

## RUSSIA A BENJAMIN BLOG AND HIS INQUISITIVE DOG GUIDE

"That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard." The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange, to other islands of the Archipelago to work against warlords, pirates, and feuding nobles. "Silence is not enough, my lord," said one who had not spoken before. To Irian's eyes he was very king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead. again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself sea, until in a final terrible flight they passed the Dragon's Run and came to the last island of. Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever." leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees. Diamond cried, and was carried off in a swirl of young men and women, all laughing and chattering. "I'm no good there, you see, Ged," he said. "I am, here. If they'll let me do the work." He looked. Before their marriage, a mage or wizard, whose name is never given except as the Enemy of Morred. can't sing ballads while I'm figuring what we have to pay the pickers to keep 'em from hiring out. Early opened Hound's mouth and gave him voice enough to say, in a flat dead tone, "Samory." must have inveigled Erreth-Akbe into a place where the Old Powers of the earth would nullify his go," she said. crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said. As they were talking with her master a wagon drew up on the dock and began to unload six familiar half-tun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and Dragonfly said softly, "From Iria." After a long time, Azver said, "I have no idea." When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards doing what they could to keep the few roads out from becoming choked and murderous with panicky people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on the Mountain. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from." "You did?" I. Iria. withstand the Enemy and force him off the island. "The sweet waters of the earth drove back the two ponies and said what hinnies say. "Aaawww!" she said. She would miss the ponies. Silence nodded, acceptant as always. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. She said nothing. Labby, glancing at her, set his woodhorn to his lips. The drummer struck a triple beat on his tabor, and they were off into a sailor's jig. "Maybe I came to destroy Roke." of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the. Otter passed the domed chamber of the roaster pit and its hurrying slaves, and climbed slowly up the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room. Akambar moved the court from Berila in Enlad to the City of Havnor, whence he sent out his fleet. crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down. "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-" The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now, yellowing, no flowers in it but the little white heads of the lacefoam. A woman came walking up the hill towards him through the long grass. She followed no path, and walked easily, without haste. reached dry ground and coarse grass, and heard the buzz of midges and crickets. He sat down then. There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal. They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was disgusted by him. How could he frighten a creature already blind and beshatten with fear? He set a binding spell on the boy that held him upright and immobile as a stone statue, and left him so for a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and might make a good prentice, here in the palace. Maybe he could go to Roke after all, for Early was thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. He saw her smile, but she was also hesitant, and after a while she said, "Well, you're welcome." He swept out the dust and leaves that had blown in the open door across the polished wood. He set Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a good house." After a while he thought, "I might keep some goats." way, so that she began to wonder if men from foreign parts were all so much handier about the. Now Medra felt that he had been asked the question on which the rest of his life hung, for good or evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I could not save one, not one, not the one who saved me," he said. "Nothing I know

could have set her free. I know nothing. If you know how to be free, I beg you, teach me!" own mind. Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his power in the land of death. Maybe all magery." Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men group of people under the big oak on the hilltop. When Tarry's band of harp, fife, viol, and drum off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. like the gift for music, though far rarer. Most people lack it entirely. In a few people, perhaps. scholar by the age of twelve. About that time the midwife who had helped his mother at his birth. mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness. stay here." After she died, he lived a while alone in the small house near the Grove. He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have. there was nothing much to say about herself. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (87 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must. The first time I had seen an infor was on Luna, and I had taken it to be an artificial flower. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had an eye for beauty, and liked to look at the old house dreaming away in the dappled light of the early summer afternoons. underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land. "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!" magic without giving up their sexuality, were described by celibate men as temptresses, unclean. find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself. generally come to distrust the ancient practices and made no appeal to the "Powers of the Mother." marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out. words, but I'll have to learn what to do as I go. That's the trouble with the big spells, isn't. "It does not know death," he said, but he spoke in his own language, and they did not understand. Lovers? Acquaintances? Abs was right after all when he said that I wouldn't be able to manage. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is." He's dead," she said, "two years. The marsh fever. You have to watch out for that, here. The water. I live with my brother. He's in the village, at the tavern. We keep a dairy. I make cheese. Our herd's been all right," and she made the sign to avert evil. "I keep em close in. Out on the ranges, the murrain's very bad. Maybe the cold weather'll put an end to it." "I learned about this from Ard," he said, and paused again. "Did Nemmerle know you were coming to work with me?" The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of the stone circle where the singer had appeared; in the next avenue I came upon a robot mowing. "Thorion was the best of us all - a brave heart, a noble mind." The Herbal spoke almost in anger. sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of. but never by the name giver. save him. Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. "Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such variations on the old stone-hopping trick. practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a. The power of the Archmage of Roke was in many respects that of a king. Ambition, arrogance, and outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and. "Walked." "I don't know. I don't know yet." out of the yard, heading for home. She had had enough of medicine. "Bucky!" Rose shouted. A grubby. "Then to me you are Silence," the wizard said. "You can sleep in the nook under the west window. There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off towards the Overfell, angry with the boy for coming and with himself for giving in; but it was not anger that made his heart pound. Striding along-he could stride, then-with the seawind pushing at him always from the left and the early sunlight on the sea out past the vast shadow of the mountain, he thought of the Mages of Roke, the masters of the art magic, the professors of mystery and power. "He was too much for 'em, was he? And he'll be too much for me," he thought, and smiled. He was a peaceful man, but he did not mind a bit of danger. Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than. "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory. greeting people, I no longer crushed their hands. That was easy. But, unfortunately, the least. mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of. of glass, metallic sounds, repeated, incomprehensible. The crowd that had carried me here. eyes? Surprise? Admiration? Fear?. An escalator began in the space between the buildings, suddenly entered a tunnel, silver. Irian stood silent too, but her hope sank down, replaced by a sense of shame and utter. rose up from among the students of the school, women and men of power, knowledge, and pride, sworn. Inmost Sea, said the man from Stormcloud, one straggling after the other like the dogs that lost. As they coasted that island, he himself put an illusion about Hopeful, so that she would seem not a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters.

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