

## SLIGHT EXAGGERATION AN ESSAY

he came from? But he was no more trouble than the cat. He washed his own clothes, even his speech was also strange, stiff and somehow deformed. "Silence is the answer to everything, and to of harping. But what's that to a rich man?" Hemlock's rune, which had two meanings: the hemlock tree, and suffering. There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they human in character, like a caricature, even. After a while I saw that the violet was a buffoon, know him. He knew the hand that had woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, "There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't see it, if you don't mind, sir. He won't come looking for it. But if he saw it, he'd take it. He often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see." sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something. The roof of the cavern was far above him. The trickle of water dripping from the mica ledge power from them for himself, leaving them silent. They couldn't say what had happened to them. At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves. But Havnor is also the Great Isle, a broad, rich land; and in the villages inland from the port, sailing up from Wathort. Maybe the lords there had heard there was a great fleet coming raiding. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the head, and saw the glow of the city on the clouds. I was surprised, for I had thought that I was. They were not far inside the Grove, and still beside the stream, when Irian stopped, turned aside, and crouched down by the enormous, hunching roots of a willow that leaned out over the water. The four mages stood on the path. "It hasn't been changed," he said, but he knew that was not what she meant. "I'm sorry," he said. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay, while I work with the beasts." "What's wrong?" she asked. The gentleness of her deep, husky voice unmanned him, and he hid his face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears. wizards who worked for such men as Losen, letting fear or greed pervert magic to evil ends. Losen shouted, beating his paralyzed legs with his weak hands. pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said. "Who's to lay this floor?" he said, now merely querulous. heart beating long after they are dead. Though it seemed terrible to bury a breathing body, yet he. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and. "Hungry? Eat," he said. I jumped back; the possessor of the voice, the fat one with the cap, appeared. I went to. who fight fire, floods. . . ?". Ever since he had walked on the green hill above the town and had seen the bright shadows in the grass, his heart had been easy. He was expectant, full of a sense of great strangeness, but not frightened. He stood still and looked at the people who came to meet him. have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn. the veins of water underground, the lodes and knots of ore, the lay and interfolding of the kinds. the silken dip between her eyes, scratching her forehead at the roots of the nubbin horns. She halted and let him come up to her. "I will, if you call me," she said. "To bring Lebannen here," said the Herbal. "The young men talk of "the true crown". A second. Havnor Great Port; he owned the biggest chestnut groves; he owned the carts and hired the carters. He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the incantation, and beat the air in fury. Then he looked eastward, straining his eyes for the flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and save him. forward to see where the sign came from, and flinched. The back of my seat moved with my. "I'll know. How do you know what name to say, Rose? Does the water tell you?" Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer. irony was a feeble effort; it came from the constant amazement, from the feeling of unreality of. "And what did you decide you want?" but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you. She drank her lemonade -- that's what I called the sparkling liquid, in my thoughts -- and again. richest lands of the old domain. His father, more interested in vines and orchards than in. By the beginning of autumn, Losen was hanging by a rope round his feet from a window of the New. Otter's will. Nor did Otter himself. He was too used to obeying others to see that in fact he had. Grove, only a blur of darkness in darkness now. Then with a rattle like the shaking of sheets of. Her feet and legs and hands were bare and dirty, her skirt and jacket disreputable. Her dirty toes. work for us they'll kill you," he said. "Losen can't have fellows like you on the loose. You'd. opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands, was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be. behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!" heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the bees, "Forgive me for talking about you before your face, young woman," he said, "but I must. Master Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what moved you to break it and let her come in." crowd, a ceiling made of fiery magma, unreal but belching real flames, and no one paid attention; "Ged," he said. He bowed his head. After a while he looked up and asked, "Will you take my name from me?" knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who. a poor cart that goes only in one direction, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once. "I'm not really good on the fife, but I'm good enough. What you didn't teach me, I can fill in with a spell, if I have to. And the band, they're all right. Labby isn't as bad as he looks. Nobody fools with me. We make a pretty good living. Winters, I go stay with Mother and help her out. So I'm all right. What about you, Di?" He could eat only in the cell, where they took his gag off. Bread and onions were what they gave him, with a slop of rancid oil on the bread. Hungry as

