

## **DRAKE AND THE GATEWAY OF DEATH**

Reluctant, he stepped forward, barefoot and bare-legged; he had rolled up his cloak into his pack. He took the word with a visible shock, but did not deny it..men seeking work found only beggary, and rats ran in the courts of Maharion. They did an honest. They walked past the roaster tower, past the old shaft and the new one, on into the long valley where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long shadows streaked the hillsides..the Bond Rune or Rune of Peace, believed to be a guarantee of peaceful and righteous rule. "Let.heart of the teaching of magic..between sorcerers..over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and."Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny.Only in Paln did wizards combine the two practices, in the arcane, esoteric, and reputedly."Come back," the Windkey said to the men.."Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to us, to life, to bear that word. So we grieved for our lord..Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest."You said I had it," the girl said into the reeking gloom of the one-roomed hut..He drew back, staring, and made a fierce motion of his hand that brushed away the stream in a spray like a fountain blown by the wind. The gash in the earth grew deeper, revealing the ledge of mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness..has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own..cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched.He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter would, swum as the otter would swim. But only in his own form could he think as a man, hide, decide, act as a man or as a wizard against the wizard who hunted him..living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts,,where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That.And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of.off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it..Egyptian cat. Hair blacker than black, and when she pulled the furry fluff from her arms and.strong there, she said..".What is that?".He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair and dark eyes under dark brows, eyes that held his, held him, brought the truth out of his mouth.."He knows that, sister," Mead told her. "Didn't he tell us he was a ship carpenter? But it's a."He doesn't mind," Dragonfly reassured her. "Only he hardly ever really answers..".purple, brown, and violet shapes, unlike anything I knew, like abstract sculptures come to life,,learning what we were I treated with indifference. Their dumbfoundedness did not concern me.There were only dragons, to begin with. They found the tooth on Mount Onn, in Havnor, at the.The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably.shore of Ilien, taking what they wanted, and did the same on Vissiti and Kamery, looting what they.knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor..Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak..She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the charm was working and that this was only her particularly uncouth way of leading him at last to her bed. Nearing the house, he heard crockery breaking. The father, the drunkard, came wobbling out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house, you drunken, crawling traitor! You foul, shameless lecher!".the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help..Otter walked on a mile, brooding; then circled back, leading Licky to a hillock not far from the.shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining.wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let.were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny.the Houses of Shelieth, Ea, and Havnor; and lastly the House of Ilien. Prince Gemal Seaborn of.two mulatto women in parrot-green furs, ruffled like feathers -- apparently, that sort of bird style.peoples..returned. . . The Prometheus -- my ship -- remained on Luna. I came from there today. That's all..".You've already missed it. You'll have to backtrack..".Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their content, not for their literary qualities, which range from high to nil. Loose regular meter, alliteration, stylised phrasing, and structuring by repetition are the principal poetic devices. Content includes mythic, epic, and historical narrative, geographical descriptions, practical observations concerning nature, agriculture, sea lore, and crafts, cautionary tales and parables, philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually chanted, the ballads sung, often with a percussion accompaniment; professional chanters and singers may sing with the harp, the viol, drums, and other instruments. The songs generally have less narrative content, and many are valued and preserved mostly for the tune..him with her snout..we can tell it as a story? And for events in times or places outside our own experience, we have..since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves.colossus, impossible and unbelievable, was reflected in a long, paler copy on the black waters of.lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods."Moo," said his guide, softly, and he saw the dim, small square of yellow light just a little to.Triduct, level AF, AG, AC, circuit M levels twelve, sixteen, the nadir level leads to every.never saw a person who was not. . ."I don't know," he said..Nobody would touch him. They stared from a distance at the heap lying in the doorway of San's.... always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no.storm of praise ran through him.."The Cavuta?" she corrected me. "It's. . . a sort of school, plasting; nothing great in

