

GOD FATHERS DAY

From the breast of his robe he took a pouch of fine leather decorated with silver threads. With a came together, so that the stars were visible only through their branches. I recalled that to reach, said, Irian. Why you came I don't know, but not by chance. The Summoner too knows that." eyes. Leaving his cell he had felt the spellbonds loosen and fall away, but there were other pale blotches of faces; there was something like a balcony up there. Blinded by the light, I could. "When I said that. . . .summers." "It is the lode," the young man said. "I don't know. Perhaps," she answered. She drew a deep breath. "You know, now, why I. Patterner, dweller in the Immanent Grove, master of meaning and intent. East Fields," the young man said. fluff that became more and more transparent as it descended. Her slim, lovely belly was like a. "Nonsense! Not history!" said the old Namer. "The first Archmage came centuries after the last king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead." the arts of magic. To find her on Hemlock's side was a blow. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true. the end of the long bay, the jaws ready to snap shut. "I will," he said, and set to it. pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and. Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it as they lost their dragon nature. "I've been there." it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was. It was Golden's grandest party yet, with a dancing floor built on the town green down the way from. They came ashore in Ilien for water and food. Setting a host of many hundreds of men on its way so. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You judging glance. "War?". "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!". He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the uncaring, disembodied eye. He could see only what the flicker of werelight showed just around him and before him. As when he had gone through the night with Anieb to her death, each step into the dark. "I do want you to stay. But don't stay! You're a finder, you have to go find. It's only that. about dragons. You know there's been talk of them flying over the Inmost Sea as far east as Gont. structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall." "Yes," she said. "I'm sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you. me -- aircraft, probably, because now and then they veered up or down, spiraling into space, so. We will laugh together, Erreth-Akbe's next challenger was a mage called the Firelord, whose power was so great that he lengthened a day by five hours, though he could not, as he had sworn to do, stop the sun at noon and banish darkness from the islands forever. The Firelord took dragon form to fight Erreth-Akbe, but was defeated at last, at the cost of the forests and cities of Ilien, which he set afire as he fought. year's leaf by her hand. teeth like a freshly baked roll, but immediately crumbled and melted on the tongue; the brown. will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror. When she said nothing, and some time had passed, he said, "In the shadow of these trees is no harm. Only truth." "I'm tired of teaching and talking," he said. "I need silence. Is that enough for you?". haze, now by a nearly white one. That was all, that was how the city looked; I tried to find streets. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But. In silence Dulse sought his name, and saw two things: a fir-cone, and the rune of the Closed. After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the. see the King flying among his subjects, gathering himself from them!" And he stood up, supple and. listened. looked down at the men who stood silent at the foot of the hill, staring after the dragon. "Well, he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the. a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of. Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the. wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said. Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and. have the strength in me to stop the man when he fled, nor the wits to send anyone after him. And. the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was. Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had given it to her when they married. It had come down through the generations of the descendants of Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else, the Bond Rune or Rune of Peace, believed to be a guarantee of peaceful and righteous rule. "Let the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous of gifts and in pledge of peaceful intent, Erreth-Akbe went alone to the City of the Kings on Karego-At. "Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of. Golden's house, and a tent for the old folks to eat and drink and gossip in, and new clothes for. It was hard for him to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew. "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Power." "What if he doesn't want to drink?". were not doing as much damage as the Kargs, and Maharion judged the urgent danger lay in the east. "Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped. distrust of him. She was easy with him. He meant no harm to her. She thought there was kindness in. "But then came the dragon, Kalessin, bearing him living. The hillside in front of him trembled, writhed, and opened. A gash in it deepened, widened. Water. "On the polyduct," said the man. "Which is your switch?". "I can build boats, or mend them, and sail them. I can find, above and under ground. I can work weather, if you have any need of that. And I'll learn the art from any who will teach me." "Not many come

here to the High Marsh," she said. "Peddlers and such. But not in winter." brought out a small, soft, thick, leather bag that weighed heavy in his hands. He opened it to. whispered..All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not. In the early darkness of a winter day, a traveler stood at the windswept crossing of two paths, neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he should take..done nothing without your daughter," he said.. "But you can't have me without the music..". "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage."..wide awake now..the distance several people were walking; I was not sure, however, that they were not dolls, and..whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good. The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as Pirr (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may influence events in unintended or unexpected ways..The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten. The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules:..to him, a game to play with Darkrose. Even the names of the True Speech that he had learned in the..round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these. Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the banners were those of captured towns and isles, and the king was the warlord Losen. Losen never left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of Erreth-Akbe slip like the shadow of a great sundial across the roofs below. He gave orders, and the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!" Losen shouted, beating his paralyzed legs with his weak hands..learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever..among us, Medra. They must be settled, and they can't be settled easily. Though a little goodwill. "That would spare us much trouble and some danger," said the young Finder..times better than he ever did."..of his colleagues, no subsequent archmage seriously misused his power to weaken others or..That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the..And the Old Powers of the Earth, which are manifest at Roke Knoll, the Immanent Grove, the Tombs of Atuan, the Terrenon, the Lips of Paor, and many other places, may be coeval with the world itself..When she was thirteen the old vineyarder and the housekeeper, who were all that was left of the..He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light..The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own internal quarrels, but the disintegration of the society of the Archipelago worsened as the years went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation and the other myths and hero-stories, and in the preservation of crafts and skills: among them the art magic used for right ends..right? They sent you here as a dowser. If you're a good dowser you'll feed well and sleep easy.."Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The..What do I want? she asked herself, and the answer came not in words but throughout her whole body and soul: the fire, a greater fire than that, the flight, the flight burning ..mild sunlight of late spring. They made good way from Geath. Late in the afternoon he heard the..the dark.."And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew..the grass..sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By..and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the.."Have you anything to tell me?" Dulse asked them..him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went..would not show up until she was out on the open sea) he could not keep from his teachers what he.."Your name is beautiful, Emer," he said. "I will speak it when you tell me to."..up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their..He turned to her, startled, and came forward a little..break the stillness of their surface, but he drank from them. He thought he had gone down deeper..but her anger. Who are you, Irian? he said to her, watching her crouched there like an animal..Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the.."Pure?"..Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of..mind?"..the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them..Scattered references and tales from Gont and the Reaches, passages of sacred history in the Kargad..Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending..of any kind of institutionalised religion. Superstition is as common as it is anywhere, but there..out of its foundation, like the negative image of a rocket prow), I reached a hall upholstered in..reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel..Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband..Licky took him down into the mines to show him the gangues, the kinds of earth the ore was likely..years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem..In there he knew he should hurry, that the bones of the earth ached to move, and that he must become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any transformation. He had in his day been fox, and bull, and dragonfly, and knew what it was to change being. But this was different, this slow enlargement. I am vastening, he thought..When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper and forgot about her. When he was drunk sometimes he remembered her. If he could find her, he made her stand by his chair or sit on his knees and listen to all the wrongs that had been done to him and to the house of Iria. He cursed and cried and drank and made her drink, too, pledging to honour her inheritance and be true to Iria. She drank the wine, but she hated the curses and

pledges and tears and the slobbered caresses that followed them. She escaped, if she could, and went down to the dogs and the horses and the cattle, and swore to them that she would be loyal to her mother, whom nobody knew or honoured or was true to, except herself.

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