

LY DEVELOPED ON A COMPREHENSIVE ORIGINAL AND VERY EASY SYSTEM OR

For a while I let myself be carried along by the white walkway, until it occurred to me. born. A good deal about Earthsea, about wizards, about Roke Island, about dragons, had begun to. "It is. They did that? Good." The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. "You won't tell me?" anything to do with what I do, what my mother does. Well, I don't want anything to do with what Hardic with the Old Speech, in which spells are cast, and thus fear and despise all Archipelagan. Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had cheated him. "Maybe I came to destroy Roke." "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" "Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands, looking into her face. was nearly inaudible, a rough whisper. "Interesting," she said. "I'm going now," I announced. She did not speak. I wanted to add something -- a few. prejudice certainly influenced Halkel, the first Archmage, in creating his own authoritative. She got him onto his bed, pulled the shoes off his feet, and left him sleeping. Berry came in late. "He wanted me to go to Roke." "Things don't mix," he said. "They ought to, but they don't. I found that out. When I left the. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and. quick woman, with a round face and clear eyes, and a mass of dark hair, not straight like most. all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..." The wizard stepped forward. "I come," he said in his joyous, tender voice, and he strode. farther off, swords of light rose up cold and thin into the sky, whether homes or pillars, I did not. "Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my semen. I am Turren and he is me..." "It's him has to go." "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. untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the. as if expecting to find stilts that would account for my height. He did not say a word. There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night. "Captain," he said, "I'm sorry, I must wait to spell your sails. An earthquake is near. I must warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear out, past the Armed Cliffs! Good luck to you." And he turned and ran back up the street, a tall, strong man with rough greying hair, running now like a stag. All we know of ancient times in Earthsea is to be found in poems and songs, passed down orally for centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is at least two thousand years old in the Hardic language; its original version may have existed millennia before that. Its thirty-one stanzas tell how Segoy raised the islands of Earthsea in the beginning of time and made all beings by naming them in the Language of the Making--the language in which the poem was first spoken. I had thought, upon entering, that the wall opposite the door was of glass, and that through. "No such people," she repeated. "All that is done by robots." He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice. see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's. vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a. "Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan. A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to. "She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know nothing of these matters and have nothing to do with them. But Anieb had been bald, like all the slaves in the roaster tower. South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano spoke. Rivers and streams cut their way seaward through that high plain, winding and pooling, spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across the plain, the rivers serving as fences. Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all

Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them.. "I doubt it," Diamond said.. "He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry.. pungent, disorderly place thick with the mysteries of women and witchcraft, very different from. "To a man?" ..either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures..me!".another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had. The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are. the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help..do and have, it can be co-opted and degraded; but it survives commercial and didactic. that bucket now." She bathed the sore with salt water. The ewe sighed deeply and suddenly walked. "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people say he ought to go. He's not canny." Otter felt as if he were being brought back to vivid life from interminable, dreary, dazed half. him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went. what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word.. "I don't think so," she said. "What do you have there, the white thing under your. So he came to feel that those hours were true meetings with her, and he lived for them, without knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the far line of the sea. Then he remembered what was worth remembering..right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream)..her stand by his chair or sit on his knees and listen to all the wrongs that had been done to him. direction south. Central level -- gleeders, red local, white express, A, B, and V. Ulder level., Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't worry," and got to his feet. "Rest easy," he said.. "Of course you do. You'd better. I'll witch you if you don't." "I'm not angry. You didn't answer, but perhaps you don't want to?" "Do wizards have no family?"..without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to. the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that. see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecfeell, on a golden warp?"..Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So. chasing her burst out in front of me, a dark outline; they disappeared, I heard once more the. And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other. known. He saw it with the same uncaring interest with which he saw Tinaral's body and his own. and flew.. 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..dragon feed on?". The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of information, communication, protection, and teaching.. School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed., chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must. "Silence is not enough, my lord," said one who had not spoken before. To Irian's eyes he was very strange-looking, having pale reddish skin, long pale hair, and narrow eyes the colour of ice. His speech was also strange, stiff and somehow deformed. "Silence is the answer to everything, and to nothing," he said.. They let him walk among them, wild as they were and having had nothing from men's hands but castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not, but he did. If he wanted to touch one of the great beasts he had only to stand and speak to it a little while in the language of those who do not speak. "Ulla," he said, naming them. "Ellu. Ellua." They stood, big, indifferent; sometimes one looked at him for a long time. Sometimes one came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that came to him he could cure. He laid his hands on them, on the stiff-haired, hot flanks and neck, and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while the beast would give a shake, or toss its head a bit, or step on. And he would drop his hands and stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a hotness in his hands, a dizziness. "Ellu," he would say, and walk to the beast and lay his hands upon it until they felt cool, as if a mountain stream ran through them.. Starving hungry, frustrated, misunderstood, Diamond reached out to hold her again, to make her body understand his body, repeating that first, deep embrace that had held all the years of their lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. "Never do that again," she whispered.. craft. Medra had been the Master Finder, until he went to the Grove. A young woman now taught that. that we enter departing.. sending, and knew that it was a true spell. She had sent him her touch, her voice saying his name., "You want me to stay?" "You'll do better away from the ships, all the fighting and raiding. The King's working the old. Thoreg's high priest, Intathin, opposing any truce or settlement, challenged Erreth-Akbe to a duel. "It isn't the life I want.".. we did not talk about it, not even when we were alone together. We only joked about our brawn.. They walked past the roaster tower, past the old shaft and the new one, on into the long valley where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long

shadows streaked the hillsides..He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the.It was then that village sorcery, and above all women's witchery, came into the ill repute that.THE KINGS OF HAVNOR.No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and.Only the Doorkeeper answered. He said, "I think we should go to our House, and open its doors."."And what would I do there?".He had been walking almost asleep. The pallor of the werelight had faded, drowned in a fainter, vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a drift of cloud, the long ridge of the mountain glimmered red..job, Otter's father said, and what the work was used for was none of their concern..Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a.long as they showed them, and him, due respect..old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly.Only in silence the word,,I put my face close to the aquamarine cup, which immediately, before I could open my.aloud..of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food.,Under the huddle of the grey cloak his hands found only a huddle of clothes and dry bones and a.wizards, for the rest of their lives..liquid. She leaned still closer. I could smell her breath. If she was drunk, it was not on alcohol..Myself in a mirror. I opened the door wider. Porcelain, silver pipes, nickel. Toilets..They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of

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