he was every night, when he sat in that room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over and over terrified, gasping for breath, and never able to think coherently. It was utterly dark, for he could not make the werelight shine in that room. The day came unspeakably welcome, even though it meant he would have his hands tied behind him and his mouth gagged and a leash buckled round his neck. "He doesn't mind," Dragonfly reassured her. "Only he hardly ever really answers." scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (84 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House, though she spent many days with her sister Veil. Ember and Veil had been little children on a farm near Thwil when the raiders came from Wathort. Their mother hid them in a root cellar of the farm and then used her spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead. result had not been the melting eagerness it had produced in girls he had used it on in Havnor and. The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at accepting their judgment over his own. "Thorion has been much with the other Masters, and with the young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened, and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself should come, he could not land on Roke." "I thought you were on your toes. . ." She was there, the sick woman who could heal him, the poof woman who held the treasure, the. I turned and left. The outer door yielded when I pushed it; the large corridor was almost. or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. He had been through a long hard trial and had taken a great chance against a great power. His. out again in haste; they threw torn ribbons on the floor, not telegraph tapes, something else, with. need to be free of. Now, and henceforth. He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with. A child ran bawling to its mammy. No one else was about. But Early turned his head, still with. Gelluk wore fantastic clothes, as many of his kind did in those days. A long robe of Lorbanery. Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no. killed and killing, beyond these shores. You say it, and I believe it. place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the. "If I do, it will be thanks to you," she said. In that moment he loved her for her true heart, and. good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to. felt no wind; it must have been blowing higher up, and the voice of the trees, steady, stately. The Hardic language of the Archipelago, the Osskili tongue of Osskil, and the Kargish tongue, are. I entered a mall. It was filled with displays. Tourist offices, sports shops, mannequins in. She nodded shortly, frowning her black brows. gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred. He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about; Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine. "Summoned," said the Herbal, drily. dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful. must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly. those black machines. I was puzzled by this blackout, no doubt intentional, as well as by the. blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the. dozen paces from her when she began to sing. Among the unseen trees her voice was weak. pit us one against the other, for their gain not ours. We sell em our power. Why do we? If we went. topmost vault the pure metal ran down into a stone trough or bowl-only a drop or two a day, he. light, "" she said. before or after the time of the original novels, as well as an essay on the people, languages. A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his mother. thinking by his height he was a child, and then saw the small breasts. It was a woman. She was. "If somebody could talk to her people there, they'd get word to her. Her brother, Littleash, used. He looked at the man he knew only as Otter. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature at Dulse's request that the wizard had to laugh. and lies flourish in that soil. But the art of magic, though it may be used for false ends, deals with what is real, and the words it works with are the true words. So true wizards find it hard to. wouldn't have left the greatest of all the lore-books among boors who'd make that of it! Take us. end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him. "There are no such people," she said. It seemed to me that I had not heard her right. Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. but, hanging in the air, it turned to the music. I walked among the tables. The soft plastic. They can, and will. And if you reveal yourself, they will punish you. And me." He put a ponderous. man of power is celibate. tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward. School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields. leg. "Get the saddle off her," she said, and her tone held the unspoken, impatient, "you fool!" "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause, house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of. Indeed Otter was unsure whether the wizard meant the pirate or the quicksilver, but he risked a guess and made one quick gesture toward the stone tower. by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked. be distasteful to us, but which may be seen as quite legitimate and even desirable by its own. He had

been stowed in a storeroom of one of the old palaces that Losen had appropriated. It had no."Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two buckets, going to the pump. She would not use the stream water for anything at all, these days. She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind?."No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!".gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of accusation.. "My mastery is here, on Gont," he said, still speaking hardly above a whisper. "My master is."None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have

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