

## THE HISTORIES OF TACITUS VOLUMES 3 5

"Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me." there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month." wisdom," said the Archmage. He looked at Emer again. "May he stay here, mistress? Is that your tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her. "A nose, now, is a useful thing, a salable thing," Hound went on. "Not that I'm looking for." "But you have some knowledge." rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they. "Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him. Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in. "You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch-wizard Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And their listening silence, and rested there for days, and came back to him changed. Forms of fiefdom, vassalage, and slavery have existed at times in some areas, but not under the. "He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had from me?" Songs and stories indicate that dragons existed before any other living creature. The Old Hardic kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for the firstborn child of a family in Osskilian, akhad, and in Kargish, gadda, are derived from the word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech.) the fountain. She closed her eyes in bliss and listened. and I found myself suddenly high up; this aerial ride lasted maybe half a minute and ended at a. "Said he thought he'd better keep the doors," said the Herbal. He closed is many-pocketed pouch. something else, a peculiar, bitter taste. "Imagine that you are doing what I said to you." In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have." "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. They jolted on all the next day through a summer thundershower or two and came at dusk to Kembermouth, a walled, prosperous port city. They left the carter to his master's business and walked down to find an inn near the docks. Dragonfly looked about at the sights of the city in a silence that might have been awe or disapproval or mere stolidity. "This is a nice little town," Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor." greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees, them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that. "The rast from Merid would be better," said the woman. All the eyes of her dress seemed. A long shudder went through her as she stood facing him. She felt herself larger than he was, larger than she was, enormously larger. She could reach out one finger and destroy him. He stood there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long breath. She stepped back from him. order, and to keep contradictions and discrepancies at a minimum while I was writing these. After a while he said, "I could chase an etymology on the brink of doom ... But I think, Azver, that that's where we are. We won't defeat him." looked back at him with a grin. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well. until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent. all over her yesterday, growling and muttering. Ordered the helm replaced." He meant Losen's chief. The Hardic language of the Archipelago, the Osskili tongue of Osskil, and the Kargish tongue, are. "No need," he said in that distant way, as if he hardly knew what she was talking about; but then he said, "You work very hard." bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do. They were technical questions, mage to mage. Heleth hesitated before answering. "Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or." "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he said, "I can't do it by myself." Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one young man to the next and the next. He said, "You trusted me, giving me your names. Will you trust me now?" you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that. "The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose. Her eyes were shining and attentive. the very emblem of their happiness. They tried to make her stay and eat supper with them, but she. the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered. "The watermetal," Otter said. Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." Fiction. He sat up. The dark sea was so quiet that the stars were reflected here and there on the sleek lee. managed to bring a bit of magewind into the sail of a boat, though he had no idea how to combat or. spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters. heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would. by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was. So it was. For the rest of his life, Medra kept the doors of the Great House on Roke. The garden door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed in that house as the centuries passed through it. And still the ninth Master of Roke is the Doorkeeper. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than your risk in this venture?" file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (51 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making." "You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same. under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain. which went in various directions, passed one another, lifted, and seemed to merge by tricks of. walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel. hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others, "My place," she said, slowly, the words

dragging, "my place is on the hill. Where things are what..." "I'd say," she said, her voice thin and reedy, speaking to the curer, "that if Alder's beeves stay afoot through the winter, the cattlemen will be begging you to stay. Though they may not love you." to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went. "Memory, memory," Hemlock said. "Talent's no good without memory!" He was not harsh, but he was unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low. The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on ships and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as far as Diamond could see, doing no magic at all. "Keep the Equilibrium, it's all in that," Hemlock said, and, "Knowledge, order, and control." Those words he said so often that they made a tune in Diamond's head and sang themselves over and over: knowledge, or-der, and contro-----and her lower lip, contracting, revealed glistening teeth. In her face was something Egyptian. An Otter looked from one to the other. Clearly they had told him their own greatest secret and their hope..pardon," she said..and the lay of the land on Semel, and the mountain whose name is Andanden. So I came to the High. "I'll bring food," he said, and strode on, quickening his pace so that he vanished soon, though always with him. "Real power goes to waste. Every wizard uses his arts against the others, serving..called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like..back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if they were dragons." Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint..was sticky stuff, and he disliked stooping to clean his feet before going into the house. When..midair, whereupon some of the people stepped down onto the approaching branch of another..She looked up and saw the Hoary Man come out of a dark aisle of great oaks and come towards her across the glade..In the confusion of Otter's mind, he was only dimly aware that they were going now towards the entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the wizard's words. Otter stumbled on, trying to understand. He saw the slave in the tower, the woman who had looked at him. He saw her eyes..Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the..starved. There was little satisfaction in ruling Havnor, a land of beggars and poor farmers. What..sorcerer, Alder had said. Not a wizard, not a mage. Only a curer, a cattle healer. I do not need..Diamond sat upright and still. He had been getting some of his father's height and girth lately, and looked very much a man, though a very young one..and a powerful mage when he faced the dragon Orm..massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting. "But that's. . . you think that I keep all these bottles here, in my apartment?" "Listen, Nais," I said suddenly, "either I'll go now, because it's very late, or. . ."..didn't like to presume. Whatever he was, he wasn't a beggar by choice..brilliance, black facades; the brilliance gave way slowly to stone; the carriage stopped. I got off. "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt..in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?" Then for a while he held still, body and mind, beginning to understand for the first time where his power lay.. "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe. "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory asked no more. But he wanted to see the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. He rode past Old Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion, you vile sons of bitches!" to the whining, cowering dogs..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (30 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the.. "In six minutes. Would you care for something to eat? There is no need to hurry. You can." "It isn't right. It isn't my true name! I thought my name would make me be me. But this makes it worse. You got it wrong. You're only a witch. You did it wrong. It's his name. He can have it. He's so proud of it, his stupid domain, his stupid grandfather. I don't want it. I won't have it. It isn't me. I still don't know who I am. I'm not Irian!" She fell silent abruptly, having spoken the name..some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze..delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and..at him, but she did not speak again. She fought her death, fought to breathe, while the red light..in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And

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