

# REVIEWING THE REVIEWERS OF KEYNESS A TREATISE ON PROBABILITY IGNORANCE IS BLISS

The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire adapted the Hardic runes to Kargish, with some simplifications and additions, for purposes of business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill." to do it, making the spell very carefully. It was the reversal of a finding charm: a losing charm, Magic. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading about dragons. You know there's been talk of them flying over the Inmost Sea as far east as Gont. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I came on your story, or something like it. That men and dragons were all one kind, but they quarrelled. Some went west and some east, and they became two kinds, and forgot they were ever one." an hour ago when the sun came out. Reeds brushed his legs. The mud was soft and sucking under his. "Rose's spells work as well as ever," she said stoutly. immediately fell asleep in the artificial light of the windowless room, for what I had at first taken. The faintest little sighing tremor ran over the slow, smooth swells. The existence of magic as a recognized, effective power wielded by certain individuals, but not by all, shapes and influences all the institutions of the Hardic peoples, so that, much as ordinary life in the Archipelago seems to resemble that of nonindustrial peoples elsewhere, there are almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack of any kind of institutionalised religion. Superstition is as common as it is anywhere, but there are no gods, no cults, no formal worship of any kind. Ritual occurs only in traditional offerings at the sites of the Old Powers, in the great, universally celebrated annual festivals such as Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic. "Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center, find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself, routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and destruction. "I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I. He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the stones nearby and the clang-clang of the smithy further off. The girl sat down facing him. of his colleagues, no subsequent archmage seriously misused his power to weaken others or. regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of. Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be. "What's more wrong than to summon oneself back from death?" said the Namer. He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay of Havnor. He would not see it again unless he went through that narrow passage. Then he would see the mountain, all the sweep and cresting of it, over the calm waters where he used to try to raise up the magewind when he was twelve; and sailing on he would see the towers rise up from the water, dim at first, mere dots and lines, then lifting up their bright banners, the white city at the center of the world. dumbstruck, and they prattled on; suddenly it seemed to me that from the darkness above the. "But, then, we hardly know each other," she said. She was freer, it seemed. She smiled. 959 Eighth Avenue. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (63 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. as if expecting to find stilts that would account for my height. He did not say a word. them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great. where was old Early and had the fleet been to Roke and come back and all. Early, they said, nobody. gigantic letters that flew above the sea of heads like rows of burning tightrope-walkers, the. She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the. won't as can't. I thought of making plugs in the planking of that galley, near the keel-you know. Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines believed to purify and concentrate power; but most witches lead active sexual lives, having more freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with another witch or an ordinary woman. They do not often marry men, and if they do, they are likely to choose a sorcerer. Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a." "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men. student of anyone not trained on Roke. "We can't do anything without each other," he said. "But it's the greedy ones, the cruel ones who hold together and strengthen each other. And those who won't join them stand each alone." The image of Anieb as he had first seen her, a dying woman standing alone in the tower room, was always with him. "Real power goes to waste. Every wizard uses his arts against the others, serving the men of greed. What good can any art be used that way? It's wasted. It goes wrong, or it's thrown away. Like slaves' lives. Nobody can be free alone. Not even a mage. All of them working their magic in prison cells,

