

# *The Wizard of Earthsea*, by U. le Guin

## *Introduction*

*The Wizard of Earthsea* is the intelligent version of the Harry Potter series. It is radical fantasy literature. Magic is portrayed as a danger that upsets the balance of Nature. Magic becomes a symbol for technology—and powers. Thus, the wizards in this novel use magic to accomplish what we accomplish with engineering, military technologies, geoengineering, ship engineering, and so on.

The young wizard's journey is, in part, a lesson in learning not to use magic/technology except when one's life is threatened by predatory humans or by unnatural and predatory creatures like dragons.

Also, the young wizard's journey is, in part, a lesson in learning to overcome the negative emotions and memories of his tragic childhood, a childhood spent without a mother and with a father who did not have the time or ability to love. The father, a blacksmith, represents an early form of a scientist or engineer, for his job is to create dead, metallic products from stone, or the metals inside stone.

All the evil characters are associated with stones and stone settings. Good characters are associated by their names and settings with life and living things.

The sea is portrayed as a hostile place where humans should have no business. People who depend on the sea for their livelihood are dependent on wizards to help them.

Wizardry proves incapable of saving the sick boy of a fisherman from death. What does this incident imply for our doctors?

## *Writing Tasks*

### *Radical Response:*

Respond to the ideas expressed in the Introduction. If you agree with it, provide evidence; if you disagree, provide evidence.

### *Symbolism and Allusion*

<i>Allusions to and Symbols of Goodness and of Life</i>	<i>Allusions to and Symbols of Evil and of Death</i>
The mother symbolizes life and nature, which is absent at the start, but initially Ged is drawn to forests and mountains.  A number of character and place names in the novel refer to wild plants and animals.  Ged appears to be a porte manteau word	The father  Stone, salt water, metal, fire, supernatural animals like dragons  A number of character and place names in the novel refer to stone, rock, and other inanimate

formed by combining the words God and Geb – the latter being the Egyptian god of fertility and life.	things. Jasper is a kind of precious stone
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## *Real World Connections*

1. REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS: *Abuse*: Ursula imagines a world in which a boy is raised without his mother, without siblings, by a violent father. This abuse is primarily responsible for Dunny's need for attention, desire for power and general unhappiness. Child neglect and abuse are real problems that can often cause adults to repeat the abusive behaviors they suffered as children. Consider the statistics for child abuse and suggest forms of therapy based on Dunny's journey to mental health.

- <https://americanspcc.org/child-abuse-statistics/>
- <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>

2. REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS: *Weather Modification Technology*: Ursula imagined a world in which minor and foolish wizards moved rain clouds around the sky. This was not and is not pure fiction. Geoengineering, cloud seeding and weather modification are realities. Watch the following video – but start at the 50 min. mark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtqvHWOR7io>. You can skip the 2-3 minute musical introduction.

Fracking is already causing earthquakes by using kinetic or hydraulic force, but maybe scientists have also developed ways to cause earthquakes with microwave technology. In any case, this reading might interest you:

- <https://www.globalresearch.ca/a-haiti-disaster-relief-scenario-was-envisaged-by-the-us-military-one-day-before-the-earthquake/17122>
- <https://www.activistpost.com/2020/01/ww3-update-two-u-s-bases-attacked-by-iran-with-barrage-of-missile-fire-civilian-ukraine-jet-crashes-iran-hit-by-earthquake-at-nuclear-power-plant.html>
- <http://tradcatknight.blogspot.com/2016/11/geoengineering-microwave-induced-quakes.html#more>

Briefly write about what you learned.

3. REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS: *Mind Control*: Ursula's novel includes a witch who influences or controls the minds of unsuspecting people, and her nephew learns just enough to influence a herd of goats that he loses control over. Again, this was not and is not pure fiction. Secret government mind control programs do exist.

- <https://wakeup-world.com/2016/02/25/mind-control-subliminal-messages-and-the-brainwashing-of-america/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mind-control-electromagnetic-frequency-soleilmavis-liu>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project\\_MKUltra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_MKUltra)
- <https://exposeintelligence.blogspot.com/2017/08/actual-patents-of-mind-control-and.html>

4. REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS: *The Dark Forces*: For more real-world connections to Ged's – Sparrowhawk's dangerous summoning of the dark forces in Roken, treat the dark forces as the forces of technology and human greed and pride. Consider doing research on the 'darkness' unleashed by the Fukushima disaster in 2011, the nuclear power industry, nuclear war, the petroleum industry, the Illuminati, the mining industry and the power to create money and so on, and connect them to the desire for fame, false wealth and power.

- <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2019-02-09/apocalyptic-sounds-sky-no-explanation-mysterious-booms-and-flashes-light-all-across>

## *Chasing the Shadow*

### *Textual Analysis*

Understanding Ged's shadow is crucial to understanding this book. The concept might have been influenced by psychologist Carl Jung, but the idea is quite intuitive and common-sensical. The shadow symbolizes those negative emotions and memories that we try to ignore and which, because we ignore them, continue to influence our decisions and moods. Secondly, the shadow represents the future, namely Death. To overcome the negative past and future, we must confront our shadows and understand why bad things happened to us and why our death is necessary. Regarding the past, in Ged's case, he must understand rather than have negative emotions about his childhood spent without a mother and siblings and with an abusive father. Although the story does not explore Ged's feelings about his past, he certainly does come closer to a sort of Death before settling, in peace and happiness, in Vetch's humble, natural world.

**Writing Task:** Elaborate on the above explanation with examples and quotations from the text.

### *Personal Analysis*

**Writing Task:** Read the following promotional and explanatory pamphlet on a course that promises to help people overcome their shadows and find equanimity in the face of past traumas and chronic negativity. Comment on whether or not you think this course has any potential for helping you or other people improve their quality of life.



