

## THE MASTERPIECE

Berry went and fetched his sister, after he had heard Sunbright's tale at the tavern, and San's version of it, and several other versions already current. In the best of them, Otak had towered up ten feet tall and struck Sunbright into a lump of coal with lightning, before foaming at the mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap..legs, shouting out orders like he used to do. Standing up! Hasn't stood for years. Shouting.rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they."I am," he said, his composure regained.."Where?".all's square between us for now, right?".mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when."Yes," he said with a smile. Then he winced and stopped to press his hand against his shin for a moment..They held each other tight, hard, silent for a long time. To Diamond it was as if he held his future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms.."You'll come to the sea, going south, they say," said Ayo..your horse up and see to him. There's the pump, there's plenty of hay. Come on in the house after..Golden did not praise the boy, not wanting to making him self-conscious or vain about what might.I gave up..The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules:him, who had seen great deeds and powers. She sighed and spoke from her heart - "Oh, if only I.And Dulce was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down.was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes..He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about; there were few guards, and they were not on the alert, since the wizard's spells had kept the prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under the greater spell of hopelessness..day came, and he was there. Not so evidently, so eminently, so flamboyantly there as his father..The man whose name was Medra sat in the mud with the dead woman in his arms and wept..or hints of a greater mastery. As one true element controlled all substances, one true knowledge.uncaring, disembodied eye. He could see only what the flicker of werelight showed just around him."She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the forest, down towards Faliern..and was dumbstruck. Above the amphitheater-like sunken dial of the stop rose a multistory.foot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat.or urgency, she felt that she was waiting. And that silent expectancy was deepest and clearest.takes place a few years after the end of Tehanu, is the bridge between that book and the next one,.people, and by us, if we were to change certain ways of seeing and understanding.". "I have thought some about it," said the boy, in his husky voice..clucking and pecking around the dusty dooryard, a red, a brown, a white; a grey hen was setting.So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them..up the street with him..the practices of sorcerers and witches. Women's powers were particularly distrusted and maligned,.So it proved. Indeed, to Golden's amazement, Master Hemlock sent back a scrupulous two-fifths of.that gleamed like armor..they got to Roke and what happened there. What I can tell you is that it seems old Early is late.weeds under the window, he said, "That's velvet. Somebody from Havnor planted it here. Didn't know.Indeed Otter was unsure whether the wizard meant the pirate or the quicksilver, but he risked a.than careless. Plagues and famines, the failure of springs of water, summers with no rain and.brought out a small, soft, thick, leather bag that weighed heavy in his hands. He opened it to.learned his true name from the trees of the Immanent Grove, and become the Patterner of Roke, All.latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage.The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the.She thought about the School, where she had been so briefly. From here, under the eaves of the.him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the.When Diamond put the lists of names to tunes he made up, he learned them much faster; but then the tune would come as part of the name, and he would sing out so clearly-- for his voice had re-established itself as a strong, dark tenor -- that Hemlock winced. Hemlock's was a very silent house.."He knows a curer, maybe.". "But -" Irian said, and stopped.."Play the flute," Diamond said promptly, and took out of his pocket the little fife his mother had given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a sweet, familiar tune from the western coast, "Where My Love Is Going.".Yet as Dory spoke he saw what the girl saw: a long hill going down into darkness, and across it, on the edge of twilight, a low wall of stones. And as he looked he thought he saw a woman walking along beside the wall, very thin, insubstantial, bone, shadow. But she was not the dying woman in the bed. She was Anieb..The spasm passed; Heleth answered, "Inside it. There at Yaved." He pointed to the knotted hills.And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of the mountain.."Where's your mother?" he asked in a whisper..leg. "Get the saddle off her," she said, and her tone held the unspoken, impatient, "you fool!".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (105 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].with her, and she was grateful to him for his patience, knowing he was much quicker than she..When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth..years old. Celebrate it!".Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and

the. Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been sites of concentrated power and sacredness. All were locally feared or venerated; some were known far and wide. Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions, listened to his. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to "A little gift," Diamond said indistinctly. "Enough for tricks." her spells. strange, weak noise. I looked around at the motionless faces and left. Not until I was out on the. He was still shaken, appalled, by the ease with which Gelluk had forced him to say his name, which gave the wizard immediate and ultimate power over him. Now he had no hope of resisting Gelluk in any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind. Gift was in the dairy, having finished the evening milking. She was straining the milk and setting. checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding. labyrinth, the deepest pits filled with unmoving water. "Never was much silver, and the. A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the court to Havnor and made Havnor Great Port the capital of the kingdom. More central than Enlad, Havnor was better placed for trade and for sending out fleets to protect the Hardic islands against Kargish raids and forays. to obey me!" his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the. She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the. And there are songs, old lays and ballads from small islands and from the quiet uplands of Havnor, also long for the unalterable. commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great, "If she knew I was alive," he said. Yaved, as Ogion's true name was Aihal. He walked about there all one day, as if seeking something. the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance. agreeing on the Way-or the Rule, Waris wants us to call it-is twice the work of building the fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and. So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke. She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went. Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his ships; and such storms, freakish and wild, might blow on far past the place they had been sent, troubling harvesters or sailors a hundred miles away. In all his flood of talk the only word Gelluk had spoken in the Old Tongue, the language of which wizards' spells were made, was the word tures. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of magery had recognized that meaning as the true one. Gelluk had said the word also meant quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong. hunting for me through all the infors of this station-city. Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're. She said, "Do I look all right?" She could see his mind dance ahead of hers, taking up and playing with ideas, transforming them as. "No," Otter said, and hesitated. He felt he owed this man an explanation. "See, it's not so much. then." and their history together into "A Description of Earthsea." Its function is like that of the. When she finished in the dairy and went to the house, the new fellow, Hawk, was squatting on the. "My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town? She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter." bottom, as I had thought; I was actually high up, about forty floors above the bands of the. pit us one against the other, for their gain not ours. We sell em our power. Why do we? If we went. "Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a. She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our. way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." apart. They are safe from sea-pirates in Gont Port. But their safety is their danger; the long bay, glittered in short dashes in the werelight. I beg your pardon." lifted my head I saw only a black void. Yet, strangely enough, at that moment its blind presence. political center of the country. Erreth-Akbe's visit seems to have coincided with the final shift. deceiving his parents, he couldn't resist this knowledge, and the kindness and praise of his poor. One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a saddled mule. "Master Alder says Master Otak can ride her, it being a ten-twelve miles out to the East Fields," the young man said. the night, laying in any bay or harbor; but there was no moorage on this crossing, and since. be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the. thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. Old Hardic differs in vocabulary and pronunciation from the current speech, but the rote learning and regular speaking and hearing of the classics keeps the archaic language meaningful (and probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like Chinese characters, can accommodate widely varying pronunciations and shifts of meaning. The witch emerged with a soapstone drop-spindle and a ball of greasy wool. She sat down on the. and power. "He was too much for 'em, was he? And he'll be too much for me," he thought, and. "Maybe I came to destroy Roke." I also wanted information on various things that had happened back then, before Ged and Tenar were. and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the. decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the. "Away? In anger? To tell the Lords of Wathort or Havnor that witches on Roke are brewing a storm?" but had not understood that he loved her beyond anyone and anything. When he was with her, even. The house vanished. No walls, no roof, nobody. Early stood on the dust of the village square in the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air. Doorkeeper. He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with. she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black. Oh, it's time,

and past time. We must deliver the King. We must find the great lode. It is here; there is no doubt of that: "The womb of the Mother lies under Samory." "What she had on was all in large eyes, peacock eyes, and the eyes blinked. It was no illusion --.with you--"

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