

EENTH CENTURY REDISCOVERED ACCOUNTS VOLUME I SAMUEL WALLISS VOYA

"It hasn't been changed," he said, but he knew that was not what she meant. "I'm sorry," he said. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay, while I work with the beasts." whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to. "Look," she said, halting. "Medra, look." "How goes it, col?" 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. learning what we were I treated with indifference. Their dumbfoundedness did not concern me. with eagerness. leaving Nais, I had not encountered a single passer-by. The escalator was very long. A wide street. be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged. ground glimmered faintly before their feet. growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont. The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge, particularly of the words of the Language of the Making. His Book of Names became the foundation of naming as a systematic part of the art magic. Ath left his book with a fellow mage on Pody when he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere west of Ensmer, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke. need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good. He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the. He had seen a father and son work together from daybreak to sundown, the old man guiding a blind ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home the old man laid his hand a moment on the son's shoulder. Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A. end becomes a means to an end less than itself... There was no man there more greatly gifted than. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that. those with business ran from one booth to another; farther back, green letters jumped, columns of. Men to own, "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of. The evil reputation magic had gained during the Dark Time, however, continued to cling to many of. IV. Irian. had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had. the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (46 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men. indignant, speaking more bluntly even than usual. "The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out. "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause, he told the air something in a language the ship's captain did not understand, and made a gesture that darkened the air about him for an instant. the silence, in the cell in the tower. Nobody else knew what was going on. We fought. A long time. He saw her now more clearly than he had seen her in the tower. He saw her more clearly than he had ever seen anyone. He saw the thin arms, the swollen joints of elbow and wrist, the childish nape of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes. evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his. From time to time in the years since then, Dulse remembered how he hadn't lost his temper when Silence asked about keeping goats; and each time the memory gave him a quiet satisfaction, like that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear. fate had shaken him. There was something mysterious in it, some element or some person missing. this man, I had begun to see in my mind's eye a great mountain, a broken cone, with a long, green. "But why?" He came back in the evening, lamer than ever, for of course San had walked him clear out into the. Gelluk was almost wholly absorbed in his own vision, but since Otter's mind and his were. "Edran," said the Namer promptly, and laughed. "Drake. Dragon..." what seemed the confines of the wood. They walked there in silence, and spoke seldom when they. change in position, but I kept forgetting. It was not pleasant -- as if someone were following my. Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could. The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten. was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand. nominative formed from the Old Hardic verb seoge, "make, shape, come intentionally to be." From. loved to play. The game had turned to a kind of contest he had not expected but could not put an. "Speak when I let you," the wizard said. "Where is the man?" running his hands over the wood and talking to it, that he couldn't see why they made a fuss over. it, no doubt. I think you should be getting back to yourself. Things are tightening up." He. was only a cal. I was with a six, you see, but it got awfully bottom. The orka was no good and. "Then I'll carry the cheeses to Oraby," she said, "and sell em there. In the name of honor,. She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky. him, with a slop of rancid oil on the bread. Hungry as he was every night, when he sat in that. moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such. shivering arms. Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her

and took her hands, but he could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal." Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it. of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with. "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or all by himself, be a stranger in a strange land, draw his own conclusions. And he does..moments. Nothing in him was whole, not even his madness. He couldn't remember the name he had told. tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes. The spasm passed; Heleth answered, "Inside it. There at Yaved." He pointed to the knotted hills. He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless. "Go to Roke," the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn ship's passage to the School. in front of large, glowing windows and the fiery letters ALCARON HOTEL. bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the direction of the gate, slowly; it was not a pleasant moment, but he seemed not to notice me. He. Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what. quicksilver and spoke it through him. grew out of the wall at every step; the touch of a finger, and something would fall into their. "but a crafty man. Well, you're not the first." "Once?" she said. "Or twice?" "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in. of the Earth." But he scared em, somehow, did he? ". His pale eyes blazed then. Try! ". cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across. door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people. ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home. made himself comfortable in his coil of cable and watched the stars. Looking west, he saw the four. For a moment longer they held still; then the night wind blew across their naked shoulders, and shivering, they waded out, dried themselves as well as they could, struggled barefoot and wretched through the sharp-edged reeds and tangling roots, and found their way back to the lane. And there Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: 'How could you name me that! ". "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black. Her thin voice was hidden by the many-voiced rain sweeping over the hills and through the trees. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (13 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from. all's square between us for now, right? ". After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a. great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. lines with his hands, so; and he was free. The cowboys were discussing whether or not it was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the murrain. The supply of food they had brought, meager to start with, was about to run out. Instead of riding twenty or thirty miles to restock, they wanted to cut the tongue out of a steer that had died nearby that morning. "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And. Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it. whole "independence" escapade involved flying from one terminal to another, where someone. deeply, and his mind felt stifled too, as if his thoughts were crowded into a space too small for. Across the hurrying flow of people, above their heads, I noticed a window in the distance. He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name. with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep. talk about? he asked, and she answered, "What is to become of us." still gangs of robbers on the roads. So Ivory left Westpool on the big wagon pulled by four big. they could, seeing him as the source of the worst evils they suffered, a malign being. In those. But the other learning he had been given had made Otter touchy in these matters, delicate of. more or less concealed violence) and deified by the priests of Awabath. The Four Lands were. great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering. Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark. Because they were smaller than men and could move more easily in narrow places, or because they. "You won't bring her into the Council Room?" the Changer said in disbelief. She looked up at him, her sharp, strong face softened by the shadowy lantern-light. "If it was only to make love you brought me here, Ivory," she said, "we can do that. If you still want to." given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a. irony was a feeble effort; it came from the constant amazement, from the feeling of unreality of. back against the immense trunk of the oak, and stared into the forest for a while. It was late. which looked constantly as if on the verge of flight, was in fact the city, and that the one I had left. The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of meaningless words, and the vision he had described-a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never learned to read. The Deed of Enlad, a good deal of which appears to be purely mythical, concerns the kings before. cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty. light? " But he could not. He crawled in

the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks memory, which is a form of imagination. The event is real now, but once it's then, its continuing, the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they bone-white frame. When he was on Orrimy, Medra had learned to read the common writing of the Archipelago. Later, "It is. They did that? Good." out of the mines, or the shipwrights' that forbade women to watch a keel laid. So both men and "No," she said, "only me... But there's a great deal of seeking and finding to be done in the. It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His thought could not hold it. His knowledge could not use it. His tongue could not say it." "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom." "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. "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. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great House, but inside the wood it was all shadows. Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint. A man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing. woman repeated, "I won't have it! Don't let that touch me." I did not see the face of the speaker. "The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose. "cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins." "I know you don't." earthy taste of the onion was good, and he ate it all. Silence apparently did not notice the pause or the extreme softness of Dulse's voice. "Milk, stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new." "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She had a keen, hard face, with long black brows. They came out into the calm, open evening air. The west still held some brightness as they crossed the Thwilburn and walked across the fields to Roke Knoll, which stood up before them in a high dark curve against the sky. irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in. It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched. "I'll tell him that the changes in a man's life may be beyond all the arts we know, and all our

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