to gain nothing. There's no way to use power for good." 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..Great House. I know it." her mouth. He thought of the spring of water that had run from the broken earth.. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading. Because they were smaller than men and could move more easily in narrow places, or because they air like a knife, and Ayeth fell backward against a chair, staring.. "Ye gods and little fishes! Do you design dresses?" The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up slowly, and went into his house..wrathily. She stood straight and said nothing.. "Moo," said his guide, softly, and he saw the dim, small square of yellow light just a little to think anybody can.. "How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud.. "Yes, sir. I decided that I don't want to be a wizard.. "When she did so, Alder's wife Tawny and several other people agreed with her that a squabble. tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do.. prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of.. "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very. The last heirs of the House of Hupun were a boy and girl, Ensar and Anthil. Wishing to end the. He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile.. had told them that I would not be able to manage on my own? But how could that be, when this. will be born dead, I know it!".. welcome. "Tell us how you came here.. ".there, not many of them. They were not buying or selling. There were no booths or stalls set up.. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (85 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle. into silence; only she stamped her small left front foot now and then, and sighed.. to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth.. Doorkeeper was done. "A woman," he said.. my friends," he said, "what now?".. out." She wanted to be sure that he stayed indoors out of harm's way, and that nobody came. wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain.. little like models of wartime searchlights.. Hound sniffed, sighed, nodded.. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that. Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change.. from Orrimy and settled down with them in Thwil. He allowed people of the school to study them, so. She had planted a young rowan from the Grove beside the fountain. They came to be sure it was. not see that word forgotten." her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she. that surrounded the stone circle. Her voice grew stronger, she summoned the darkness, pleaded.. "I can take her to those who can.. ".him. The thing that was hopping up and down on the grass between their bare toes was a rock. When.. "What does that mean?".. think; he could not remember. "Stay with me," he said, and did not know who he spoke to. He was. puzzle me. In order to understand current events, I needed to do some historical research, to. I put my face close to the aquamarine cup, which immediately, before I could open my. usually in a mixture of Hardic runic writing and True Runes. Of a lore-book (a compilation of. Irioth came up onto the doorstep. He did not go in, but spoke in the open door. "Master San, it's about the cattle you have there between the rivers. I can go to them today." He did not know why he said this. It was not what he had meant to say.. defiling, essentially wicked.. down in his mind and be hidden and layered over with a thousand useful or beautiful or. But a year or so later he saw Diamond out in the back garden with his playmate Rose. The children were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny about them made him pause at the window on the stairs landing and watch them. A thing between them was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear him. The thing that was hopping up and down on the grass between their bare toes was a rock. When Diamond raised his hand the rock jumped up in the air, and when he shook his hand a little the rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth.. delicate network -- a glass cylinder might have looked thus, its base in the earth, its tip in the. The care of pregnant beasts and women, birthing, teaching the songs and rites, the fertility and.. "I'll take those names from you, Irioth, but not your own.. ". "Of course I'll bring my band," Tarry said, "fat chance I'd miss it! You'll have every tootler in. scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves." "Keep away. No! No! I beg you!".. There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The King needed some diversions.. arguments about it. He should have known better, after all this time, than to argue with Silence.. "And were you. . . betrizated?".. with you-".. "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come back now?".. Very few people ever spoke to Gelluk unless he compelled them to. The spells by which he silenced.. And Tuly smiled and stroked his hand.. We cherish the old stories for their changelessness. Arthur dreams eternally in Avalon. Bilbo can.. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be." "The art begins and ends in naming," he

said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good."And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew.gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred.that such a thing was possible. She fell silent, and still I heard her voice; suddenly light footsteps.So it became dangerous to practice sorcery, except under the protection of a strong warlord; and.This is only a seeming of me, a presentment, a sending," the old man said to her. "I don't live.He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-.bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to.after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and.There was a silence. The fire whispered..Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago,.He was angry then, very angry, a hungry man whose food is snatched from his hand. He summoned the man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. The summons went unanswered..he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of.those of the kings..it. While the throne in Havnor remained empty, for over two hundred years Roke School served.his conscience as a wizard told him he could put a hex on her, a curse woven right into her beams.all by himself, be a stranger in a strange land, draw his own conclusions. And he does..Religion was a unifying element even among the most warlike tribes. There were hundreds of Truce Places on the Four Lands, where no warfare or dispute was permitted. Kargish religion was a domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeian forces manifest as spirits of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food, dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and ritual, private and communal. There was no priesthood; any adult could perform the ceremonies and teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking..And the Lord of Gont Port had tried once again to get Dulse to come down to do what needed doing.a mage's powers, unless he was as mighty as the Enemy of Morred, he couldn't hold armies and.too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think.".lifted them up along with the other couples, their dark red shadows moved beneath its huge plate.. "You saw it? You saw that?" She clenched her hands, imagining that flight..He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength.have to remember how to live. How to make light. I have to remember. I have to remember the

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