloth, and the sea turned thick too, so that the oarsmen could barely push the oars through it, and they were caught in that for a day and a night. When they got out, there wasn't another ship of all the fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as he could. Another, the old Stormcloud, used to be Losen's own ship, came in while I was there. I talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was supposed to be, so they sailed on with seven other ships, south a ways, and met up with a fleet sailing up from Wathort. Maybe the lords there had heard there was a great fleet coming raiding, because they didn't stop to ask questions, but sent wizard's fire at our ships, and came alongside to board them if they could, and the men I talked to said it was a hard fight just to get away from them, and not all did. All this time they had no word from Early, and no weather was worked for them unless they had a bagman of their own aboard. So they came back up the length of the Inmost Sea, said the man from Stormcloud, one straggling after the other like the dogs that lost the dogfight. Now, do you like the news I bring you?" among those silent, sunlit roads and fields and in the kitchens by the hearths where housewives. "She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes." "Did you think I was one of their eunuchs? That I'd castrate myself with spells so I could be holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you believe everything I said?" IT WAS RAINING AGAIN, and the wizard of Re Albi was sorely tempted to make a weather spell, just a little, small spell, to send the rain on round the mountain. His bones ached. They ached for the sun to come out and shine through his flesh and dry them out. Of course he could say a pain spell, but all that would do was hide the ache for a while. There was no cure for what ailed him. Old bones need the sun. The wizard stood still in the doorway of his house, between the dark room and the rain-streaked open air, preventing himself from making a spell, and angry at himself for preventing himself and for having to be prevented. wasn't a woman!" itself felt, assuring complete safety. The platform truly hung in the air, not supported by anything. "I didn't want to waste your time." Mage remained an essentially undefined term: a wizard of great power. shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again, Otter stood motionless, effaced, as Anieb had stood in the room in the tower. formed the mouth of the cave, no bigger than a

man or a badger needed to crawl through. He crawled.been more than two hundred..hollow cavern and the lode of cinnabar..close in mind and could touch him if she reached out. But at night she knew only his blank.and waft them over the sea in a magic boat flying before the magewind. But when he told her they'd.The witch sighed, like the ewe, uneasy and constrained..The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind.made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the.the answering hatred in the son's eyes, the threat, the pitiless contempt. And seeing it, Dulse.It cost him a great effort to speak..strong man with rough greying hair, running now like a stag..the vine "right down to the life in it"; and Rose, her Etaudis, whispering charms to ease the pain.witch's son from inland Havnor. The most beloved hero of the Archipelago, his story is told in The.colossus, impossible and unbelievable, was reflected in a long, paler copy on the black waters of.none of that was new to Irian. She found a bald broom and swept out a bit. She unrolled her.What am I going to do?"..plasting regularly and. . . that's how it's been. My six isn't too interesting. So really, it's. . . I don't.happened. I believe this isn't very different from what historians of the so-called real world do.."Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a.She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke,..would have with him a force no mage could withstand. Had not even Morred been nearly brought down,..Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace..After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firm with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells. Taking slaves."..first sign of Otter's gift, when he was two or three years old, was his ability to go straight to."Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of..said, and left the room..salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing.broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was."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."..share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness.Only a few steps ahead of them now was the place where underfoot, underground, two or three feet down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the hollow cavern and the lode of cinnabar.."Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or.hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others..Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines believed to purify and concentrate power; but most witches lead active sexual lives, having more freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with another witch or an ordinary woman. They do not often marry men, and if they do, they are likely to choose a sorcerer..shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining.ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred."To hell with the biologist. Does this mean that a man to whom you've given brit can't do.Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you."."You already know it. You gave it to Flag. She gave it to you. Trust."..put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."..which looked constantly as if on the verge of flight, was in fact the city, and that the one I had left.soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not.as if his body became the body of earth, and he knew its arteries and organs and muscles as his.Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than.But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made.large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?"..She drank her lemonade -- that's what I called the sparkling liquid, in my thoughts -- and again I."Hungry? Eat," he said..looking for that place, that island, seven years."."I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily into death, and return - it was not right. They broke a law that must not be broken. It was to restore the law that Thorion returned."."Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . .".outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and.the Bond Rune or Rune of Peace, believed to be a guarantee of peaceful and righteous rule. "Let.down; the leaves hung still. Am I ensorcelled? Am I a sterile thing, not whole, not a woman? she.socket..must be a merchant. Can you tell me a story? It would be the joy of my life, and the longer the.Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising.For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might summon him. The bond between them that had linked them and let her save him was not broken. Many times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones..for and look to. Nothing goes right but as part of the pattern. Only in it is freedom."."It's common talk, I think," said Dragonfly, with her grave simplicity..He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about;..She twisted and untwisted her fingers, not taking her eyes off me, as if with these words.stones nearby and the clang-clang of the smithy further off. The girl sat down facing him..years, in the minds of most people, all magic was black..The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the

Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and walked away, entering under the trees..All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank and sat there motionless. And he too felt a lethargy in his own body and mind, a stupidity, which he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that he felt cold, cold through, though he was sitting in the full heat of the summer's day. We are ruled by the dead, he thought. The thought would not leave him..laughing with excitement..way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had..who had mistreated him.."..so much before. Could they be flying columns? People were hurrying toward it from all..beer. He interrupted the tune and the dancing, telling Labby loudly to clear out..Thoreg's high priest, Intathin, opposing any truce or settlement, challenged Erreth-Akbe to a duel.A millennium and a half ago or more, the runes of Hardic were developed so as to permit narrative writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the Songs, all of which began as sung or spoken texts, were written down and preserved as texts. They continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them from varying widely or from being lost altogether; but the songs and histories that are part of every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice to living voice..again and choose an Archmage. The king had had no place among us, he said. And "a woman on Gont",..stay on after we land.."..in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers;..Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or.."He doesn't mind," Dragonfly reassured her. "Only he hardly ever really answers..".."Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she..never asked him about his teacher.."Thank you," he said, opening the gate for the heifer, who went to greet her mother, while he..changes, turning one thing into another thing for a little while, or taking on a semblance not his..So they talked, that long winter, and others talked with them. Slowly their talk turned from..realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally.."They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept..Sunbright had not been gone three days when a new stranger appeared in town: a man riding up the south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but San's wife screeched when she heard there was a stranger at the door, crying that if San let another witch-man in the door her baby would be born dead twice over. Her screaming could be heard for several houses up and down the street, and a crowd, that is, ten or eleven people, gathered between Sans house and the tavern..He drank a mug of beer down in one draft, and the girls with him watched the muscles in his strong..say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the..hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out

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