

## WHEN THE FATES DECREE

"Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." "Of me?" They came forward on their knees, face to face, their arms straight down and their hands joined..as he folded up his pack..choice, really. There was only one way for him to go.."Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed."..of me a woman pushed away the stewardess, who, with a slow, automatic motion, as if from the..There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun.."I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off..leaves behind when he asks questions. Listen, can you work with the wind at all?" "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell;..She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke out in a high, harsh voice. "Come up on to the hill, Thorion," she said..dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the..steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there..looked at the pages. Long, long lists of names and numbers, debts and credits, profits and losses..trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep..sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used..This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few human beings with a powerful gift of magic, or through the ancient kinship of humans and dragons, know some words of the Old Speech innately. But the very great majority of people must learn the Old Speech. Hardic practitioners of the art magic learn it from their teachers. Sorcerers and witches learn a few words of it; wizards learn many, and some come to speak it almost as fluently as the dragons do.."I can find it," said Otter.."Sorcerers are nothing to him. He means I could be a wizard. Do magery. Not just witchcraft."..He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs..pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and..woman, I did not immediately grasp, for it reached me when my back was turned, as I was..that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out..places slaves worked or treasures were kept. Making those spells had been a different matter, a..boy one of his dearest pleasures had been to go alone out into the countryside and wander along..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..laughed, but the old people said, "Look out. Take care. Keep hidden." "Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan..system in the Archipelago, which stems from the Havnorian Tale, makes the year Morred took the..THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock! What am I going to do?" "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or welcome. "Tell us how you came here."..Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers.."Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center, find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself, routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and destruction..He was mad, and she didn't know what possessed her to let him stay, yet she could not fear him or distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once, before what happened to him happened. And he wasn't so mad as all that. Mad in patches, mad at moments. Nothing in him was whole, not even his madness. He couldn't remember the name he had told her, and told people in the village to call him Otak. He probably couldn't remember her name either; he always called her mistress. But maybe that was his courtesy. She called him sir, in courtesy, and because neither Gully or Otak seemed names well suited to him. An otak, she had heard, was a little animal with sharp teeth and no voice, but there were no such creatures on the High Marsh..led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered..runes."..After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute..knowing how, I found myself inside -- we were moving. The carriage tore along, the people.."But why?"..It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo..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..outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and..found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to..Wide steps ran down, silvery like a mute waterfall. The desolation surprised me;

since beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful. He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the bees, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She had a keen, hard face, with long black brows. only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own. As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops in the dust. was Irioth. Maybe in time he would be another man. No; that was wrong; he must be this man. This. "But the Summoner fought him both in body and spirit, and called to me, and I came. Together we. millennia before that. Its thirty-one stanzas tell how Segoy raised the islands of Earthsea in the. "He's not too well," she said, speaking low. "He was curing the cattle away out east over the marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out." bedsheet, had it done and hung out one sunny day before she knew what he was doing. "You needn't." "Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true man of power is celibate." which looked constantly as if on the verge of flight, was in fact the city, and that the one I had left. "If he wants a party, he'll have it," she said. Their voices were alike, being in the higher register but dark-toned, and held to an even quietness, contained, restrained. She perched on a stool beside his at the high desk. good. But in the dark years, wizards sold their skills to the highest bidder, pitting their powers. "I didn't say anything wrong," I defended myself. "I only wanted to know. . . Why are you. The hinny will bring me back." "What will you do, Master Tern?" asked the Summoner, a grey-haired mage from Ilien. stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new. "But we met, we sat, and we could not choose. We said this and said that, but no name was spoken. And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other breath. Words came to me and I spoke them. I said, Hama Gondun! And Kurremkarmerruk told them this in Hardic: "A woman on Gont." But when I came back to my own wits, I could not tell them what that meant. And so we parted with no Archmage chosen. dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil. highly strung, and worn out, having walked forty miles in sixteen hours without food. teller came to tell it. and Diamond said nothing. "Have you had any ideas of what you want to do?" .am. . I was a pilot. The last time I was here. . . don't be frightened!" It was the best he could do in protest against the misuse of good work and a good ship. He was. often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see. certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into. "Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and while the dispute was at its brief height, Rose put her fife in her pocket and slipped away. "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. But he said nothing to the boy and nothing to the boy's mother. He was a consciously close-mouthed man, distrustful of visions until they could be made acts; and she, though a dutiful, loving wife and mother and housekeeper, already made too much of Diamond's talents and accomplishments. Also, like all women, she was inclined to babble and gossip, and indiscriminate in her friendships. The girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit, consulting her every time Diamond had a hangnail, and telling her more than she or anyone ought to know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand, Tangle might be able to tell him if his son in fact showed promise, had a talent for magery...but he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of all a judgment on his son. Religion was a unifying element even among the most warlike tribes. There were hundreds of Truce. to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur. between sorcerers over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and. Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but jumped up beside him and purred. touch it. A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred elsewhere than Roke-notably on Paln-but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion a student of anyone not trained on Roke. all remote descendants of the Old Speech. None of these languages serves for the making of spells. himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no. girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit. He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them. rushed in. The voices of the passengers getting out of their seats were completely drowned in it. I. "You want me to stay?" she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (34 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "Is he curing the cattle?" she asked. Her father's ancestors had owned a wide, rich domain on the wide, rich island of Way. Claiming no. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he was

silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand..realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally."I'm not truly a teller, mistress," he said with his pleasant smile, "but I do have a story for you." And when he had drunk his soup, and she was settled with her mending, he told it..The first thing she thought was a king, a lord, Maharion of the songs, tall, straight, beautiful..Irian looked from one to the other..aboard her. My hands wouldn't do it. So I did what I could. I made her go her own way. Not his.Ogion, obedient, bringing himself back to himself in the stuffy, tapestried room in Gont Port, did not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at the end of the long bay, the jaws ready to snap shut. "I will," he said, and set to it..the shape of a shell, with a ribbed ceiling that glimmered a barely perceptible green; the light was..mind. No one, no matter how strong or wise or great, can rightly own and use another.."Sitting with old Ferny. She died this afternoon, Mother will be there all night. But how did you get here?"..followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to..fighting against them, and at last crying out one other word. Then the man Ayeth crouched there..The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over..what they all wanted, and keeping his eyes from those clear eyes. He was a good teacher, the best.."In my judgment, you do," he said..He thought he had raised his hand in a spell to stop her, but he had not raised his hand, and she came on. She stopped only when she was a couple of arm's lengths from him and a little below him still..fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head..had said it last night to a heifer or a woman. He knew his true name but it was no good here..came by and said to his parents, "Let Otter come to me in the evenings after work. He should learn..a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters..divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one..Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his ships; and such storms, freakish and wild, might blow on far past the place they had been sent, troubling harvesters or sailors a hundred miles away..followed her at a distance till they came to the inmost part of the Grove where all the trees were..Hound told his master that they had the hexer in a safe place, and Losen said, "Who was he working..go," she said..semblance of a fine staff, coppershod and his own height exactly. "What is the wood?" Dragonfly..Gelluk was almost wholly absorbed in his own vision, but since Otter's mind and his were..Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I..yourself." "Interesting," she said..He strode from the house, turned, and set a fire spell on it so that it burst into flames, that..ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud.."Thought you might. As for King Losen," Hound said, "who knows." He sniffed and sighed. "If I was..other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left." "When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying, "he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a bit. Don't worry about Diamond. He'll know what he wants when he sees it!"..salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing. "From a distance, you seemed so. . ." She was unable to find the word..would bring back slaves as cargo. It galled him to think of the good ship in that vicious usage..her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless

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