# BREAK FREE FROM YOUR SHADOW

## RECLAIM YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF BY INTEGRATING YOUR SHADOW

A 7-Week Live Online Course with  
**Robert Masters, Ph.D.**  
Bestselling Author of *Bringing Your Shadow Out of the Dark* and *Emotional Intimacy*  
& **Iyeshka Farmer, RPC**  
Senior Teacher



Discover practical skills and life-shifting insights to release you from the hidden forces that bind you, and awaken your clarity, power and true compassion.

A deep sense of wellbeing fills you. You feel centered, strong, resilient. Your mind is quiet. Your heart open, vulnerable, full.

When challenges occur, you are confident of your skills to work with whatever arises in each moment, no matter how painful.

Imagine, this is what life could be like if you truly integrated and transformed the hidden influences that currently affect your happiness and effectiveness.

Our early traumas, our conditioning and the painful experiences of our lives, have all left their mark on us.

**When we are unable to turn towards what is painful, unwanted or unlovable in us, it ends up getting pushed into the darkness of our subconscious, creating our shadow.**

**How can you know if your shadow is affecting your life? Do you...**

- Find yourself in relationships that leave you heartbroken and confused, wondering why you keep making the same poor choices over and over.
- Suffer from depression, anxiety, low energy, brain fog or emotional numbness
- Avoid conflict. Even when your wellbeing needs you to stand up for yourself.
- Escalate arguments, needing to be right and pushing to win, even when your heart tells you to stop.
- Use your spirituality as a place to hide from your pain.

**Shadow can show up anywhere in our lives and no one is exempt.** It's part of being human. And nothing to be ashamed of.

When we are unconscious of our shadow, it can sabotage our best efforts, including our efforts to grow, transform and evolve.

The unseen inner process of shadow profoundly alters your experience and your sense of the world around you.

**It's like stepping into a parallel universe that is more compassionate, welcoming and satisfying.**

Our modern culture trains us to turn away from our pain, our shadow, and instead offers us unending distractions and medications to numb us to what really matters. Often encouraged to stick to the shallows of 'normal', we end up settling for a pale imitation of the vibrant life we were born to live.

The only way to get free from your shadow's influence is to go deep, becoming truly intimate with it and learn how to integrate it and reclaim the lost power, identity, and joy that has been hiding within.

**This is the journey we will begin together.**

Not a quick fix, not a fad – it's a genuine path you can use for the rest of your life.

You deserve support in doing the inner work necessary to develop a healthy, skillful relationship to your shadow.

Much of your shadow developed very early in your life as a way to adapt to and cope with life circumstances.

**Now that those early strategies, behaviors and beliefs no longer serve you, you need the skills to unearth them, heal them and reclaim your original core self.**

By the end of this course, you can expect to experience:

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- **An enhanced capacity for intimacy and healthy relationships**  
The better you know your shadow, the less likely it is to sabotage or obstruct your relationships.
- **A fuller, more grounded and awakened sense of wholeness**  
Working with your shadow allows you to align your physical, mental, emotional, psychological and spiritual dimensions.
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- **The ability to make better use of difficult conditions**  
You will begin to stop acting out your old wounds, and stop viewing your pain as a problem. You will know where your pain is coming from – and what to do with it.
- **Increased vitality**  
Keeping your shadow out of sight and muted consumes lots of energy. Exploring and working with it actually takes less energy than suppressing and avoiding it.
- **Deepened capacity for activism**  
As your actions (or inaction) no longer arise from your unexamined shadow, you will be able to take needed stands and show up much more fully for your life and the world.

## My Story and Personal Invitation to You

*When I first became aware of my shadow, I treated it as an intellectual curiosity only, keeping my distance from it. When I was brought closer to it — resisting mightily — by some devastating circumstances, I saw things in myself I felt far from comfortable with, like my attachment to avoiding being vulnerable. Now, spurred by heartbreak, I was beginning to feel at least some of what was in my shadow.*

*And my shadow clearly was no small thing; the more I stepped into its darkness, wearing my attention like a miner's headlamp, the more I saw.*

*No longer could I so easily turn away from my shadow. I had begun to shift out of automatic. And I was just beginning, even as I mistook my small steps into my shadow for huge strides. Part of my shadow that I did not recognize as shadow was my ambition to be done with shadow work.*

*This ambition, like the ulterior motives that sometimes underlay apparent virtues like honesty and care, remained in the dark until more very painful circumstances derailed me so strongly that I could no longer blind myself to it. And deep in my shadow I met my core shame and its roots, a shame I had tried to keep as removed from as possible.*

*Once it was out of my shadow— 25 years ago — and I stopped letting it mutate into aggression and emotional withdrawal, I felt both immense relief and immense grief.*

*This was the major turning point in working with my shadow; such work was now not a sideline pursuit, but rather an absolutely central undertaking.*

*A new path emerged for me: cultivating intimacy with everything that I am, including my shadow.*

*There is no end point for me in this, but rather an endless deepening and awakening, so that shadow work for me is no longer a periodic practice, but a way of life seamlessly connected to everything else that matters to me.*

*My work is now devoted to supporting others in uncovering and integrating their shadow. I see shadow work as critical to our survival in these times. It is imperative that more of us find the courage to dive deep and do the necessary work.*

*I have begun training the next generation of shadow workers. Iyeshka has studied with me*

*over the past decade and she has delved deep into her own shadows. She is now an expert guide in helping others transform their shadows and their lives.*

*I invite you to join us for this journey into intimacy with all that you are – into full-blooded aliveness, and a joy that is stronger than the challenges of living and dying.*

**— Robert**