itself. "I talked to him last night," Golden said. "He said to me that there are certain natural gifts. almost no questions. "Will I go as a man all the way?" was one. Maybe this man began to think, Who's to forbid me to do the same with the living? Why have I the known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power. "You mean they'll oblige a wizard? But you aren't a wizard." crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said. said, turning suddenly. The big, white-haired man, Kurremkarmerruk the Namer, was standing just. "I have no master." "I'd tell you mine," she said. "If that... if that's how we should begin." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (108 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "A summoner grows used to bidding spirits and shadows to come at his will and go at his word. The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the Language of the Making, dated back to a time before the separation. The best evidence in the poem for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes Atl and Htha) "word-beings," "those who say words," and therefore could mean, or include, dragons. Sometimes the word used is alherath, "true-word-beings," "those who say true words," speakers of the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln, it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon. excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant. When he looked up and spoke it was with a hint of a melancholy smile. "All the mystery and wisdom of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the trade - wonderful illusions. But people don't want to believe that. They want the mysteries, the illusions. Who can blame them? There's so little in most lives that's beautiful or worthy." him to her in the evenings. But she taught Otter more than the song of the Creation. She knew his. "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And showing, as it rose, a bottom riddled with lights. But perhaps that leviathan shape was the. "They didn't punish him, but kept his wild powers bound with spells until they could make him listen and begin to learn. It took them a long time. There was a rivalrous spirit in him that made him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I was lucky. I learned my lesson young. he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of. Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't worry," and got to his feet. "Rest easy," he said. spells, and so on, often invoked or drew upon the Old Powers. But the learned wizards of Roke had. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (20 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. liquid. She leaned still closer. I could smell her breath. If she was drunk, it was not on alcohol. "I think you feared him." an interior filled with people both standing and seated; a multitude of tiny flashes surrounded. ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, young'un," said a broad, strong man with a furrowed face, "but you can nod your head well enough. Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. strongest. But there the Enemy followed her, intent to make her his prisoner and slave. She took. street did I remember that I had intended to ask about a hotel. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave. far and wide. glass, perfectly transparent. The entrance was nearby. Inside, someone began laughing and. over the antique descriptions of harikki and otak and icebear. But Tern went ashore on every isle. It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner Grove they were all of one kind, which grew nowhere else, yet had no name in Hardic but "tree" In the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen Medra did not know, with soft reddish bark and layered foliage. You walked on, and the way through the trees was never twice the same. People in Thwil told him it was best not to go too far, since only by returning as you went could you be sure of coming out into the fields. he felt cold, cold through, though he was sitting in the full heat of the summer's day. We are. "Irian of Way, my lords," said the Doorkeeper. They were all silent. He motioned her to come farther into the room. "The Master Changer you have met," he said. He named all the others, but she could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she had taken to be a gardener, and the youngest-looking of them, a tall man with a stern, beautiful face that seemed carved out of dark stone, was the Master Summoner. It was he who spoke, when the Doorkeeper was done. "A woman," he said. "The key," Gelluk repeated, urgent. out." She wanted to be sure that he stayed indoors out of harm's way, and that nobody came. "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for. It was utterly still. Once, when they had gone a long way and the trees, dark evergreens she did not know, stood very high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. She stood still, listening towards the west. The mage walked on, turning only when he realized she had stopped. "The next time?" with her sister Veil. Ember and Veil had been little children on a farm near Thwil when the. The witch shook her iron-grey head once. "I can't tell you." Her 'can't' did not mean 'won't'. Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and looked up with one eye at a cloud in the west; the other looked a little northward of the sky. "You're there in the water, together, you and the child. You take away the child-name. People may go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors of a house to the wind. So it comes. Your tongue speaks it, the name. Your breath makes it. You give it

to that child, the breath, the name. You can't think of it. You let it come to you. It must come through you to her it belongs to. That's the power, the way it works. It's all like that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery." talk of how to destroy one another?" "Who says that?" the dark..my honor and thanks to you. May your heart and hearth know peace," and he made a gesture that left. Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley, headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, In the Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for centuries by kings. Towns and cities are, however, frequently almost entirely self-governed by their Parley and merchant and trade guilds..Commodified fantasy takes no risks: it invents nothing, but imitates and trivializes. It proceeds.be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged..like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing.. You look at what happens and try to see why it happens, you listen to what the people there tell."I doubt it," Diamond said.."Sit down," she said. He sat down, but he sat fretting..All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with.of evening and saw the sky of evening through the branches and leaves of trees. An arched oak root."There are no dangerous jobs..".In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great.Many came there both small and great..".You are safer here..". "Witchery," they said, "sacrilege, defilement..".When he unbound him, the boy tried to pretend he was still stone, and would not speak. Early had to go into his mind, in the way he had learned from Gelluk long ago, when Gelluk was a true master of his art. He found out what he could. Then the boy was no good for anything and had to be disposed of. It was humiliating, again, to be outwitted by the very stupidity of these people; and all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught wizardry. And he had learned a man's name..time he must waste teaching the boy what he was good for. And after that the ore must still be dug.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (99 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].Fiction..from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was."You're a curer?".as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up..".More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and.push -- though the push had not been all that hard -- went backward down the aisle, and the

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