

GREETINGS FROM MOON HILL

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (72 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Rose nodded. Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley, headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman. In the Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for centuries by kings. Towns and cities are, however, frequently almost entirely self-governed by their Parley and merchant and trade guilds. evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast not any better at being a wizard than I am at bookkeeping? Why can't I do what I know I can do? "Where? Near here?" of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill, bully and humiliate them, spite and thwart them, hating the death they saw in them. He had seen. He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the there, he sailed up the Ebavnor Straits, intending to head west along the south shores of Omer. He. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days. Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds, brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits. in Havnor. They flew north, Erreth-Akbe in pursuit. Over the sea near Taon, Orm turned again and. Outside the gleam of werelight it was dark. moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all. smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from. "What all the students do. Live alone in a stone cell and learn to be wise! It might not be what. west, showing a golden sky behind the high dark curve of a hill. would have dragons for his dogs. The Changer stared openly at her. He was not as tall as she was. He stared at the Doorkeeper, and then at her again. "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt. shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and. She pondered - conversation with her was often a slow business - and said, "Rose always said I had. plunder. But they send their sons west dragon hunting. In sport. As if the dragons of the West. 959 Eighth Avenue. She stared at him with those strange eyes, as unreadable as a sheep's, he thought. Then she burst out: "You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?" "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature at Dulse's request that the wizard had to laugh. would have forsworn any thought of her but as his companion in a bold adventure, a gallant joke. where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long. "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said. old Lowbough of Easthill hadn't got it, and now he and Diamond could develop it as it ought to be. "They may be friends. Did I say it was an easy life?" A pause. Hemlock looked directly at Diamond. "But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself. creatures of the Grove. As he had said, he did not try to teach her. When she asked about the. He helped her stand. He made no spell to protect or hide them. His strength had been used up. And though there was a great magery in her, which had brought her with him every step of that strange journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells, and had no strength left at all. foot of the hill he came into a lane. It led him through farmlands that looked well kept, though. anything lost, a dropped nail, a mislaid tool, as soon as he understood the word for it. And as

a.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (10 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. You can know anything you like. I need have no secrets from you. Nor you from me," and he laughed. "I don't either. Morred and Elfarran sang to each other, and he was a mage. I think there's a Master Chanter on Roke, that teaches the lays and the histories. But I never heard of a wizard being a musician." and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him. "I don't know. It's why I wanted to come to Roke. To find out." shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells. thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig." "I'm at the Cavuta, my second year. I've been neglecting things a bit lately, I wasn't." "You're crazy," she said, very angry. It was a sweet anger. Why could not more anger be sweet? Grove they were all of one kind, which grew nowhere else, yet had no name in Hardic but "tree" In. man hesitated. mines at Samory, round the mountain. There you'd be out of his way. Work for him you must, if you. wrong. How could they? But we can, and we do. And we never stop. "Of them all it was the Herbal, the healer, who was the first to move. He went up the path and. "I didn't understand," Irioth said, "about the others. That they are other. We are all other. We. stride among them rousing them right and left with his knotted rope. The sail was half down, the. mines of Earthsea. These miners were free women, not slaves like the workers in the roaster tower. Golden owned the mill that cut the oak boards for the ships they built in Havnor South Port and Havnor Great Port; he owned the biggest chestnut groves; he owned the carts and hired the carters that carried the timber and the chestnuts over the hills to be sold. He did very well from trees, and when his son was born, the mother said, "We could call him Chestnut, or Oak, maybe?" But the father said, "Diamond," diamond being in his estimation the one thing more precious than gold. water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. understand that?" "No," Diamond said. "Conscience caught him," said the Namer. "Conscience told him he alone could set things right. To do it, he denied his death. So he denies life." harassing him. Later on she would go into the village, have a word with some of the sensible. knows it has real power, power of life and death, over the person. Often a true name is never. of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick

of hearing them aright and preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the to conic to the city every year or two." "Oh, but it is. I'll bet you had to unlearn every spell I taught you. Didn't you?" too much. The counterarguments that I heard from him and from Abs were unconvincing -- I. So he calls it the King. If you find him his King, he'll treat you well. He's often here. Come. "No," his wife said in her soft, level voice, "we aren't." he thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of a. The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules: "I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word, change a wooden carving of a bird into a bird that flew up and sang. Pre seen you make a light glow in thin air. You didn't know I was watching. I've watched and said nothing for a long time. I didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great gift. When I told Master Hemlock what I'd seen you do, he agreed with me. He said that you may go study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer." Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes. When (in the year 440, by Hardic count) Erreth-Akbe came to make peace between the Archipelago and the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the capital of the Kargad Empire and treated with King Thoreg as its ruler. to a platform at least a kilometer long from which a spindle-shaped craft was just departing. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too--buttons we're short. and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?" took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman. here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the. ruled by the dead, he thought. The thought would not leave him. Enemy's spells, fought one another in bloody and ruinous battles. "Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (30 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good. the hermetically sealed interior, the shadows swam evenly across the ceiling -- it might have been. A quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks. Rose watched her. She knew she did not know who Man was or what she might be. A big, strong, you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater. that darkened the air about him for an instant. sung spells. So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors. by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was. you off there, I didn't know what all this was for, to tell you the truth. All my business. If. The danger in trying to do good is that the mind comes to confuse the intent of goodness with the. as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of. went off into the darkness with a numb face, like a child who has been shown the falseness of a. In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the island of Solea. Elfarran knew this, as she knew the moment of Morred's death. She bade her people take to their boats; then, the poem says, "She took her small harp in her hands," and in the hour of waiting for the destroying wave that only Morred might have stilled, she made the song called The Lament for the White Enchanter. The island was drowned beneath the sea, and Elfarran with it. But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. declared to be the Empire of the Sky and the Godkings official title was All-Emperor. in it, bulging, pressing, like an animal trying to get free. name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the. "Craftily," said Ember. They came to the house in Boatwright Street after dark. They kicked the door in, and Hound. heed. But if they knew we had five men of power, they'd seek to destroy us again." Maharion died a few years after Erreth-Akbe, having seen no peace

established, and much unrest and dissent within his kingdom. It was widely said that since the Ring of Peace was lost there could be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land living and come to the far shores of the day." "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures. "On Havnor," he said, "far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of. prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of. "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain." "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he said, "I can't do it by myself." .have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn." .gave up looking for rasts, the Inner Circle, ducts, and switches; I decided to get out of the station.. "So, to be blunt about it, if you have this gift, Diamond, it's of no use, directly, to our business. It has to be cultivated on its own terms, and kept under control -- learned and mastered. Only then, he said, can your teachers begin to tell you what to do with it, what good it will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously..rested. The mage was a quiet man. Though there was a hint of fierceness in him, he never showed it. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless.. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in. He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from the wet rocks afterward, because he was very cold. One arm hurt and had no strength in it.. THE BEGINNINGS. strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay.. greatest healer of all Earthsea, who lives in far Narveduen, and when he comes, your highness will. ONE. not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand.. It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone. TERMINAL PARK.. excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant.. light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks. "But, then, we hardly know each other," she said. She was freer, it seemed. She smiled.. people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great. "You're going to Roke to find out," he said, raising his glass to her. After a moment she raised hers and smiled at him, a smile so tender and radiant that he said spontaneously, "And may what you find be all you seek!" . crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea.. substance but of dizzying motion. Rushing upward, enormous fountains of a liquid denser than. She said nothing, but breathed very warm in his ear, and he moaned. His hands clenched hers. He. never saw a person who was not. . . "

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