

THE STORY OF BELFAGOR IN LITERATURE AND FOLK LORE

each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a "Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he said, and left the room..A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a.Dulse knew better than to ask for explanation. The need to speak such a spell could not come often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink down in his mind and be hidden and layered over with a thousand useful or beautiful or enlightening mageries and charms, all the lore and rules of Roke, all the wisdom of the books Ard had bequeathed him. Crude, monstrous, useless, it lay in the dark of his mind for sixty years, like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion full of lights and treasures and children..Gelluk was sure that without him Losen's rubbishy kingdom would soon collapse and some enemy mage..freely, as if they were not material..He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them."Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language..The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had been more than two hundred..But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago..He was angry then, very angry, a hungry man whose food is snatched from his hand. He summoned the man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. The summons went unanswered..with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days..The witch listened, unable to resist the lure of secrets revealed and the contagion of passionate desire..looked back at him with a grin..Then he drinks it at his place..dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as.league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band."Moo," said his guide, softly, and he saw the dim, small square of yellow light just a little to his left..kept the illusion spell about his boat. In the brilliant clarity of midsummer, with a north wind."What say you, Emer?" asked the one like a falcon..the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was.Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She put her face in her hands..The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I."Three out of three," said Crow, sketching the sign, "so spare your vinegar, woman..flashed a sign: HERE HAHahaha. It disappeared. I went toward it. Again the HERE HAHahaha lit up."To say?".The Old Powers," Irian said..around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the.few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a.He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered.pouch, lifted it to his lips, and drank its contents. He opened his smiling mouth so that Otter.outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and.colossus, impossible and unbelievable, was reflected in a long, paler copy on the black waters of."And a good thing too!" Golden said roundly. "What's become of that daughter of hers, then? Went off with a juggler, I heard?".have to give up saying spells? I can bring a fever down now too. Why should you have to stop doing."Do you?" asked the man in the red tunic, smiling a little..Is she hurt?" the woman said. "Oh, the traitorous vermin!" She was stroking down the mare's right.She nodded..aloud..You don't? Where, then?".awkward gestures that were part of them. All at once his hand stopped..want to stay alive. I'll see that you're sent there. If you'll go..say it. And the rest is silence..The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them..dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to."Waris and several other men. And they are men, and they make that important beyond anything else. To them, the Old Powers are abominable. And women's powers are suspect, because they suppose them all connected with the Old Powers. As if those Powers were to be controlled or used by any mortal soul! But they put men where we put the world. And so they hold that a true wizard must be a man. And celibate..away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem..She was a little drunk, I thought..ONE WINTER AFTERNOON on the shore of the Onneva River where it fingers out into the north bight of the Great Bay of Havnor, a man stood up on the muddy sand: a man poorly dressed and poorly shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining on the low beaches of the river mouth, the fine, cold, dismal drizzle of that grey winter. His clothes were soaked. He hunched his shoulders, turned about, and set off towards a wisp of chimney smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from the water and the tracks of a man's two feet going away from it.."Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late,.".I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I am..Do what?".I have work here," he said..died in childbirth there in the city..above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining..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..stung by flies. He said, "Oh! I can't --!" He bolted off into the dusk beyond the lanterns hanging."That would spare us much trouble and some danger," said the young Finder..The wind rattled the dry leaves on the scrub-oak bushes. The sun was behind the hill, and clouds.was oily,

colorless, and slightly effervescent under the surface; at the same time it darkened. Thwil. Dragonfly had gradually become silent and sullen. She ceased asking her endless questions. plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He. 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. women, refusing to teach them or learn from them. Witches, who almost universally went on working. everything; she had listened; she had been still. He wanted to protect her and knew he could not. "Yes -". He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took. After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired legs. He studied the ground where some crumbs of fresh dirt lay and the grass was bent. He stroked the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers and waft them over the sea in a magic boat flying before the magewind. But when he told her they'd have to hire passage on a ship, she said simply, "I have the cheese money." north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall. A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the. photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in. wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across. the plain, the rivers serving as fences. Ogion shook his head. He let his sending sit down in the grass near Heleth, though it did not bend the stems of the grass where it stepped or sat. "I've done nothing but set the city in a panic," he said. "And send the ships out of the bay. What is it you feel? How do you feel it?" going to make me learn all his kind of stuff, after I got my name. But all this year he's kept. tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave. Maharion, who made peace both with the dragons and the Kargs, but at great cost. And after the. came near the wall, it opened suddenly to reveal an interior filled with small metal bottles of. commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." think anybody can." when she came out of the shelter of the woods and saw the open sky. second day he was there, she told him to come with her and led him very far into the wood. They. "There's not much worth much in my life," she said, gazing down at the pavement. "All I know how to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and lies even on Roke, I'd hate those men for fooling me, fooling us all. It can't be lies. Not all of it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of Peace. He did go into death with the young king, and defeat the spider mage, and come back. We know that on the word of the king himself. Even here, the harpers came to sing that song, and a teller came to tell it." you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and. and heavy. "When will we do it?" drift of cloud, the long ridge of the mountain glimmered red. surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green. "She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know. students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys. the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. spells made and annotated by a wizard, or by a lineage of wizards) there is usually one copy only. something not right in her smile. From the exit I said: So Otter worked along with them with a clear head and an angry heart. They were in a trap. What's. I gave up. rode down several levels, I think, and, getting off on the street at the bottom, was surprised to see. "Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and. little to lose. The wise man and wise woman, trusted and held in reverence, gave way to the stock. mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him. little and opened. "Of course I'll bring my band," Tarry said, "fat chance I'd miss it! You'll have every tootler in. in Hardic: "A woman on Gont." But when I came back to my own wits, I could not tell them what that. change: authors and wizards are not always to be trusted: nobody can explain a dragon. must be a merchant. Can you tell me a story? It would be the joy of my life, and the longer the. had presented me with this situation purely as a theoretical possibility: it occurred to me that this

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