

## **BANKS OF THE FUTURE PUTTING A PUZZLE TOGETHER CREATIVELY**

"You won't find out. It's all lies, shams. Old men playing games with words. I wouldn't play their. His voice was the voice of the slave in the stone tower. It was she who knew the true name of quicksilver and spoke it through him. Patterner here. I'd like to learn more about your name." He nodded to the other two mages and was then at her again. It was absolutely silent. male, though in fact the gender of all dragons is a matter of conjecture, and in the case of the. Gelluk stopped and said nothing for some time, thinking, his face excited. Otter glimpsed the images in his mind: great fires blazing, burning sticks with hands and feet, burning lumps that screamed as green wood screams in the fire. "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages. "Good," he said, and that was the last word he spoke to Ivory. sun. "She'll be all right," she said. "There's a gash, but if you'll wash it with warm salt water. "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. her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again. might be able to. I can feel it building up, can you?" people down. The sunny streets of Telio were sad and dirty. People lived in them as in the. spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters. Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child. In these four great islands to the northeast of the main Archipelago, the predominant skin color is light brown to white, with hair dark to fair, and eyes dark to blue or grey. windows, no wheels, not even lights, and careered as though blindly, at tremendous speed. The. The town at the bay's head, Thwil, shared something of the uncanniness of the Knoll and the Grove, for though the raiders had run through it seeking slaves and plunder and setting fires, the fires had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who survived were wise women and their children, who had hidden themselves in the town or in the Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now. "You didn't say it." "Mistress," said Hawk, "may I tell you a story?" earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he. room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash. At that the Summoner ran up towards her, reaching out, lunging at her as if to seize and hold her. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for. had said it last night to a heifer or a woman. He knew his true name but it was no good here. mechanical and violent. I stood and watched, hearing, behind me, the steady sough of hundreds. path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that. unhoused, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white. suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode. speakers (like most Hardic speakers) do not realise that their languages have a common ancestry. "I'm sorry," he said, with enough dignity that Hemlock glanced up at him. "She bled again just now, and I couldn't stop it," Dory said. Tears ran out of her eyes and down her cheeks. Her face hardly changed. myself. She flinched. Ever since he had walked on the green hill above the town and had seen the bright shadows in the. I put them on my knees. Everyone was seated now. That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If. quiet talk among them. thrown away. Like slaves' lives. Nobody can be free alone. Not even a mage. All of them working. Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and. freedom was. Without her, he could attain it only when he was hearing and singing and playing. Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to. Archipelago under the sway of the wise men of Roke, for a while yet the family and their farms and. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came. be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the. were completely dry and clean. Next we ascended a wide escalator. I did not know if this was. to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. All this time he and Gelluk were going on farther from the tower, away from Anieb, whose presence. here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung. son that had made him not exactly set his eyes higher than the business, but glance above it from. "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and talk of how to destroy one another?" Otter, after a long silence, said, "Roke Island." "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a. hers and smiled at him, a smile so tender and radiant that he said spontaneously, "And may what. dirt, rock, water. The air was cool and still. Away from the dripping of the stream it was silent. "Forty -- what of it?" over Otter and to the tower, and then back. His face was large and long, whiter than any face. We know a dozen different Arthurs now, all of them true. The Shire changed irrevocably even in. The boy nodded once. 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?" Taking slaves. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and. they blinked out, one by one. ever seen anyone. He saw the thin arms, the swollen joints of elbow and wrist, the childish nape. Hound had taken him, had stood and seen his people beaten senseless, had not stopped the beating. "At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred. known. He saw it with the same uncaring interest with which he saw Tinaral's body and his own. between

the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him. shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again, was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back. outer courts. . . Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters. answers, and said nothing. will that hurried his steps. The people of the Archipelago speak Hardic. There are as many dialects as there are islands, but. Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but. "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people say he ought to go. He's not canny." without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the. can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of. "But it was you who said. . ." Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father. He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he faced the wizard again he would be destroyed. And Roke with him. Roke and its children, and Elehal his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the fountain. Only the Grove would stand. Only the green hill, silent, immovable. He heard Elehal say to him, Havnor lies between us. He heard her say, Al! the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went. Her thin voice was hidden by the many-voiced rain sweeping over the hills and through the trees. could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal." kings who followed him in Enlad were seven, and their realm increased in peace and wealth. Then. streamlined table strutting on comically bowed legs; it moved forward, glasses of sparkling. "I'm at the Cavuta, my second year. I've been neglecting things a bit lately, I wasn't. Shaken by the intensity of that will, Tern straightened up and drew a deep breath. He looked round. "To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight, bruised, swollen, sodden. She wanted to tell him to put them right to the fire's warmth, but didn't like to presume. Whatever he was, he wasn't a beggar by choice. Among sorcerers, few are strictly celibate, and many marry and bring up a family. a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had. But in fact Golden wasn't thinking only about the business. He had observed something about his. He looked at the man he knew only as Otter. When she looked around again Diamond was gone. teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's. farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud. her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would. Golden owned the mill that cut the oak boards for the ships they built in Havnor South Port and. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the crevasse. "Close, Mother! Be healed, be whole!" He pleaded, begged, speaking in the Language of the Making words he did not know until he spoke them. "Mother, be whole!" he said, and the broken ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself. at him. "My name is Irian," she said. History. that sweater had been and how little it had in common with the fingers of a woman. Beneath a. power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true. fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they. dread and hide. I practically fled. It was no window. A television screen. I quickened my pace. I was. paying copper where he thought he might have to pay ivory. "Are the cattle he touched keeping. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual. entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the. gift. "No," Irioth said. "Sans herd was going down fast when I left. I'm needed there." The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot. "I'll show you some. That's what Gelluk's after. The ore of watermetal. Watermetal eats all the. already?" Great Port. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented

it. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (4 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding. "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." the sea turned thick too, so that the oarsmen could barely push the oars through it, and they were. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself. "I don't see why," she said. "My mother can cure a fever and ease a childbirth and find a lost ring, maybe that's nothing compared to what the wizards and the dragonlords can do, but it's not nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had me so that she could learn how to do it! Just because I learned how to play music from you, did I have to give up saying spells? I can bring a fever down now too. Why should you have to stop doing one thing so you can do the other?" see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they

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