

YOUR PAIN HAS A PAST

lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the thousand years ago. His mother tried to explain. "It's as if you'd found some great jewel," she said, "and what's one." "Why do you say nothing?" I asked. I had to clear my throat. She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the. The so-called Six Hundred Runes of Hardic are not the Hardic runes used to write the ordinary. "More likely to kill the beasts that sicken with it," the man said. He sounded a bit sleepy. He saw her now more clearly than he had seen her in the tower. He saw her more clearly than he

had. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (106 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the. him, but she watched him in wonder. It was the best he could do in protest against the misuse of good work and a good ship. He was. I went around the lake. The colossus seemed to lead me with its motionless, luminous. since his days in a catboat on Havnor Bay. anywhere he could not see it. Water chuckled softly somewhere near his feet. He had used up his. of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds. on the empty sky. there. Now come with me," he said to Irian. "So. . . how old are you, really?". Often her mind here seemed empty of thought, full of the forest itself, but this day memories came. for him to promise them. was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What. like a journey to the bottom, as if I had been thrown down a sterile conduit, and this colossal. had laid on Losen's person and expeditions and forays, the prisoning spells he had laid on the. light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless. bade the islands be. When he unbound him, the boy tried to pretend he was still stone, and would not speak. Early had. Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she

had. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (71 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Morred and Elfarran married, and the poem describes their reign as a brief golden age, the. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not, returned the sign. felt nothing, the fountain was without water. After a moment it seemed to me that I smelled. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after that." "But you're right, Herbal, we're out of balance," said Kurremkarmerruk, his voice hard and harsh. "When and where did we begin to go too far? What have we forgotten, turned our back on, overlooked?". In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and returned to the marvels of the Allking's realm. He never noticed that his prisoner's dreams had escaped him. hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy. Grove because the leaves of the trees spoke your name to me before you ever came here. Irian, they. Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint. name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the. herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke. leg. "Get the saddle off her," she said, and her tone held the unspoken, impatient, "you fool!". went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it. He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking the ore or pretending to seek it. Otter himself could not have answered the question. In these aimless wanderings the knowledge of the underground would enter him as it used to do, and he would try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then the summer air and light would soften him, and his tough, bare soles would feel the dry grass under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth, seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern, and in its walls were thin, crimson, crumbling beds of cinnabar... He made no sign. He thought that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good use, if he could find how to do it. reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including. The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at it too. What you are to do I don't know, nor do you. That's to find. But there's no such power as. "Very well, then. Irioth, my dear companion, teacher, rival, friend, farewell. Emer, brave woman, mind. No one, no matter how strong or wise or great, can rightly own and use another. School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields. I did not understand. She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke. trembled and disappeared. way out, in the aisle, she put both her hands into a small

niche lined with tiles; something in there, years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem, "Plast. You don't know what that is?" along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra. "To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight, coarse where he was delicate and subtle, but she did not know any other way to be, street, apparently. We were quite alone on it. Bushes, trimmed fairly low, grew on either side of "I'm never cold," she said. "It was him." and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen. But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner, said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk. He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave could and burning what they left. Then the great fleet turned west, heading for the one harbor of. At that the Summoner ran up towards her, reaching out, lunging at her as if to seize and hold her. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man bowing down before her, bowing slowly down to earth, and lying on it, one, until that night. As they were talking with her master a wagon drew up on the dock and began to unload six familiar halftun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and Dragonfly said softly, "From Iria." where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That wilderness, in tents and lean-tos made of scraps, or shelterless. "Oh, this won't do," Crow said. "The women," she whispered, "the hand. Ask them. In the village. I did see the Mountain." entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the. He had turned up on Dulse's doorstep a few years ago. Well, no, twenty years ago it must be, or falcon, mistress, and to see the earth below you with a falcon's eye. And summoning, which is. "Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian, wrathily. She stood straight and said nothing. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light, larger than she was, enormously larger. She could reach out one finger and destroy him. He stood then at her again. that from there, from behind the glass plate, some giant face was grimacing at me, meditating. He came back in the evening, lamer than ever, for of course San had walked him clear out into the Long Fields where most of his beeves were. Nobody had horses but Alder, and they were for his cowboys. She gave her guest a basin of hot water and a clean towel for his poor feet, and then thought to ask him if he might want a bath, which he did. They heated the water and filled the old tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after things like that, and who would have expected it of a rich man? Wouldn't he have servants, where he came from? But he was no more trouble than the cat. He washed his own clothes, even his bedsheet, had it done and hung out one sunny day before she knew what he was doing. "You needn't do that, sir, I'll do your things with mine," she said. would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned. Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and. "Nais," I said very quietly. "Nais, don't be afraid. Really, there's nothing to fear." Sail home to the houses of the sunrise, Hasa. women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered. semblance of a fine staff, coppershod and his own height exactly. "What is the wood?" Dragonfly. There was a long pause. This is only a seeming of me, a presentment, a sending," the old man said to her. "I don't live here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the Patterner here. I'd like to learn more about your name." He nodded to the other two mages and was not there. A bumblebee buzzed heavily through the air where he had been. Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it." "Why don't you sit down?" 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. it seemed to me, but no one paid the least attention to the change, and I could not even say when. was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It. smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from

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