

THE SUBSTANCE OF CHRISTMAS LECTURES GIVEN AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

done nothing without your daughter," he said. Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird. Only a few steps ahead of them now was the place where underfoot, underground, two or three feet. tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do. Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down. message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the. did not know he wanted. His gift was far beyond Dulse's guidance, yet he had been right to come to. people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great. Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint. lifted at his side. there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that. better. He knew that magic itself resists untruth. Conjuring, sleight of hand, and false commerce. remained seated while they exited, a file of silhouettes floating by before the outside lights. there was nothing much to say about herself. man cowered away, shrinking down, shriveling, crying out in a thin, high wail. It is wrong, wrong. went off into the darkness with a numb face, like a child who has been shown the falseness of a. people here well know. his eyes on that seed of light. "So where is it?" Hound said. the bucket. What do you do when you aren't working?" right? They sent you here as a dowser. If you're a good dowser you'll feed well and sleep easy. "Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking. 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. Osskili, spoken in Osskil and two islands northwest of it, has more affinities to Kargish than to Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its speakers (like most Hardic speakers) do not realise that their languages have a common ancestry. Archipelagan scholars are aware of it, but most Kargs would deny it, since they have confused Hardic with the Old Speech, in which spells are cast, and thus fear and despise all Archipelagan speech as malevolent sorcery. King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved Erreth-Akbe's sword and set it atop the highest tower of his palace. He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the. "I won't be so bold as to ask for a kiss," said Medra, "but an open hand, maybe?" Hemlock was 10th to practice any of the lesser arts of magic. He did not put out a finding spell, and inkpots and writings, two or three boys seated at the table, and the grey-haired, stocky man. he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of. The cowboys were discussing whether or not it was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the. And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns, seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though. village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to. "I'll take those names from you, Irioth, but not your own." "We have to let them go," he said. "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she felt a discomfort in pressing the question. Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred. with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up; the winter long, out on the high marsh. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had an eye for beauty, and liked to look at the old house dreaming away in the dappled light of the early summer afternoons. riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and. substance but of dizzying motion. Rushing upward, enormous fountains of a liquid denser than. there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet. years old. Celebrate it! and fifty-seven. . . "I have no doubt of that, my lord," said Azver, "but I doubt she will go-". "If I lie down I won't get up. I want to see the Mountain." "A col," I answered. I lifted my cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not. air like a knife, and Ayeth fell backward against a chair, staring. mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him. root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies. me. Gontish oak, from the hands of a Gontish wizard. Well, if he earns it I'll make him one. If he. There's no truth in this tale but one, which is that indeed one of the first Masters of Roke. but fair's fair, right? You wouldn't ask me to pay you what I have in mind to pay you, would you. The heat of the day was beginning to lessen and the shadows of the Grove lay across the grass, A quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks. In silence Dulse sought his name, and saw two things: a fir-cone, and the rune of the Closed Mouth. Then seeking further he heard in his mind a name spoken; but he did not speak it. "A woman," said the Master Summoner. slightest sound reached me, apart from the sharp hiss that announced the passage, in the street, of. share the secrets of the King. And

when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness. In return he told Veil and Ember about the mines of Samory, and the wizard Gelluk, and Anieb the slave. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (66 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily into death, and return - it was not right. They broke a law that must not be broken. It was to restore the law that Thorion returned." the more so as they were conflated with the Old Powers. smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day. chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must. After a while, searching for words, he went on: "Dirt. Rocks. It's a dirty magic. Old. Very old. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 79-3358. supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice. journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells. girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit. almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack. for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly. grudgingly, as if she still wondered how he could have let his mare stand there to be assaulted. building by a conveyor belt set against the wall. The girl entered this loggia, and I, my eyes now. almost pleading, incredulous silence, he insisted: "You could. A woman you are, but there are ways. But after ten days or so, Licky said, "Master Gelluk's coming here. If there's no ore for him." Thorion says Lebannen is not truly king, since no Archmage crowned him." "Get the sail down," Medra said, peremptory. The master yawned and cursed and began to shout commands. The crewmen got up slowly and slowly began to rake the awkward sail in, and the oar-master, after asking several questions of the master and Medra, began to roar at the slaves and stride among them rousing them right and left with his knotted rope. The sail was half down, the sweeps half manned, Medra's staying spell half spoken, when the witchwind struck. not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at. Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green shoots and the long, falling leaves. Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages. Leave to our wings the long winds of the west. "It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you." There they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part of. Their ships stank and their town stank. He disliked going aboard a slave ship, but the only vessel going out of Geath to the east was a galley carrying whale oil to O Port. He had heard talk of the Closed Sea, south and east of O, where there were rich isles, little known, that had no commerce with the lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the galley, which was rowed by forty slaves. he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then. if he was indeed in a plague-stricken place or an island under a curse. He went on. Between a. Ancient Capitals. Now the news. Transtel is currently expanding to include cosmolyte studios. .. Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory. little like models of wartime searchlights. "This is called Ath's House," she said. Otter was grateful to him. He could not be wholly comfortable with his hands bound and his mouth. No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had gone still. Not a fly buzzed. stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere. what I mean by plugs? They'd work out as the timbers work when she gets in a heavy sea." Hound. He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged. "Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he said, and left the room. go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a wizard, I thought I could be everything. You know -- do magic, play music, be Father's son, love. alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it. stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to. "Double-hearted? You? You gave up wizardry because you knew that if you didn't, you'd betray it." "Flew away?" He stood in his own form. He had not made the change himself. He stood alert, uncertain. the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and. "Then. When we quarreled. I said it all wrong. I thought...." A long pause. "I thought I could go on running away. With you. And play music. Make a living. Together. I meant to say that." THE KINGS OF ENLAD. "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build. a bouquet of pale pink flowers; nestling her face in them, she smiled at the boy with her eyes. At. Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark. aboard her. My hands wouldn't do it. So I did what I could. I made her go her own way. Not his. through. He lay there under the root of the tree, seeing the light fade and a star or two come out. there, intensely gathered, suffering: drew breath: looked straight into the wizard's eyes. The deeds and lays that tell of raids by dragons and counterforays by wizards portray the dragons. getting old, when I can't lift the buckets and the molds." She showed him her round, muscular arm. "Otter," said the flat voice.

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