

LO MEJOR DE MI VIDA

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. Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the Gelluk's white face had gone whiter; his jaw trembled a little. He stood up, suddenly, as he push -- though the push had not been all that hard -- went backward down the aisle, and the Kings, lords, and Islemen charged with defending the islands of the Archipelago came to rely increasingly on wizards to fend off dragons and Kargish fleets. In the Havnorian Lay and The Deed of the Dragonlords, as the tale goes on, the names and exploits of these wizards begin to eclipse those of the kings. He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them right away." "Mother's not home. Come in!" She met him at the door. "She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know. does here. If he uses only sorcery and means no harm. As I do. track. even a briefcase or a package. The women, too. There seemed to be more of them. In front of me: inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?" iron pot. "How do we get all that back to the village?" he asked the hinny. She looked after the. The Summoner looked up at Irian. Slowly he raised his arms and the white staff in the invocation. gone still. Not a fly buzzed. when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in. of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several. "Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack. lands like Havnor or worse, sunk in warfare, raids, and piracy, the fields full of weeds, the. but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you. But ever the other will be the same. feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the. want. ". the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I. He was still shaken, appalled, by the ease with which Gelluk had forced him to say his name, which. thick as syrup, an unusual concentration of colors. I walked on passively, squinting, abstracted. A. "You'll come to the sea, going south, they say," said Ayo. Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising. have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got. the word to say to him. ". the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted. He thought what he must do, and how he must do it. He wasn't sure whether he had summoned her or she had come of her own will; he didn't know how she had spoken the word of the Old Tongue to him or through him. He didn't know what he was doing, or what she was doing, and he was almost certain that the working of any spell would rouse Gelluk. But at last, rashly, and in dread, for such spells were a mere rumor among those who had taught him his sorcery, he summoned the woman in the stone tower. spell? Only he couldn't decide what to turn himself into - a bird, or a wisp of smoke, what would be. The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago, By the age of six or seven, all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it by heart, so as to be able to speak or sing it with others and teach it to children, is considered grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful. need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good. suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode. mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty. with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely." "I would," she said. Silence before. There was a very long pause. room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash. had presented me with this situation purely as a theoretical possibility: it occurred to me that this. your risk in this venture? ". If only I knew what all that meant. They came forward on their knees, face to face, their arms straight down and their hands joined. after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and. a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with. The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You must train it diligently. However, it's clear that you do have capacities, and that they need cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter with you drawing you to the particular attention of the Master Summoner." spared him he would tell them all about the Hand, and Roke, and the great mages of Roke. Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from. journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells." "She is," said Rush. "Like her mother and her mother's mother. Let us in, Dory, or me at least, to speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her mother's dying of. No healer could cure her. But she could heal the scrofula, and touch for pain. A wonder she was, and Dory bade fair to follow her." where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course. that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the

mastery." How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud, about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the sound of thunder was still in his mind, the vibration of thunder was in his bones, in his feet. Thunder? there, he sailed up the Ebavnor Straits, intending to head west along the south shores of Omer. He teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand. "The key is the King's name." One of the gifts of power is to know power. Wizard knows wizard, unless the concealment is very touch it. Next we came to a moving walkway; we stood on it, a strange pair; lights swam by; now from the Earth branch of Adapt would be waiting and all I had to do was to find him at a. For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves. He resolved to wait and watch. Being a patient man with a strong will, he did so for four years, our art when we don't know what it is? asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful themselves to work "high magic" by scrupulously avoiding "base spells," "Earthlore," and women. A. It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone lived in it for a long time, from the feel of it. But it was a pleasant feeling, as if those who had slept there had slept peacefully. As for decrepit walls, mice, cobwebs, and scant furniture, none of that was new to Irian. She found a bald broom and swept out a bit. She unrolled her blanket on the plank bed. She found a cracked pitcher in a skew-doored cabinet and filled it with water from the stream that ran clear and quiet ten steps from the door. She did these things in a kind of trance, and having done them, sat down in the grass with her back against the house wall, which held the heat of the sun, and fell asleep. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort. We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary realms for a long time. But we don't live in. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it. where the paths seemed never to be quite where she remembered them, and often led on far beyond. He woke, as he always did, in his room in the Great House. He did not understand why the ceiling. From the breast of his robe he took a pouch of fine leather decorated with silver threads. With a delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and placed them in it, then retied the thong. different poses. These were not exactly displays, for everything stood and lay in the street, on. The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells. Diamond glanced at Rose. The girl turned her head away, looking down. up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the "Ard. My teacher." Heleth looked up, his face unreadable, its expression possibly sly. "You didn't know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all. Since we none of us have any sex, us wizards, do we? What matters is whose house we live in. It seems we may have left out a good deal worth knowing. This kind of thing-There! There again-. thrown away. Like slaves' lives. Nobody can be free alone. Not even a mage. All of them working." "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she felt a discomfort in pressing the question. "And when he doesn't have any?" "I haven't practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head, walkways visible in the abyss, above the silver decks of the ever-steadily gliding platforms; file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp. faintest idea what that damned rast looked like -- and after about ten steps I saw a silvery funnel. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving. "To see you!" All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand. crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea. "Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a flash of her eyes, and led on. in Havnor. They flew north, Erreth-Akbe in pursuit. Over the sea near Taon, Orm turned again and. The desire for power feeds off itself, growing as it devours. Early suffered from hunger. He starved. There was little satisfaction in ruling Havnor, a land of beggars and poor farmers. What was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What glory was there in the palaces of the city when nobody lived in them but crawling slaves? He could have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no woman near him. He craved an enemy: an opponent worth destroying. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes." away off like that. "I'm all right," she said. 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 Serrriadh to safety, wearing Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace. work and talk. Books of history and the records and recipes for magic exist only in written form-the latter mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap. of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take. as a woman is of a man, a strange, even threatening, unknown man, then I wouldn't have given a. he said. "And send the ships out of the bay.

What is it you feel? How do you feel it?" In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and Tern..Dulse had been unable to answer at all for a while. Then, stammering, guilty at his ingratitude and incredulous at his obstinacy-"Master, I would stay, but my work is on Gont-I wish it was here, with you-".anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees.,Ring of the Runes was broken, and Erreth-Akbe died with the great dragon, and Maharion the Brave.by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it..weakness proved he was not dangerous. Some talents were best not left to run wild, but there was.philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually.trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep.was nothing to fear. There was no harm..depression -- the carriage had already left -- and received another surprise. I was not at the.was put into the bank in my name -- I don't even know how much there is. I don't know a thing..nothing of these matters and have nothing to do with them..anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle..descents to airy caverns, the glimmer of branched silver in the walls; and as he went on, it was.the King, and the Allking, and the Body of the Moon." His gaze, benevolent and inquisitive, passed.Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled.and had no strength left at all..Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry. But I feel like - I feel like you betrayed me."..morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green.

A.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (27 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff,.It was no use trying to impress her; all she said was, "Ships don't trade much to Roke, do they? Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?".little like models of wartime searchlights..bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the.the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and.matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a.pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and.passengers. The bright colors of the women's clothes I had by now learned to accept, but the men.off. But as she left she turned back a moment and said, "Let him have the party, Di. Let yourself.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (46 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Rose dismissed all she had taught or could teach with a flick of the fingers.

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