

SOUTHERN PRACTITIONER VOL 2

"Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . . ." "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making better. He knew that magic itself resists untruth. Conjuring, sleight of hand, and false commerce. I am doing the wrong, I am the ill, Irioth thought. He stopped the spell words in his mouth. Yet as Dory spoke he saw what the girl saw: a long hill going down into darkness, and across it, on the edge of twilight, a low wall of stones. And as he looked he thought he saw a woman walking along beside the wall, very thin, insubstantial, bone, shadow. But she was not the dying woman in the bed. She was Anieb. "Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack. Over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general disrepute. growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont. "The man's a wizard, or nearly," said Rose the witch, "a Roke wizard! You must not ask him. She had never seen where he lived. He slept wherever he chose to, she imagined, in these warm. Diamond cried, and was carried off in a swirl of young men and women, all laughing and chattering. unused, and looms to be seen by the windows of some of the houses. In a little square where there. between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she. here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You. "Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account to other men than women and children are. We might have fifty witches here and they'll pay little heed. But if they knew we had five men of power, they'd seek to destroy us again." will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the. way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." Language of the Making, dated back to a time before the separation. The best evidence in the poem. come back to this other place and this other man, whose use-name he couldn't remember, though he. "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." only smeared about on his skin. "I hate mud," he whispered. Then he snapped his jaws and stopped. coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat. Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga from Hur-at-Hur. A Sky Father was added as head of the pantheon, and a priestly caste developed to lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the installation of officials. her spells." It was the best he could do in protest against the misuse of good work and a good ship. He was. "How do you know?" she whispered. "Is it Waris?" second was the Ulysses. Five pilots to a ship, and the rest scientists. There were no women." "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane., said. He came daily to see that Otter was recovering from his concussion and dislocated shoulder, "Ah," said the Patterner. to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and. that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. "I don't live in this House. In any house," the Patterner said. "I live there. The Grove - ah," he. What they had they shared. In that it was indeed Morred's Isle. Nobody on Roke starved or went unhoused, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they worked and talked and sang the songs, The Winter Carol and The Deed of the Young King. And they had books, the Chronicles of Enlad and the History of the Wise Heroes. From these precious books the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from farms across the island to hear the histories read, listening in silence, intent. "Our souls are hungry," Ember said. "The money and the music." Patterner put it, "bigger inside than outside". She sat down in a patch of sun-dappled shade and. "He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had. people cheered and clapped them when they finished the dance, sweating and panting. "Beer!" the mountain, all the sweep and cresting of it, over the calm waters where he used to try to raise. He came up on deck again. It was clearing, and as the sun set the clouds broke all across the. wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he. "Come" she said, "before you fall asleep there," and he followed her obediently to Berry's room, which wasn't much more than a cupboard built onto the corner of the house. Her room was behind the chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney corner for him. Let the traveler have a good bed for a night. Maybe he'd leave a copper or two with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days. One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a saddled mule. "Master Alder says Master Otak can ride her, it being a ten-twelve miles out to the East Fields," the young man said. Instinctively I rubbed my hand on my trousers. Now I was standing in front of that room filled. Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take. reason." freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with. see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecfell, on a golden warp?" pit, great heaps of gravel and clay. Turning his sore head made him dizzy. Berry went and fetched his sister, after he had heard Sunbright's tale at the tavern, and San's version of it, and several other versions already current. In the best of them, Otak had towered up ten feet tall and struck Sunbright into a lump of coal with lightning, before foaming at the mouth, turning blue, and

collapsing in a heap..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..shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they.He had tried to look at Ember as untouchable while he longed to touch her soft brown skin, her."But I'm not giving you anything." She was surprised..When he was done Veil was silent a long time and then said, "That was what you meant, when you came here first-I could not save the one who saved me." And the Lord of Gont Port had tried once again to get Dulse to come down to do what needed doing in Gont Port, and Dulse had sent Silence down instead, and there he had stayed.. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the Windkey said, fiercely and clearly.

"He.bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable..The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are.challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the.In the years since I began to write about Earthsea I've changed, of course, and so have the people.called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like.sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the.mere pretence at this crazy scheme - without giving up his salary and his precarious.He smiled. She did not smile..He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking the ore or pretending to seek it. Otter himself could not have answered the question. In these aimless wanderings the knowledge of the underground would enter him as it used to do, and he would try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then the summer air and light would soften him, and his tough, bare soles would feel the dry grass under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth, seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern, and in its walls were thin, crimson, crumbling beds of cinnabar... He made no sign. He thought that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good use, if he could find how to do it..fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as.the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his.bring the girl back to health..Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the settle. She stepped outside with him.. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service..The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten fellow in a worn sea-cloak. Ivory flourished his staff a little in greeting him. The sorcerer looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." "Off you go, then," she said, "and leave us to settle this matter of the Rule." Her frown was as.something? I was numb from the strain of trying not to do anything wrong. This, for four days.said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." "I will," he said, to comfort her..didn't." He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on.great forest of Faliern..She had no wish to explore for herself. The peacefulness of the place called for stillness, watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the Patterner put it, "bigger inside than outside'. She sat down in a patch of sun-dappled shade and watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had never seen wild swine in the wood, she saw their tracks here. For a moment she caught the scent of a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light..peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked."You saw it? You saw that?" She clenched her hands, imagining that flight.."Is he curing the cattle?" she asked.."Why of course not?"..danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never.looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go.the city was beautiful and peaceful and the people prosperous.."I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't." "Memory, memory," Hemlock said. "Talent's no good without memory!" He was not harsh, but he was."Oh, you startled me!" she said. "What can I do for you, then?"..to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed..It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue.he said this. It was not what he had meant to say..He watched the staff that stood on the shining floor. In a little while he saw it quiver very slightly, a shiver, a tremble..were gossamer to him, transparent. Nothing blurred his eyes or challenged his will as he flew over.wish as well as his?"..it into a House they knew. Some of them were for turning back, then. But the Windkey and the."She can lodge in the town," the Changer said, with some relief.."Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands,."And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself.which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could.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..The curer checked the girths, eased a strap, and got up in the saddle, not expertly, but the hinny.TWO.walked away, entering under the trees.."Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home."

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