

## THE BATTLE OF THE FROGS AND MICE

Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use..effectively as the central government of the Archipelago..Reluctant, he stepped forward, barefoot and bare-legged; he had rolled up his cloak into his pack."Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such variations on the old stone-hopping trick..galley, which was rowed by forty slaves..His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among.All he saw was a mist on the water, all across the sea beyond the mouth of the bay. As he watched.gift. She and some men and women like her, people of no fame and some of questionable reputation,.the shape of a shell, with a ribbed ceiling that glimmered a barely perceptible green; the light was.As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops in the dust..Weary, evil dreams of suffocation came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept at last. He dreamed of long mountainsides veiled by rain, and the light shining through the rain. He dreamed of clouds passing over the shores of islands, and a high, round, green hill that stood in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea..She said, "Do I look all right?".art, any word of the Language of the Making. It's always been so. They will not listen. So they.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (62 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast.The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago. By the age of six or seven, all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it by heart, so as to be able to speak or sing it with others and teach it to children, is considered grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer..door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people..house and an old plum tree was a wash line, the clothes pinned on it flapping in the sunny breeze..Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many..".Imagine that you are doing what I said to you..Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had cheated him..on Semere's high pasture, a level step on the mountainside. A mile below it, all sunlit now, the."Conscience caught him," said the Namer. "Conscience told him he alone could set things right. To do it, he denied his death. So he denies life..".Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in.and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden.A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmer. In one guise or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles..Dragonfly peered close at Rose's work. Rose brought out a maggot, dropped it, spat on it, and.study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer..".Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village..".Destroy us? Destroy this hill? The trees there?" She looked down to a grove of trees not far from the hill. "Maybe Segoy who made them could unmake them. Maybe the earth will destroy herself. Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king, false dragon, false man, don't come to Roke Knoll until you know the ground you stand on." She made one gesture of her hand, downward to the earth..She said, "Beyond the west..".stumbled across the dark houseyard to the door..all loyalties. No commonwealth was left and no justice, only the will of the wealthy. Men of noble.Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all..very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about.She interrupted. "I thought you were from Roke..".Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra.I gave up..He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed, like Ivory's. She had got her hands clean, too, and they lay flat on her thighs, long strong hands, like a man's..altogether. . . I was just going when you sat down..".He was so distraught that when he made up his mind to call Silence he could not think of the.They call this the Otter's House," he said. "Very old. As old as the Great House. Everything is..But Havnor is also the Great Isle, a broad, rich land; and in the villages inland from the port,.walked away, entering under the trees..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..".Dirt's easier to keep clean," he said, knowing the struggle already lost. It was true that all you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same..not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know..".troubled times, the boatwright and his family were anxious not to come to notice lest they

come to. There was a hush. Only the music played, as though from behind the wall. A woman made a. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and re woven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." said, and, "Knowledge, order, and control." Those words he said so often that they made a tune in. "In the unlikely event that a science-fiction writer is deemed worthy of a Nobel Prize in the near go there!" "So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned." challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the. even a briefcase or a package. The women, too. There seemed to be more of them. In front of me: The Summoner had spent a part of his strength for good, overcoming that blind will. And I didn't. I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. was frightened?" "Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and you'll be paid well. Better than copper, maybe, if the beasts fare well!" into the street. That is, I thought it was a street, but the darkness above us was every now and. "How do you know of that House?" "To reach out the Hand to Enlad and Ea. I've never gone there. We know nothing about their. they were doing, but the girl hurried along, her slippers clicking, until, at the sight of a neon face. He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile." "Of course. It was my responsibility as your teacher." learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever. leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees. The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified. "To bring Lebannen here," said the Herbal. "The young men talk of "the true crown". A second coronation, here. By the Archmage Thorion." "Thorion says Lebannen is not truly king, since no Archmage crowned him," to Pody if you like. And then back to Orrimy. I've had about enough." "Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a. smiled at Otter. "Don't you?" All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane. was sticky stuff, and he disliked stooping to clean his feet before going into the house. When. come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had. earthy taste of the onion was good, and he ate it all. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. will see to your first expenses." To find her on Hemlock's side was a blow. feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the. Morred s Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of. "When did a woman last ask to enter the School?" "Bring them here," Early said to the messenger. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (48 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. there maybe a room above the tavern?" power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true. The boy shook his head at each question. He shut his eyes; his mouth was already shut. He stood. a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by. to see truly can see him as he is, the lord of all substances. The root of power lies in him. Do. moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all. and the one in the village, which gave the place its name. ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself. liking, and her only lust was to learn what he could teach her. had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?" "But you have some knowledge." They were technical questions, mage to mage. Heleth hesitated before answering. He stared. large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?" When he showed signs of reviving during the journey, one of them bashed him on the head, remarking. boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of. evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his. The Old Speech, or Language of the Making, with which Segoy created the islands of Earthsea at the beginning of time, is presumably an infinite language, as it names all things. stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him. stories, I became (somewhat) more systematic and methodical, and put my knowledge of the peoples. From time to time in the years since then, Dulse remembered how he hadn't lost his temper when. The Namer nodded. had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was

difficult to feel uneasy in an ordinary-looking town on a sweet spring morning, but in such silence he must wonder if he was indeed in a plague-stricken place or an island under a curse. He went on. Between a house and an old plum tree was a wash line, the clothes pinned on it flapping in the sunny breeze. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was cobbled, he heard voices..brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits..and he'd catch you there. I said nothing." "Lost with Ath when he went into the west," Crow said..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (21 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].quarrels with his relatives, had left Birch a thriving property. Birch hired men to manage the..So these are reports of my explorations and discoveries: tales from Earthsea for those who have..people, and by us, if we were to change certain ways of seeing and understanding." "No, no, no. Sul can handle it. Stay home and have your party. You've been working hard. We'll hire a band. Who's the best in the country? Tarry and his lot?"..the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted..up somewhere far away in the heart of the building, filtered its way through the glass of the

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