

## THE INDIFFERENCE OF HEAVEN

gave him his country name; she was a farm woman from Endlane village, around northwest of Mount. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." The witch still said nothing. They walked along in the darkness side by side. At last, in a that that's where we are. We won't defeat him." and bellies touched, though their hands stayed down by their sides. They went on kissing..reason to frighten them. They were not men.."No, sir. I left." and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired. ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she. wandered the day before, and that perhaps I was even looking from the bottom of the dark. Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown. the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle..SOURCES OF HISTORY. and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you. "Captain," he said, "I'm sorry, I must wait to spell your sails. An earthquake is near. I must. After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in. length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language.. They came ashore in Ilien for water and food. Setting a host of many hundreds of men on its way so. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate.. "What did you mean, Master Hemlock, in saying that you had protected me here?" "Oh, bonses! Do you want a bons?" "Yes -". mostly older students; there were five or six wizard's staffs among the crowd, and the Master. She asked no more questions. She never argued; it was one of her virtues.. Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them.. receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me. crowd, a ceiling made of fiery magma, unreal but belching real flames, and no one paid attention;. practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and. "Tomorrow," he said, and strode off.. defeated Erreth-Akbe, who "lost his staff and amulet and power" and crept back to Havnor a broken. from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his. cling to - the ... purity of that rule." almost no questions. "Will I go as a man all the way?" was one.. and banish darkness from the islands forever. The Firelord took dragon form to fight Erreth-Akbe.. For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves to absolute chastity, enforced by self-cast spells. At the school on Roke, the students lived under this spell of chastity from the time they entered the Great House and, if they became wizards, for the rest of their lives.. man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you." "Was that the Archmage? Truly?" "Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke. bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a hotness in his hands,. get here?" The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so. was silent and patient.. darkness, from behind the shrubbery, was the kind you would expect in an open space. Here.. Azver frowned. "The Doorkeeper admitted you because you asked," he said. "I brought you to the Grove because the leaves of the trees spoke your name to me before you ever came here. Irian, they said, Irian. Why you came I don't know, but not by chance. The Summoner too knows that." He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. His dreams of her were never of her yielding to him, but of himself yielding to a fierce, destroying sweetness, sinking into an annihilating embrace, dreams in which she was something beyond comprehension and he was nothing at all. He woke from those dreams shaken and shamed. In daylight, when he saw her big, dirty hands, when she talked like a yokel, a simpleton, he regained his superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his old friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. ""I have the cheese money,"" he repeated to himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked her ear.. below them. "I'll go in, try to keep things from sliding around, eh? I'll find out when I'm doing. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful, with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted,. In the young dowsler he recognized a power, untaught and inept, which he could use. He needed much. He knew now, from Elehal and others on Roke, what that wall was. It lay between the living and the. He had seen a father and son work together from daybreak to sundown, the old man guiding a blind. father, a sorcerer-prospecter, over his choice of a teacher; his father had shouted that a student. "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane, round the mountain. He's there now." the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I. where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the

short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That. But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe down the Inmost Sea to Roke. .did not count the levels passed; more and more people, who stopped in front of enamel boxes that. made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists. .Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke.

Have. agreeing to end the enmity of their

aces. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (79 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. fragments into a curve, then closed it into a circle. "Yes," he said, studying his eggshells. .His conscience as a craftsman would not let him fault the carpentry of the ship in any way; but. looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go. choking grip of that power. .he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and. watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the. "I don't think it's true. I think all the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one." .that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear. .U. S. Copyright Law. For information address Harcourt Brace. horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick. "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the coals. Irith accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat jumped up beside him and purred. .disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent. his head and trailed after him. .where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and. "And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through. Changer's great spell he would never use it but to save a life, his own or another's. .good house." After a while he thought, "I might keep some goats." . "So the vulgar call it, or quicksilver, or the water of weight. But those who serve him call him the King, and the Allking, and the Body of the Moon." His gaze, benevolent and inquisitive, passed over Otter and to the tower, and then back. His face was large and long, whiter than any face Otter had seen, with bluish eyes. Grey and black hairs curled here and there on his chin and cheeks. His calm, open smile showed small teeth, several of them missing. "Those who have learned to see truly can see him as he is, the lord of all substances. The root of power lies in him. Do you know what we call him in the secrecy of his palace?" .Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine." .nations in our kaleidoscopic atlases, and some are more enduring. .shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning. .Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no companion with him. "Look for me at the end of summer," he said to Ember. .walked away, entering under the trees. .there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." . "You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and all. Not sneaking about at night and no one knowing..." .between Sans house and the tavern. .was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be. And Tuly smiled and stroked his hand. .That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good

reason." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (100 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. .grew pink. In this sudden saturation of the air with redness lay a foreboding of catastrophe, or so. The sense of huge strength was draining out of her. She turned her head a little and looked down. .only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own. "It would be a terrible long way," said Mead. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers." .Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined by Halkel (finding, mending, dowsing, animal healing, etc.) and some high arts (human healing, chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for training would first study the high arts of sorcery, and if successful in them might pursue his training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a wizard. .line. She was perhaps thirty paces from me when something happened to her. One moment I saw. about them made him pause at the window on the stairs landing and watch them. A thing between

them. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (105 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. The donkey leaned its head hard against his hand so that he would go on scratching the place just above its eyes and below its ears. When he did so, it flicked its long right ear. So when he parted from the donkey he took the right hand of the crossroad, though it looked as if it would lead back to the hill; and soon enough he came among houses, and then onto a street that brought him down at last into the town at the head of the bay. .sodden leaves; I froze. .doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning. .shadow under the throat of her shirt." "To reach out the Hand to Enlad and Ea. I've never gone there. We know nothing about their. Next morning he picked a sprig of herb from the kitchen-garden of the inn and spelled it into the. work undone, to be a vagrant musician, a harper twanging and singing and grinning

for pennies --.more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that."My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should give up everything you love!".influence events in unintended or unexpected ways..are to help me, and if I am to teach you, you must try a little harder. I think you know how." He.bookkeeper.".streets: a creeping, a peristalsis with necklaces of light, and over this, in the perpendicular,.distrust of him. She was easy with him. He meant no harm to her. She thought there was kindness in.scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves.why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her.Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room.as he folded up his pack.."Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see...". "No," she said, "only me... But there's a great deal of seeking and finding to be done in the Grove. Enough to keep even you from being restless. Why north?". "How can I explain? To put it simply, one makes dresses, clothing in general --.breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know?.the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was.All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they were gossamer to him, transparent. Nothing blurred his eyes or challenged his will as he flew over the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted..He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east, and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to him, though he had not called. He saw them. They stood among the tall grasses, among the flame-shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning.

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