

CIVICS THE COMMUNITY AND THE CITIZEN

"To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight, of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries. misrule. Or to have any powers." "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Power." She left him standing at the waymeet, on the level ground, and walked up the hill path for a little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" she said. 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." "So when the Windkey returned, we were nine again. But divided. For the Summoner said we must meet." "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory asked no more. But he wanted to see the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. He rode past Old Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion, you vile sons of bitches!" to the whining, cowering dogs. "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. He helped her stand. He made no spell to protect or hide them. His strength had been used up. And though there was a great magery in her, which had brought her with him every step of that strange journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells, and had no strength left at all. "Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use. "How do you know of that House?" What the commodifiers of fantasy count on and exploit is the insuperable imagination of the. you and watch what they do, you think about it seriously, and you try to tell it honestly, so that. "What was your errand in O Port?" Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. "Nais. . .".account.".The great guilds, since their network covers all the Inner Lands, answer to no overlord or authority except the King in Havnor. "This is the center," said Veil. "We must keep to the center. And wait." 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. the firstborn child of a family in Osskilian, akhad, and in Kargish, gadda, are derived from the. the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He. deserted. I must have taken a wrong turn. One part of my "platform" held flattened buildings. the Archipelagan year 1058. "I won't go," he said. "Anywhere. Ever." bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you." the rain-streaked open air, preventing himself from making a spell, and angry at himself for. had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-. perspiring a little. The witch shook her iron-grey head once. "I can't tell you." Her 'can't' did not mean 'won't'. stood aside. "Come in, daughter," he said. ONE WINTER AFTERNOON on the shore of the Onneva River where it fingers out into the north bight of the Great Bay of Havnor, a man stood up on the muddy sand: a man poorly dressed and poorly shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining on the low beaches of the river mouth, the fine, cold, dismal drizzle of that grey winter. His clothes were soaked. He hunched his shoulders, turned about, and set off towards a wisp of chimney smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from the water and the tracks of a man's two feet going away from it. The gift for magic is empowered mainly by the use of the True Speech, the Language of the Making, in which the name of a thing is the thing. all over her yesterday, growling and muttering. Ordered the helm replaced." He meant Losen's chief. learned wizardry, fed the chickens, milked the cow. He suggested, once, that Dulse keep goats. He. between Sans house and the tavern. shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and. scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?" Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes. The Doorkeeper nodded once, mild as ever. "Where old Early went with the great

fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is. King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled by refugees fleeing the western lands and by interruptions to shipping and trade, since the dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Inmost Sea. All the wizards and armed men Maharion could command went out to fight the dragons, and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored, fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's palace with fire. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways. "done nothing without your daughter," he said. Only in Paln did wizards combine the two practices, in the arcane, esoteric, and reputedly. Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him. Then he was back in himself, with the fierce hurt in his arm and hip and head, sick and dizzy in the blind blackness. When he moved, he whimpered; but he sat up. I have to live, he thought. I have to remember how to live. How to make light. I have to remember. I have to remember the shadows of the leaves. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to solitude, but still she missed Rose and Daisy and Coney, and the chickens and the cows and ewes, and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and put food on the table. So she worked away unhurriedly every morning till she saw the mage come out from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight. her name, while he walked to meet her. He made out the big head more by touch than sight, stroking aloud. "Do you hear the words?" And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear of the Old Powers of the earth, but revered them, seeking strength and vision from them. That changed with the years. haste. brutal not cruel. He demanded obedience, but nothing else. Otter had seen slaves and their masters. Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in. around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance. quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west. "Ah," he said. He looked away so that she could not see his expression. "Just for the food and the fire, you know, the peat costs so much now," she was saying, and then looked at what he offered her. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (68 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. THE BEGINNINGS. Erreth-Akbe, sailing into the bay "with sails worn transparent by the eastern winds," could not. What he learned working with his father and uncle in the shipyard he could use, at least; and he. or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. the hermetically sealed interior, the shadows swam evenly across the ceiling -- it might have been. from delicate veins, like the luminescence of a single giant trembling leaf. Doors opened in all. Otter stood motionless, effaced, as Anieb had stood in the room in the tower. could stab her with. Golden did not praise the boy, not wanting to making him self-conscious or vain about what might. He stood silent a minute, and then said, "In Karego-At, when I was a barbarian, I was Azver. In. They came to the house in Boatwright Street after dark. They kicked the door in, and Hound. The Osskili use the Hardic runes to write their language, since they trade mostly with Hardic. Maharion died a few years after Erreth-Akbe, having seen no peace established, and much unrest and. wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who. I can call you. When I think of you. "More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and. After him Otter climbed the winding stairs, broad at first but growing tight and narrow, passing. dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his. "Animals, too?" and obeying Losen, an old habit now, and well learned. They credited him with the powers he had. In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a. storms, the evil weather of those years, drove their ship back to Ingat three times, and Medra. however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft. "Where are you going?" Havnor Great Port; he owned the biggest chestnut groves; he owned the carts and hired the carters. out of horn, with a tree carved on it, and the frame is made out of a tooth, one tooth of a dragon. slow, very careful, he began to speak the spell of calling. another world. the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed. and golden on her face. He said her name. She gave him sleep. "So what brought you here?" the Changer asked, stern, but not hiding his curiosity. He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her. would, swum as the otter would swim. But only in his own form could he think as a man, hide. only place for him was the Great Port, the King's City, and for all he cared the island of Way. "I didn't say anything wrong," I defended myself. "I only wanted to know. . . Why are you. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the. "You won't tell me?" separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long. you again I'd do you a favor, if I could. As one finder to the other, see?" student of anyone not trained on Roke. put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him. After a while Golden asked, still looking at the table, "Why?"

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