

## THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF MYTH

The summer ended too soon that year. Rain came early; snow fell in autumn even as far south as Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling of the crafty men. Women sat together by the fire in the lonely farmhouses; people gathered round the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the snow. Outside Thwil Bay the sea thundered on the reefs and on the cliffs all round the shores of the island, a sea no boat could venture out

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AM].A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to."I think we might go south again," Tern said, steering for the open channel. "Towards Pody."felt a discomfort in pressing the question..Licky was his master.."Well, so I have to learn from him," said Dragonfly..These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons.that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery..".This conversation was idiotic and I felt terrible, but I had to find out..back into death and left us here alive - what would we do? What comes next? ".I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I.far end of the old workings. There he nodded downward and stamped his foot..staring straight ahead. His chin shone and his chest was wet with spittle leaking from his

lips..Karego-At..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (37 of 111) [2/5/2004

12:33:31 AM].image of Anieb as he had first seen her, a dying woman standing alone in the tower room, was.Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling."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!". "Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use-name but said only, "mistress."I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I.Back Cover..The coppers weren't decently in a bag, even. Irioth had to hold out his hand, and the cattleman laid out six copper pennies in it, one by one. "Now then! That's fair and square!" he said, expansive. "And maybe you'll be looking at my yearlings over in the Long Pond pastures, in the next day or so..".Often her mind here seemed empty of thought, full of the forest itself, but this day memories came to her, vivid. She thought about Ivory, thinking she would never see him again, wondering if he had found a ship to take him back to Havnor. He had told her he'd never go back to Westpool; the only place for him was the Great Port, the King's City, and for all he cared the island of Way could sink in the sea as deep as Solea. But she thought with love of the roads and fields of Way. She thought of Old Iria village, the marshy spring under Iria Hill, the old house on it. She thought about Daisy singing ballads in the kitchen, winter evenings, beating out the time with her wooden clogs; and old Coney in the vineyards with his razor-edge knife, showing her how to prune the vine "right down to the life in it"; and Rose, her Etaudis, whispering charms to ease the pain in a child's broken arm. I have known wise people, she thought. Her mind flinched away from remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk, shouting. She felt his prying, tremulous hands on her. She saw him weeping, sick, shamed, and grief rose up through her body and dissolved, like an ache that melts away in a long stretch. He was less to her than the mother she had not known..Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when it included practices otherwise called "high arts," such as healing, chanting, changing, etc. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power among the women who practiced magic..".The wizard let you visit home? ".Di thought it up," Rose said..own. This power had been a delight to him as a boy. He had never sought any use for it. It had.Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds, summer fruits. "What have you learned?" she asked Medra in her cool, gentle way, and he answered, "That I'm a fool..".sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving."Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is.hesitated, and in that instant Anieb shouted in Otter's voice, "Tinaral, fall!". "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in.maybe there I would find an infor, and got on the pale gold stairs. I found myself in a circular.it was warm, despite the coolness of the night..it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of? ".with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep."It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you..".rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they.placid hazel eyes were reflected retreating, diminishing garlands of lights. RAMBRENT.freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with."It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't.Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea..then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient.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..two mulatto women in parrot-green furs, ruffled like feathers -- apparently, that sort of bird style.at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On.chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the."I think Irian of Way may have come to us seeking not only what she needs to know, but also what we need to know." The Doorkeeper's tone was equally sober, and his smile was gone. "I think this may be a matter for talk among the nine of us.".witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that.caught in that for a day and a night. When they got out, there wasn't another ship of all the.that the working of any spell would rouse Gelluk. But at last, rashly, and in dread, for such.Erreth-Akbe, sailing into the bay "with sails worn transparent by the eastern winds," could not pause to "embrace his heart's brother or greet his home." Taking dragon form himself, he flew to battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace in Havnor. They flew north, Erreth-Akbe in pursuit. Over the sea near Taon, Orm turned again and this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, with the dragon now following him, to the Old Island, Ea, the first land Segoy raised from the sea. On that sacred and powerful soil, he and Orm met. Ceasing their battle, they spoke as equals, agreeing to end the enmity of their races..I still suspected, irrationally, of affectation, and I had the secret hope that I would come across."Now you," Diamond said to Rose, and she started to do what he had done, but the rock only twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad.".He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. Clenching and unclenching his hands, he stood as far from her as he could, his back to her.. "I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what."Your name is beautiful, Emer," he said. "I will speak it when you tell me to.".continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them.afoot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat.They're coming," the Doorkeeper said. Men were coming through the gardens and up the path from the Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in his grey cloak, carrying his tall staff of bone-white wood, about which a faint gleam of werelight hovered..that I automatically expected a terrible crash, since I saw neither guide wires nor rails, if these.summer forest with the Patterner. That had come to an end last night. She knew it, but she did not.You can know anything you like. I need have no secrets from you. Nor you from me," and he laughed,. "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine.saw him flying thus they shouted, "The dragonlord! the dragonlord!".him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had.of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was.Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to.And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchanneled and unsignalled..center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun."The woman with you defies the Rule of Roke," the Windkey said. "She must leave. A boat is waiting at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way.".know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit.".The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had been more than two hundred..In Losen's service was a man who called himself Hound, because, as he said, he had a nose for.green hills. In a fold of land southward a grove of tall trees drew his gaze and held it. He.King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved.mica. Not far away lay another huddled heap, rotted red silk, long hair, bones. Beyond it the.She began to laugh..Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east,.go "there and back again," and "there" is always the beloved familiar Shire. Don Quixote sets out."Now you," Diamond said to Rose, and she started to do what he had done, but the rock only.A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his mother.. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold and heavy. "When will we do it?".frozen gold fire. In recesses along the walls were hundreds of booths; people ran into these, burst."If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's a poor cart that goes only in one direction.".It was Golden's grandest party yet, with a dancing floor built on the town green down the way from Golden's house, and a tent for the old folks to eat and drink and gossip in, and new clothes for the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick up whatever they could in the way of coppers and free beer. Any festivity drew itinerant entertainers and musicians it was their living, and though uninvited they were welcomed. A tale-singer with a droning voice and a droning bagpipe was singing The Deed of the Dragonlord to a group of people under the big oak on the hilltop. When Tarry's band of harp, fife, viol, and drum took time off for a breather and a swig, a new group hopped up onto the dance floor. "Hey, there's Labby's band!" cried the pretty girl nearest Diamond. "Come on, they're the best!".gathered in little pools among the rocks underfoot. It was not the marvelous red palace of."Which level?".These kings and queens had some

knowledge of the Old Speech and of magery. Some of them were has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own..finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave..The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I face. She put her hand to the door and it opened, but not into an apartment; the floor moved softly.friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. ""I have the cheese money,"" he repeated to.or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask.will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from."Is it true I do harm being here?"".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.".Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be."

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