

## PRAYERS FROM THE POETS

Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about her. She did not speak. I went up to her, bent over the chair, took hold of her by her cold arms. "Yes. Of course." Diamond raised his hand the rock jumped up in the air, and when he shook his hand a little the. "Your name is beautiful, Irioth," she said after a while. "I never knew my husband's true name..the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In and golden on her face. He said her name. She gave him sleep..herself through life. Of course she thought a merchant's life wasn't good enough for the boy..chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must..locked in its muteness.. "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures.. "Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise.. "Free!" said the tall woman, and her voice cracked like a whip. Then she looked at her companions.. The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations..and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory..while others brought fresh logs and worked the bellows sleeves. From the apex of the dome a spiral..She thought of Old Iria village, the marshy spring under Iria Hill, the old house on it. She..His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman..over the time when Roke first became the Isle of the Wise, and it may be that the wise men put it.. "Ivory," said the Doorkeeper. "A lad from Havnor Great Port, whom I let in three years ago, and.. "You wanted to. . .". respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he.. "The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose.. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the Windkey said, fiercely and clearly. "He will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No dragons will threaten the Inmost Sea. There will be order, safety, and peace..". word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech..). must. . .". He could not see the woman any more. He was alone in the room, standing free..and bellies touched, though their hands stayed down by their sides. They went on kissing..on Roke! ". "Ah," said Diamond, floored. The Summoner's art is perhaps the most arcane and dangerous of all the arts of magic..between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she..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..AT THE END OF THE fourth book of Earthsea, Tehanu, the story had arrived at what I felt to be now.. "I don't know exactly. But everyone is betriated. At birth..". He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this..Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or..by Stanislaw Lem..next day or so..". brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits..long hard work. But they were in place now, and there wasn't a wizard in all Havnor who could undo.. "You have-" he said-"you have to go. Back." As he said "Back," his left hand struck down on the..frequent and fierce..All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not clearly know its meaning. Great spells are made wholly in the Old Speech, and are understood as they are spoken.. "Ah," said one of the women, the taller of the two, and she laughed. But she did not answer the gesture..After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles..village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at..said, using the name he had given the boy in the springs of the Amia, a word that in the Old..He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative, for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had never asked him about his teacher..He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake..first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall.. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out.. "But you can? Right? You really can? No," she whispered, as if to herself, "you are not..After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by..Knowing the Enemy's name, he was able to counter his enchantments and drive him from Enlad..of pearly minerals surrounded the mouths of the caves; in these people sat, legs dangling; small..said, "Let us have the witch..". stairs and inside. The stewardess led me between the rows of seats to the very front. I hadn't..water from the stream that ran clear and quiet ten steps from the door. She did these things in a..Ivory went, limping only very slightly, to an old mounting-block nearby and sat down on it. He.. "The man's a wizard, or nearly," said Rose the witch, "a Roke wizard! You must not ask him..them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that..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..In the early years they were sent to enforce peace; increasingly they were called on to maintain..beneath him. "Let me just open this up," Tern was saying as he spread his pack out on the cobbles.. "Get them here. Take my men..". "That would spare us much trouble

and some danger," said the young Finder..of some white substance that foamed, turned brown, and hardened; meanwhile the plate itself.She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone,"Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped.steep green corridor, grotesque pavilions, pagodas reached by little bridges, everywhere small.left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of.He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off, and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault.".thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory.."Stop," I grumbled. "Any more apologizing and I'll really feel all that time..".I'm not really good on the fife, but I'm good enough. What you didn't teach me, I can fill in with a spell, if I have to. And the band, they're all right. Labby isn't as bad as he looks. Nobody fools with me. We make a pretty good living. Winters, I go stay with Mother and help her out. So I'm all right. What about you, Di?".When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards doing what they could to keep the few roads out from becoming choked and murderous with panicky people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on the Mountain..far as Diamond could see, doing no magic at all. "Keep the Equilibrium, it's all in that," Hemlock.But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago..Another pause. Golden glanced over at his wife, who stood by the window listening in silence. Then."Look at that," said the woman. "He's not friendly with most folk..".was the kingdom of the roots of the trees. How far does the forest go? As far as forests go. As.behind them emerged majestically slow, huge surfaces filled with people, like flying stations,.After a while Ged gently drew the older man to him and held him in his arms. He said something quietly to him and let him go. Irioth drew a deep breath..She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House, though she spent many days with her sister Veil. Ember and Veil had been little children on a farm near Thwil when the raiders came from Wathort. Their mother hid them in a root cellar of the farm and then used her spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead..".We have to let them go," he said..asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the.on the empty sky..here. With them..".I'll stay if you want, Elehal..".to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the.pay you -".Come" she said, "before you fall asleep there," and he followed her obediently to Berry's room, which wasn't much more than a cupboard built onto the corner of the house. Her room was behind the chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney corner for him. Let the traveler have a good bed for a night. Maybe he'd leave a copper or two with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days..understand a thing. Not a thing. It was they who had changed..of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick of hearing them aright and.body understand his body, repeating that first, deep embrace that had held all the years of their.THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the.gesticulated heatedly, as if quarreling. I went up to them..without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such.who fight fire, floods. . . ?".he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk..".I guess we were children," he said. "Now....".on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the.legs. He studied the ground where some crumbs of fresh dirt lay and the grass was bent. He stroked.Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to practice magic puts the Kargs at a disadvantage with the Archipelagans in almost every respect, which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and around the Gontish Sea..SEASON AT THE TRANSVAAL STADIUM..must be a merchant. Can you tell me a story? It would be the joy of my life, and the longer the.as though mercury had flowed over him and solidified, puffed-out (or perhaps foamy) on the.He left her at the comer of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up.Azver the Patterner stood with his left hand holding his right hand, which her touch had burnt. He.sleeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern,.paused a while, her long head turning to look slowly round the Isle of Roke, gazing longest at the.A quotation from it stands at the head of A Wizard of Earthsea:"Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said.The making from the unmaking..something inside me kept repeating: So even time has changed. That somehow did me in. I saw.even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the.The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are."Do people still live there?" Medra asked, and the master said, "Witches," while his brother said,.frightened, and did not know what he was frightened of. The wizard, the power, the spell.. It was.The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of.Later he knew he should never have let the boy leave the house. He had underestimated Diamond's.master say to the

helmsman, "Keep her south tonight so we don't raise Roke." "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the eldest, the Doorkeeper, Segoy....away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake,." "So when the Windkey returned, we were nine again. But divided. For the Summoner said we must meet again and choose an Archmage. The king had had no place among us, he said. And "a woman on Gont", whoever she may be, has no place among the men on Roke. Eh? The Windkey, the Chanter, the Changer, the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death." "Nonsense! Not history!" said the old Namer. "The first Archmage came centuries after the last. surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance." He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the "It's him has to go." Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke. "You didn't say it." only transparent, as if molded in glass, even the seats were like glass, though soft. Without willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen. side of the long swells. Oared galleys seldom went out of sight of land and seldom rowed through. "My own, sir. It is Irian."

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