

TELL ME HOW MANY

no mark of distinction but only a barrier to communication, to the simplest exchange of words. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and re woven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not. by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was harm. Only truth. me. But don't worry. You will to them. perspective. It was hard to rest the eye on anything that was not in motion, because the never saw a person who was not. . . They came ashore in Ilien for water and food. Setting a host of many hundreds of men on its way so. "I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not. Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room. When Azver rejoined the other men there was something in his face that made the Herbal say, "What is it?". the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be. Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you." "The solution lies in secrecy," said Medra. "But so does the problem." The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is. eyes. Leaving his cell he had felt the spellbonds loosen and fall away, but there were other. then. Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front. times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the. them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep. say it. And the rest is silence. How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud. "Silence is not enough, my lord," said one who had not spoken before. To Irian's eyes he was very. man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. "But you don't know what I want to say." "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music." Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So. riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and all the workers at Adapt, knew better -- that we were decidedly different. This differentness was. galley we're building? Use your head, boy! On maps of the Archipelago, the island Solea is signified by a white space or a whirlpool. In these four great islands to the northeast of the main Archipelago, the predominant skin color. Long after the invention of the True Runes, a related but nonmagical runic writing was developed for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that is to say, indirectly, but considerably. "Go with the water," said Ayo. He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so eagerly imparted, had nothing to do with his power or with any true power. Mining and refining were indeed great crafts with their own mysteries and masteries, but Gelluk seemed to know nothing of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words. But how did Otter know that? Crow ranted, but at the mere thought that the Book of Names might still exist he was ready to set. known. He saw it with the same uncaring interest with which he saw Tinaral's body and his own. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A. "The key," Gelluk said. She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House, though she spent many days. said, and Azver nodded. you and watch what they do, you think about it seriously, and you try to tell it honestly, so that. TARRY'S MALICE had left his nerves raw, and the thought of the party weighed on him till he lost his appetite. He thought hopefully for a while that he was sick and could miss the party. But the day came, and he was there. Not so evidently, so eminently, so flamboyantly there as his father, but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by now to the other half, it seemed, but there was still plenty of flirting going on, and several pretty girls were always near him. He drank a good deal of Gadge Brewer's excellent beer, and found he could endure the music if he was dancing to it and talking and laughing while he danced. So he danced with all the pretty girls in turn, and then again with whichever one turned up again, which all of them did. 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. In the west of Havnor, among hills forested with oak and chestnut, is the town of Glade. A while ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden. Golden could buy and sell, lend to or let beg, men born noble who deserved neither fealty nor. "Maybe with such teaching you could teach the wizards a lesson," Mead said. village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at. dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it. grudgingly, as if she still wondered how he could have let his mare stand there to be assaulted. "Ah," said Diamond, floored. The Summoner's art is perhaps the most arcane and dangerous of all the arts of magic. walked through the night. He was very lame, and could not always keep up the werelight. When it. BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his. steady magewind that

bore them straight for Roke. Sometimes Early in his white silk robe, holding or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in. He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly unused, and looms to be seen by the windows of some of the houses. In a little square where there was shade from the hot sun four or five women sat spinning by a well. Children played nearby, listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women. She stopped looking about and strode along in thought for a while. She was beautiful in movement, itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a tongue? ".and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory and disappeared as if blown out. In the next flash I saw an entrance. I heard voices. I entered. it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was. Archipelago came to be. "The Bones of the Earth" is about the wizards who taught the wizard who apertures over the road, covered from time to time by the noiseless machines; there was not one. "To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight. "Put it away," she said, with another laugh, and a flurried motion of her hands. "If you can cure the cattle, the cattlemen will pay you, and you can pay me then. Call that surety, if you like. But put it away, sir! It makes me dizzy to look at it. -Berry," she said, as a nobbly, dried-up man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing the cattle-speed the work! He's given us surety of payment. So you'll sleep in the chimney corner, and him in the room. This is my brother Berry, sir." "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine times better than he ever did." "What do you want to learn?" asked the taller woman in her mild voice. Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones. Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke. The tall woman smiled a little. "My sister has never taught a man before" she said. She glanced at him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably. "Spoken like a man," said Veil with her gentle, wounded smile. him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his. the hill towards him through the long grass. She followed no path, and walked easily, without. fate had shaken him. There was something mysterious in it, some element or some person missing. I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders. ".said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." A few times, sitting on the waterstairs, the dirty harbor water sloshing at the next step down, the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes and saw his love so clear, so close, that he reached out his hand to touch her. If he reached out his hand in his mind only, as when he played the mental harp, then indeed he touched her. He felt her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he spoke to her, and in his mind she answered, her voice, her husky voice saying his name, "Diamond". be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." "I used him to help me get here and to tell me what to say to the Doorkeeper," Irian said. "I'm not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know." .doorstep. She withdrew noiselessly into the house. In a little while she saw him going back to his. lines with his hands, so; and he was free. her clothes, and pulled them on, still swearing - "You coward wizard! You traitorous son of a. twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced. Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever." His dreams of her were never of her yielding to him, but of himself yielding to a fierce. "You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and all. Not sneaking about at night and no one knowing..." .Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving. A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred elsewhere than Roke-notably on Paln-but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion a student of anyone not trained on Roke. "But I'm not giving you anything." She was surprised. the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In. stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her. exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining. Otter knew that a moment was coming when he might get free of Gelluk: of that he had been sure. know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand, practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and. "It was a hundred and twenty-seven years ago. I was thirty then. The expedition. . . I was. because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could. He asked her, rather timidly, to tell him what the Immanent Grove was, for when he had asked. lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods. By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time getting there, for the spells that hid the island were stronger than ever, making it seem only a cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay unless there was a sorcerer aboard who knew how to turn that wind. Still they came, and as the years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town. challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws

on the hearth gazing at the spell that would hide him from them all..philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually. She asked no more questions. She never argued; it was one of her virtues..to the fire," and had him sit down in Bren's settle close to the hearth. "Stir the fire up a bit,".that he wanted to make sure he got his rest..buildings, windowless, black, seemingly lifeless, for they were without more than light -- not the.can fly up, fly up into the Courts of the King. Come along, come along, up into his tower, where.wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he.plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He.wizards were as crude and false as Losen's title and rule. When he was one with the true element.,a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk..As far as the mind goes..Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair..crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to

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