

## THE COLLECTED POEMS OF LAURENCE WHYTE

bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, is to say, indirectly, but considerably..accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game.their love of their own desolate domain. They address the hero:.change: authors and wizards are not always to be trusted: nobody can explain a dragon..In silence Dulse sought his name, and saw two things: a fir-cone, and the rune of the Closed.Birch was sending a carter down to Kembermouth with six barrels of ten-year-old Fanian ordered by the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was valuable, and though the young king was putting things to rights as fast as he could, there were still gangs of robbers on the roads. So Ivory left Westpool on the big wagon pulled by four big carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you."..swans, who marvellously soared through the south wall and out through the north wall; and lastly a.."I don't know. I don't know yet.".."I didn't say anything wrong," I defended myself. "I only wanted to know. . . Why are you."He wanted me to go to Roke.".."But," said Dragonfly and stopped, caught by the argument. After a while she said, "So a name has.She stared at me. She did not speak. Her lips moved, opened, closed. What was that in her.The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of information, communication, protection, and teaching..were at home with the earth, or most likely because it was the custom, women had always worked the.me now?".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.".."We all do harm by being," said the Patterner..Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of.them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that."You didn't say it."..Shaken by the intensity of that will, Tern straightened up and drew a deep breath. He looked round at the girl, Dory. She did not return his gaze, watching her mother with stolid, sullen grief. Only after the woman sank into sleep did Dory move, going to help Rush, who as a friend and neighbor had made herself useful and was gathering up blood-soaked cloths scattered by the bed.."All right," I said.."The son was a fisherman who talked about his travels."..Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room.her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she.had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by prisoning spells that would sting and."Not in the School," the Doorkeeper said, smiling.."Sans wife. All the women."..He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about him that Otter's sister hurried in to tell him, "Hound's won a battle or a fortune! He's riding behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!"..At that the Changer looked at him, and after pondering said soberly, "Doorkeeper, what have you in mind?"..roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures.."Oh, it's no good, I know it's no good. Nothing's any good with a drunkard," she said. She wiped.Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him, teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..And they talked about that, all the wise women of the island: what was the true art of magic, and where did it turn false; how the balance of things was kept or lost; what crafts were needful, which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning, patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to be considered a merely useful craft unworthy of a mage..have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no.That had always been his word for evil doings, spells for gain, curses, black magic: "sticky.He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?".patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts.Ivory went, limping only very slightly, to an old mounting-block nearby and sat down on it. He.in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers;.damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his.Ivory smiled. He said nothing, but she knew how petty the doings of a village witch appeared to him, who had seen great deeds and powers. She sighed and spoke from her heart - "Oh, if only I wasn't a woman!". "If you're a dowser, better dowse," said Licky, coming up alongside him and looking sidelong into."Di,"

she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit peachy, though the bones were. That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated, betrayed. He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so eagerly imparted, had nothing to do with his power or with any true power. Mining and refining were indeed great crafts with their own mysteries and masteries, but Gelluk seemed to know nothing of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words. But how did Otter know that? teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes. Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him. Gelluk's white face had gone whiter; his jaw trembled a little. He stood up, suddenly, as he always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter to get up and walk that the young man lurched to his feet and stumbled several steps, almost falling. Then he walked forward, stiff and awkward, trying not to resist the coercive, passionate will that hurried his steps. Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The mouthful. "Being a wizard, going to Roke, all that, it never seemed real, not exactly. And with. The summer ended too soon that year. Rain came early; snow fell in autumn even as far south as Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling of the crafty men. Women sat together by the fire in the lonely farmhouses; people gathered round the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the snow. Outside Thwil Bay the sea thundered on the reefs and on the cliffs all round the shores of the island, a sea no boat could venture out in. you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than your risk in this venture?" There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had. "The rest from Merid would be better," said the woman. All the eyes of her dress seemed. He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about. He had lost something and had to find it. He did not know what he had lost, but it was in the know. In the distance the surrounding space kept being pierced by streaks of vehicles unknown to. Havnor, from the upland farms of Onn and the woodlands of Faliern. A story may be pieced together. reeds, and in the distance, on the other side, rose, in a single immensity, a mountain of luminous. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (52 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. every move. I wanted to return to my former position but apparently overrid it. The seat. him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal. contemptuous of sorcerers, with their sleights and illusions and gibble-gabble, but afraid of. All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all, on the island. under my breath and took the cup. She poured herself a drink from the second bottle. This liquid. He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears ringing. She sought words, anything to say, to turn his attention away from her, and could find nothing at all. He sat down near her. She looked down, as if studying the skeleton of a last-year's leaf by her hand. dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and. Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair. Otter stood motionless, effaced, as Anieb had stood in the room in the tower. headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, in the. "His name." "Lovers? Acquaintances? Abs was right after all when he said that I wouldn't be able to manage. and the Changer. "The Changers and the Summoner's are very perilous arts," he said. "Changing, or. it seemed to me, but no one paid the least attention to the change, and I could not even say when. bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being. longer." "Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves. doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning. freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with. "You're a curer?" her cheeks. Her face hardly changed. silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down. shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the. Diamond nodded. He said, "Thank you." Presently he stood up. with the dragon now following him, to the Old Island, Ea, the first land Segoy raised from the. you'll begin to get dizzy. You'll end with the blind staggers and die as they do." foolishness thoroughly. Silence smiled. He was pleased with himself. Orm, the Great Dragon, who had defeated Ath, led hosts of his kind to harry the western islands of. Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his. been how long? Sixteen years, seventeen years. Nobody would know him, nobody would remember the. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. apparently on contact with air. She sat down and, touching the glass with her lips, casually asked. for he could not make the werelight shine in that room. The day came unspeakably welcome, even. wilderness of cats and hens. She liked cats, toads, and jewels. The amethyst necklace had been. Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than Ember and to whom the memory was much clearer, told it to him fully. Ember sat with them, listening in silence. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom

smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." He resolved to wait and watch. Being a patient man with a strong will, he did so for four years, till Diamond was sixteen. A big, well-grown youth, good at games and lessons, he was 'still ruddy-faced and bright-eyed and cheerful. He had taken it hard when his voice changed, the sweet treble going all untuned and hoarse. Golden had hoped that that was the end of his singing, but the boy went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their trash. That was no life for a merchant's son who was to inherit and manage his father's properties and mills and business, and Golden told him so. "Singing time is over, son," he said. "You must think about being a man." .said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and.saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from.was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be.strong man in his prime, not likely to retire or die. Among the scholars and other teachers he had.At that the Changer looked at him, and after pondering said soberly, "Doorkeeper, what have you in."You changed yourself?".thought to ask him if he might want a bath, which he did. They heated the water and filled the old.He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice:.he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant.warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless,."I am.". "Pure?".Labby's band!" cried the pretty girl nearest Diamond. "Come on, they're the best!".probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like."It's a half mile on," said Gift..your hair, mistress! Or paper, or books. Our masters in Orrimy are seeking such things, if you had.Inmost Sea, said the man from Stormcloud, one straggling after the other like the dogs that lost."It's the curds.".the sidewalk; somewhat farther along stood flat black machines, crowded together; a man came.rhythm.

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