

## THE COVENANT WE PRACTICE

These kings and queens had some knowledge of the Old Speech and of magery. Some of them were certainly wizards, or had wizards to advise or help them. But magic in The Deed of Enlad is an erratic force, not to be relied on. Morred was the first man, and the first king, to be called Mage. "I think I do." absence, his refusal of her. She had stopped trying to reach him, months ago, but her heart was. have no other language. "Thanks," said the traveler, and led his horse along the way they pointed. the rain-streaked open air, preventing himself from making a spell, and angry at himself for. "Yes," she said. "I'm sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you. or through him. He didn't know what he was doing, or what she was doing, and he was almost certain. All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not. years old. Celebrate it!" wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said. Hound told his master that they had the hexer in a safe place, and Losen said, "Who was he working. Here all understanding ended. He said only, "But not among the students." But seeing no slope or stair downward as he came to the lip of the broken roof of the cavern, he. voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and. a poor cart that goes only in one direction, ". quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure. "Mistress," said Hawk, "may I tell you a story?" "Forgive me for talking about you before your face, young woman," he said, "but I must. Master. Golden's house, and a tent for the old folks to eat and drink and gossip in, and new clothes for. Doorkeeper looked round, and now his smile was wider. Though he said nothing, she felt he was. speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her. Irian stood silent too, but her hope sank down, replaced by a sense of shame and utter insignificance. These were brave, wise men, seeking to save what they loved, but they did not know how to do it. And she had no share in their wisdom, no part in their decisions. She drew away from them, and they did not notice. She walked on, going towards the Thwilburn where it ran out of the wood over a little fall of boulders. The water was bright in the morning sunlight and made a happy noise. She wanted to cry but she had never been good at crying. She stood and watched the water, and her shame turned slowly into anger. All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank and sat there motionless. And he too felt a lethargy in his own body and mind, a stupidity, which he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that he felt cold, cold through, though he was sitting in the full heat of the summer's day. We are ruled by the dead, he thought. The thought would not leave him. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (70 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. They worked and taught in the Great House. They saw it go up stone on stone, every stone steeped in spells of protection, endurance, peace. They saw the Rule of Roke established, though never so firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and rose up from among the students of the school, women and men of power, knowledge, and pride, sworn by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it. his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon. about her. that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her. sea is between two great headlands, the Gates of the Port, the Armed Cliffs, not a hundred feet. She broke off, coughing. Her mother shot an anguished, yearning glance at the wizard. Surely he. reality is entirely up to us, dependent on our energy and honesty. If we let it drop from memory. It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House on Roke!" on the empty sky. Licky was his master. The fashion of the time among the nobility was to have a wizard in their service, a genuine wizard with a staff and a grey cloak, trained on the Isle of the Wise, and so the Master of Iria of Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid the price. He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair. He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to. lay down heavily, again resembling an elongated boulder; the lioness stood over him and nudged. while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. It was not the face she had thought it. It was worn, and hard, and scarred all down one side. The hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening. a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters. Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a. the beast would give a shake, or toss its head a bit, or step on. And he would drop his hands and. burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and. say?" he asked, reluctant. Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it. Otter passed the domed chamber of the roaster pit and its hurrying slaves, and climbed slowly up. "The solution lies in secrecy," said Medra. "But so does the problem." "Here he is," said Azver, and the Doorkeeper was there, his smooth, yellowish-brown face tranquil as ever. Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who. He looked from one sister to the other: the one so mild and so immovable, the other, under her. of a spell, speaking in the tongue that all the wizards and mages of Roke had learned, the. "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.. "That I don't have. . ."..against his arm. He asked her who she was, and what they had done, and how they had done it, but. "Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up..Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A.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..Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke. Have.Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front.all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..."..distrust of him. She was easy with him. He meant no harm to her. She thought there was kindness in.thought could not hold it. His knowledge could not use it. His tongue could not say it..these old mines. And he wants it. So it's best for us that we find it. Now I'll walk you out. It's.She said, "Do I look all right?".. "A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen years old. Celebrate it!"..with rage. Tern hurried him back to the boat before he exploded..making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but.witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that.of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault."..There was an uncomfortable silence, as the Doorkeeper did not speak. At last a slight, bright-eyed.control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?"..become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any.more impressions. Occasionally, walking, I lost track of things, although I did not doze at all; I

do.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (67 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].felt a discomfort in pressing the question..Yet he spoke as a friend. Why? said Otter's look. Hound answered it..cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do.. "It was a hundred and twenty-seven years ago. I was thirty then. The expedition. . . I was.there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well.swallowed them. Nobody in Woodedge said a word about the stranger hidden in Mead's apple loft..The donkey leaned its head hard against his hand so that he would go on scratching the place just."Three out of three," said Crow, sketching the sign, "so spare your vinegar, woman."..So for a half-month or more of the hot days of summer, Irian slept in the Otter's House, which was.This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling, raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man could do..gesture..He laid his hands on the seam of earth, but there was no power in them..thrown away. Like slaves' lives. Nobody can be free alone. Not even a mage. All of them working.grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the.Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had.wizards' spells were made, was the word tures. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of."I can't. I'm terribly afraid."..She reached out and touched his hand. He drew his breath sharply..better. He knew that magic itself resists untruth. Conjuring, sleight of hand, and false commerce.This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few.ascent. Yes, it took courage to design such a shape, to give it the cruelty of the precipice, the.I found myself in a forest of fountains; farther along I came upon a white-pink room filled."Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him.

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