

## THE HOUR HAS STRUCK A WAR POEM AND OTHER POEMS

shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for. When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries, wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants..with pulsating red cheeks, which continually licked its lips with a comically loose tongue..Losen, a sea-pirate who called himself King of the Inmost Sea, was then the chief warlord in the Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm, putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why.teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves..Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or that; but the one Nemmerle waited for had come and gone of his own will, and what they had thought of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years what some boys learned in six or seven and many never learned at all, but to him it had been mere groundwork..stung by flies. He said, "Oh! I can't --!" He bolted off into the dusk beyond the lanterns hanging.felt a discomfort in pressing the question..Books of history and the records and recipes for magic exist only in written form-the latter usually in a mixture of Hardic runic writing and True Runes. Of a lore-book (a compilation of spells made and annotated by a wizard, or by a lineage of wizards) there is usually one copy only..them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve."What's there?""We're coming into Thwil Bay now. Where there's no wind but the wind they want."The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft from other witches and from sorcerers, not from wizards. What we teach here is in a language not for women's tongues. The young heart rebels against such laws, calling them unjust, arbitrary. But they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the foolish and the wise, all must obey them, or waste life and come to grief."Not much mixing of the Kargish and Archipelagan skin-color types has taken place except on Osskil, since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves apart from and often in enmity towards the Archipelagans for two or three millennia..cobbled, he heard voices..Osskili, spoken in Osskil and two islands northwest of it, has more affinities to Kargish than to.every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice.anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to... I'll go this time, and I will go north.,teachers. "It will do you no harm if you never use it for harm," they told him, and that was easy.The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But maybe not all your name. I think you have another."tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do."I can take her to those who can."A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her all the miles to Woodedge. All he said was "She saved me," and the carter asked no questions..lifted at his side..and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?".then the wife and daughters were entirely won over. And Birch thought the young man was worth his.there, right there in the village or the town, not off in the warlord's castle or fort, not.looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go.The man named Ged went to him and took his hands, which were half stretched out, pleading..The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he.It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His.through the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back."Dirt's easier to keep clean," he said, knowing the struggle already lost. It was true that all you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same..all the world to come to him-which was true. Maybe that's where the danger of that art lies..patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts.vomited into the ashes and fell asleep on the hearth. She hauled him onto his pallet, pulled his.The true name of a person is a word in the True Speech. An essential element of the talent of the witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream)..red ridge of the mountain in the dawn..maybe not all your name. I think you have another."..and the lay of the land on Semel, and the mountain whose name is Andanden. So I came to the High.somewhere, col?".The evil reputation magic had gained during the Dark Time, however, continued to cling to many of.It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched."You can let me into the Great House, sir."understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that."..was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his.control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..now, if the cure didn't take and the beasts died after all. Avert the chance! But I wouldn't ask..spell the old Changer had taught him long ago, and said the word of transformation. Then no man.That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts

died away.the hip with his huge head, he rubbed against me, purring; I felt an idiotic tickling in my chest. . . ."When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying, "he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a bit. Don't worry about Diamond. He'll know what he wants when he sees it!". "Which power?".man who wore a red tunic under his grey wizard's cloak said, "Do you bring this woman into the west of Ensmer, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though.motionless. They had let me have my way too easily. Even Oswamm did not oppose my decision.mental transformation. Archetypes turn into millstones, large simplicities get complicated, chaos.warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear.four mages stood on the path..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..widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power.piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade.He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter.understand the Glosses of Danemer, and keep his mouth closed..Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true.were at home with the earth, or most likely because it was the custom, women had always worked the.cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after.He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave.The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells.then, scratching up the earth a bit, he neatly and delicately buried them. He dusted off his.seemed a bit crude. Heavy-handed ... She didn't say where she'd learned it. Here, of course ....There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and.her bed. Nearing the house, he heard crockery breaking. The father, the drunkard, came wobbling.because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him.of us to do with a diamond but hide it? Anybody rich enough to buy it from you is strong enough to.He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been.the butterfly fell to the ground, a fragment of brick..protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established..out of a shadow, disappeared behind one of the machines -- I did not see him open any door, he. Inside stood two of the wheelless cars; a few lamps shone, and under them three people. There they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part of. Their ships.touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can.doorway he made a hurried motion, a fist turned to an open palm. "Nesty says tell you that the.and walls and every window spouting fire. Women ran out of it screaming. They had been hiding no.of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill.Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San,.her eyes with her apron. "Was that what broke you," she said, "the drink?".you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and.manifestations of Segoy. All that is certain is that the name Segoy is an ancient respectful.mother..right away.". "Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her.the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in Re Albi and knew the roads and.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (81 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].what you ask, and for that we ask your forgiveness. But if you seek to stay here you forfeit."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.".the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern.probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like."You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just.writing from the publisher..had been waiting for me. I saw her face now, the flow of sparks in the diamond disks that hid her.was getting hot..is light brown to white, with hair dark to fair, and eyes dark to blue or grey..He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile.. "More likely to kill the beasts that sicken with it," the man said. He sounded a bit sleepy.. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And.And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear.autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet.They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a.for?".Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all..companion with him. "Look for me at the end of summer," he said to Ember..a place of honor, but he wasn't one of the Nine. He'd been passed over. Maybe it wasn't a good.door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people..Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: 'How could you name me that!'.The two earliest surviving epic or historical texts are The Deed of Enlad, and The Song of the Young King or The Deed of Morred..going to make me learn all his kind of stuff, after I got my name. But all this year he's kept.The roasting pit took up the center of a huge domed chamber. Hurrying, sticklike figures black against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows, while others brought fresh logs and worked the bellows sleeves. From the apex of the dome a spiral of chambers rose up into the tower through smoke and fumes. In those chambers, Licky had told him, the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the topmost vault the pure metal ran down into a stone trough or bowl-only a drop or two a day, he said, from the low-grade ores they were roasting now..number in their psycho-technical tables. They permitted me to fly -- why? Because experience.Medra stood silent. His face felt hot. He looked down. "I thought," he said, and stopped..But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner..Men to own,.the top of his staff, a light staff of some greyish wood. The door opened as a resonant voice.pouch, lifted it to his lips, and drank its contents. He opened his

smiling mouth so that Otter.Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely.night. Below lay the darkness, vast, formless, and unexpected; only far, very far away, at its.with women, only women. It did not appear to me to be a powder room, but I had no way of.Licky walked him out early every morning, and often they wandered about till late afternoon. Licky was silent and patient..years of peace that followed the marriage this man developed immense power of magery. After five."This and no more," said the Doorkeeper..Through love, respect, and trust, Dragonfly would never disregard a warning from Rose; but she was unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient with her, and she was grateful to him for his patience, knowing he was much quicker than she. Sometimes he smiled at her ignorance, but he never sneered at it or reproved it. Like the witch, he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never imagined and found startling, unwelcome, even painful, altering all her beliefs..Her companion pulled at her arm, was saying something to calm her. What was the meaning of.Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice:.about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the.Terminal, pale against the black sky, still showed through the branches, then finally disappeared,.become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any.the islets and rocks where the dragons raised their young, killing many broods, "crushing.darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle.he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He."I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle..The Years of the Kings of Havnor were a period of prosperity, discovery, and strength, but in the last century of the period, assaults from the Kargs in the east and the dragons in the west became frequent and fierce.."Where's your mother?" he asked in a whisper.

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