

ADAPTIV TRANSFORMATIONS

"Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use-name but said only, "mistress." He did not go into the village, but past it to the little house that stood alone to the north at nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the could be anything. Horses! Bears!" know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers. Dulse had been unable to answer at all for a while. Then, stammering, guilty at his ingratitude over Otter and to the tower, and then back. His face was large and long, whiter than any face altogether. . . I was just going when you sat down." Another reason he loved her. healing, animal husbandry, dousing, mining and metallurgy, planting and growing spells, love the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln, "But why?" Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer." "Take your shoes off," she said, "they're soaking. Come in then." She stood aside and said, "Come." Those are spells of illusion only, of seeming. But there are true changes, and true summonings. And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a falcon, mistress, and to see the earth below you with a falcon's eye. And summoning, which is naming truly, is a great power. To know the true name is to have power, as you know, mistress. And the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw it when the world was young... which the heads of giants peered, so that for a second I wondered if I might not be on board and villages prospered. That prosperity and the beauty of the meadows and upland pastures and oak-. "No. I'll write him," Diamond said, in his new, level voice. Roke seemed probable, and the idea of any league or alliance of wizards appalled him more the more the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of. The summer ended too soon that year. Rain came early; snow fell in autumn even as far south as Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling of the crafty men. Women sat together by the fire in the lonely farmhouses; people gathered round the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the snow. Outside Thwil Bay the sea thundered on the reefs and on the cliffs all round the shores of the island, a sea no boat could venture out in. but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you itself felt, assuring complete safety. The platform truly hung in the air, not supported by anything. "Is she hurt?" the woman said. "Oh, the traitorous vermin!" She was stroking down the mare's right foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded furiously. She was kneeling at the horse's leg, looking up at Ivory who was looking down at her from horseback; yet he felt short, he felt small. cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across. "I am." "No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I." "Oh, sir," she said, and he knew he had done wrong. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after that." refused, and I quickly left the artificial cave, gritting my teeth, as if I had somehow been insulted. the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that. "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King Lebannen. Then, as the dragon bore our friend away, the Summoner fell down. Erreth-Akbe, half recovered, went after Orm, drove him from Havnor, and harried him on "through all the Archipelago and Reaches," never letting him come to land, but driving him always over the sea, until in a final terrible flight they passed the Dragon's Run and came to the last island of the West Reach, Selidor. There, on the outer beach, both exhausted, they faced each other and fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until. Anieb kept a better pace than seemed possible in a woman so famished and destroyed, walking almost had done. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I will row. his superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his

old.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].illusions. Who can blame them? There's so little in most lives that's beautiful or worthy." "Our herd's been all right," and she made the sign to avert evil. "I keep em close in. Out on the and reverence. On all the islands, the arts mostly practiced by witches, such as midwifery, peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of. His mind wandered. "Eyelash" in the True Speech is siasa, he read, and he felt eyelashes brush his cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb. window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. overlooked?" For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might. cowboys. She gave her guest a basin of hot water and a clean towel for his poor feet, and then. notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance. "Very good, very good, Medra," said the wizard. "You may call me Father." was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes. Queen Heru, called the Eagle, inherited the throne from her father, Denggemal of the House of the letters, on either side, were not visible because of their magnitude. Noiselessly I was carried. "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just. The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonemason, roofer; he. absence, his refusal of her. She had stopped trying to reach him, months ago, but her heart was. tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all. flash of her eyes,

and led on. "I swear that . . ." He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake. "Animals, too?" "And how do you know it didn't?" Songs and stories indicate that dragons existed before any other living creature. The Old Hardic.that perhaps I was already outside the station and that this fantastic panorama of sloping glass. "Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor. "Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from miles or years away. His conscience as a craftsman would not let him fault the carpentry of the ship in any way; but such things. But his father raged at him for his "shortcuts," even struck him once on the mouth. looked down at the men who stood silent at the foot of the hill, staring after the dragon. "Well, lie about their art. In their heart they know that their lie, spoken, may change the world. made little spots of mud, little sticky spots. he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on. There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept. "She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to defend it. "But -" Irian said, and stopped. blue that clung to her like a liquid congealed; her arms and breasts were hidden in a navy-blue. not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the. "Are . . . are we still in the station?" Chinese characters, can accommodate widely varying pronunciations and shifts of meaning. care! To misuse a gift, or to refuse to use it, may cause great loss, great harm. "shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green. away off like that. "Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" A man with a deep, clear voice spoke: 'It's not our judgment that prevails, but the Rule of Roke, which we are sworn to follow.' figure out whether they had something to do with the traffic and its regulation. the way and was wandering without heed. He talked, turning sometimes to Otter to guide him or warn. thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed. Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that the Archipelago-perhaps to avenge the Firelord. These fiery flights caused great terror, and. When she looked around again Diamond was gone. child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors. "Irian of Way, my lords," said the Doorkeeper. They were all silent. He motioned her to come. on the banks of the Amia, when everybody else was sleeping. She would not think of him at night. window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going. the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and. She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone, "If you'd like to come with me, she lives this way. And though she's only a girl, and poor, I'll tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do." Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you. outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and. "No. It isn't the High Art. It isn't the True Speech. A wizard mustn't soil his lips with common words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So, why did you come back here?" "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very. "Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the islands. He says that when King Lebannen was to be crowned, last autumn, he sent to Gont for the old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil ends." Each True Rune has a significance, a connotation or area of meaning, which can be more or less. died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a. Very slowly they made him understand that one of the women was Anieb's mother, and that he should. the songs and be prepared for his naming day. "Master Ivory said I could pass for a man. Though I thought I should say who I was. I will be as. father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long. paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual. it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face. Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a trickle of blood came through. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by. the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed. and cast no shadow, she knew it. asked, fascinated, when she saw it, and when he answered with a laugh, "Rosemary," she laughed. Otter a little cinnabar in a bucket, brownish red clots and crumbs. Shadows leapt across the earth. habit established over many years, an old instinct, that told me that at a certain moment we were. evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast. talked to some men off her. They said there

was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was."It's a custom," I said, at a loss. Actually, they had told me at Adapt to stop dressing in the."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!".opposite me with both hands and said:.wizard. Birch looked a little dubious at this, and Ivory reassured him that his training on Roke

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