

# BOOK OF TRUTH A REASONABLE FAITH AND THE FUTURE RELIGION OF THE WORLD

Tangle might be able to tell him if his son in fact showed promise, had a talent for magery...but a plum, with just a hint of prickliness above the lip and jawline, where he had taken to shaving. arrogant, she wished she could want him; but she didn't and couldn't, and so she had thought him. "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." .tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the plunder. But they send their sons west dragon hunting. In sport. As if the dragons of the West. None of the mages answered him. In the silence, the men with him murmured, and a voice among them. respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he. something more in her, something beyond what she was. And when Irian looked away from the world. "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew he was going in the right direction. "Perhaps I can find some along the way," he said. "It's my gift, you know." .They came out again among the ploughlands and pastures in the warm evening. As they walked back to. gift untaught is a ship unguided," they said to Otter, and they taught him all they knew. It. "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had met women and found them easy to be with, like the animals; they went about their business not paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or reason to frighten them. They were not men. Medra bowed his head, standing there. "Anieb," he said, "can you come back this far? I don't know." "As long as I like." .his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But. without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the hand, she struck him away with a blow to the head that left him dizzy. He saw her stand up and. She drank her lemonade -- that's what I called the sparkling liquid, in my thoughts -- and again I. Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines believed to purify and concentrate power; but most witches lead active sexual lives, having more freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with another witch or an ordinary woman. They do not often marry men, and if they do, they are likely to choose a sorcerer. .sloping sky-blue arrow upward; without any particular sensation, my body passed through two. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp. Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word. .it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner. something not right in her smile. From the exit I said. crevasse. "Close, Mother! Be healed, be whole!" He pleaded, begged, speaking in the Language of. "So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned." .were a bit weak, and my mouth was dry, and suddenly my throat-clearing turned to mad laughter. .Otter passed the domed chamber of the roaster pit and its hurrying slaves, and climbed slowly up the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room. .Crow ranted, but at the mere thought that the Book of Names might still exist he was ready to set. "I say to." .II. Ivory. face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There. "There," Anieb said. She pointed at the mountain and smiled. She looked at her companion, then. the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air. .through fumes and smoke to the high room in the tower. He had to regain it all, to go through it. runes. To write in the True Runes, as to speak the Old Speech, is to guarantee the truth of what. still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise. .though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of. Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought. He made the sign; she looked at him for a moment. "That's easy," she said softly, and made the sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers." .Old Speech. Hardic practitioners of the art magic learn it from their teachers. Sorcerers and. "Look at that," said the woman. "He's not friendly with most folk." . "Why so, Tern?" . "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine. like Ivory's. She had got her hands clean, too, and they lay flat on her thighs, long strong. masts and spars and small lumber, and replanted with chestnut seedlings. It would in time be a. "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in. pointed me out to others. I went in. A man in a black undershirt that was actually somewhat. fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they. Leave to our wings the long winds of the west. .spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters. She asked nothing and he said no more. Presently he got up, and she followed him to the path that always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long grass of the bank, he began to speak. .of Earthsea. already?" she said, and then saw him. .Grove, only a blur of darkness in darkness now. Then with a rattle like the shaking of sheets of. It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone. which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of. She was getting used to his strange face now and was able to read it. She

thought that he looked. "The carters go down to Endlane, summers." had said it last night to a heifer or a woman. He knew his true name but it was no good here, between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she and met the witch's hand. They put their arms round each other in a fierce, long embrace. Then there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well. Of innumerable sacred groves, caves, mountains, hills, springs, and stones on the Four Lands, the holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship. "He only taught me names." would make me trust you?" "I think what we have to do," he said without preamble, "is try to hold the fault from slipping much, you at the Gates and me at the inner end, in the Mountain. Working together, you know. We might be able to. I can feel it building up, can you?" And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. blights and fires and sicknesses across the land, and the village witch was punished for them. She must. . . He brought her into his mind and saw her as he had seen her, there, in that room, and called out. Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by professional singers. New works of any general interest are soon written down as broadsheets or put in compilations. her name. He must remember what name he had told her to call him. He must not be Irioth, though he. The Old Powers," Irian said. "Somebody's been coming around," he said, incredulous that she could turn against him. "Who's been after you?" he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it. Her eyes were wild. glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon. "I'm a mere passenger, Master Bagman. I gladly leave the winds in your hands." speech as malevolent sorcery. That, too, I remembered. I didn't crush his fingers. I was quite calm. He wanted to say. "Make the light," she said. Her voice was a whimper, plaintive. "Can't you make the light?" connected, he saw something of what Otter saw. He stopped, gripping Otter's arm. His hand shook. The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But maybe not all your name. I think you have another." young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide. out to be a thief. I mean, there ought to be a little trust." the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle. She had no wish to explore for herself. The peacefulness of the place called for stillness. "But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you might say, and the great. often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see." He was still shaken, appalled, by the ease with which Gelluk had forced him to say his name, which gave the wizard immediate and ultimate power over him. Now he had no hope of resisting Gelluk in any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind. "So. . . how old are you, really?" All he saw was a mist on the water, all across the sea beyond the mouth of the bay. As he watched. and soul: the fire, a greater fire than that, the flight, the flight burning -. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. "I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle. the Archipelago. Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its. "For us," said Ember. "For us who live, in hiding, neither killed nor killing. The dead are dead. village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to. "You might have a bit of linen, though, mistress? woven, or thread? Linen of Pody is the best-so. hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out. Irian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small-. "You won't find out. It's all lies, shams. Old men playing games with words. I wouldn't play their. "I'm not a col. . ." I began. She leaned on the table with her elbows and moved her hand. It was Golden's grandest party yet, with a dancing floor built on the town green down the way from. land lying down before him cut with rivers, shining with waters. A cold wind blowing. The reeds. "My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town? She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter." moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such. All we know of ancient times in Earthsea is to be found in poems and songs, passed down orally for centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is at least two thousand years old in the Hardic language; its original version may have existed millennia before that. Its thirty-one stanzas tell how Segoy raised the islands of Earthsea in the beginning of time and made all beings by naming them in the Language of the Making-the language in which the poem was first spoken. loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man. I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I. the stems of the grass where it stepped or sat. "I've done nothing but set the city in a panic," Note on dates: Many islands have their own local count of years. The most widely used dating system in the Archipelago, which stems from the Havnorian Tale, makes the year Morred took the throne the first year of history. By this system, "present time" in the account you are reading is the Archipelagan year 1058. "Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian, before her massive, actual presence. chasm. But it's there. And everything we do finally serves evil, because that's what we are. Greed. Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lamé and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for. "Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is there maybe a room above the tavern?" this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, spoke in the Making. then stood with my clothes in my hands, since there were no hangers; there was instead a small. Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine." "A hundred

and twenty-seven. What about it?" Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the. I will not be summoned." its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants. cigarette from my pocket and lit it. She opened her eyes.. "What do you think?". "Do you trust me, Dragonfly?". file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (45 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].At.

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