***A Wizard of Earth Sea***

***Chapter 7***

***Summary:***

### The Hawk's Flight

* Ged wakes up in a strange tower, worn out, and without his staff or his otak. His hostess comes in when he's awake and welcomes him as an old friend, even though he doesn't recognize her. (Any guesses as to who she is?)
* Her name is Serret, and she speaks with a Gontish accent. She's married to Benderesk, the (old and cranky) lord of the Terrenon.
* So Ged luckily ran exactly where he was trying to go in the first place. And, luckily, the shadow can't come into their castle because they have powerful magic. Even better.
* But Ged isn't happy because it's always cold and he thinks he failed when he ran away from the shadow.
* However, Serret continues making nice and Ged starts to relax. He's so relaxed and so friendly with Serret that she shows him their secret: they have a magic stone named Terrenon that's very powerful and not at all evil (she says).
* Ged is uncomfortable with the stone, even though Serret keeps telling him that it's not evil and can help him defeat the shadow. She also admits that the guy who met Ged on Orrimy was actually sent by her. (Which is like, hey, yeah, I totally lied about that sword, but here's a stone – so, we're even, right?)
* Serret tries to convince Ged that the Terrenon isn't evil, that Ged needs the power of darkness to defeat the shadow, and that they can rule the world with the power of the Terrenon. Which kind of ruins the whole "it's not evil" argument she was making.
* Ged argues that only light can defeat the shadow.
* He also realizes that Serret and Benderesk were both conspiring against him. And Serret was conspiring against Benderesk. And now Benderesk is going to kill both of them. It's like the worst series of realizations ever.
* Ged and Serret escape the court. And Serret is revealed as the daughter of the lord of Re Albi, whom he tried to impress all those years ago (7.72).
* Also – and this part kills us – Ged finds the dead body of Hoeg, his otak. (Was that really necessary? Sigh.)
* Now, Benderesk summons monsters called the Servants of the Stone to kill Serret and Ged before they escape (and, as usual in fantasy novels, if it starts with capital letters, you know it's important or powerful, so let's hope they don't get caught by those Servants).
* Serret turns into a gull and tries to fly away. But Ged is too angry after losing his otak, so he stays and fights. (OK, fine, we guess that's why the otak had to die. Plot development.)
* The Servants catch and kill Serret in gull form, but Ged flies away in the form of a falcon.
* Back on Gont, Ogion finds an exhausted falcon that Ogion recognizes as Ged. Ogion turns Ged back into a human and helps him recover.
* See, Ged had spent too long as a falcon and had forgotten what it was to be a person ,which is evidently a common problem with mages who take on other shapes. (We get to hear some stories about that here.)
* Ogion notes that a) Ged is strong enough to beat magicians and dragons and evil stones, so he can probably beat a shadow; and b) it's weird that the shadow knew Ged's name.
* Ogion gives Ged some advice: Ged has to stop being the hunted and start being the hunter since he's the only one who can defeat the shadow. A self-help book from today might say something about being proactive and facing your fear.
* Ogion also says that Ged has to connect with his roots, which really sounds like a self-help book too.
* So, after Ogion makes him a new wizard staff, Ged goes hunting for the shadow.

***Brief Summary:***

Ged wakes up a grand room. He is dressed in a silk tunic, like a lord. He begins to feel the ache throughout his body and sees his burned hand has been dressed with bandages. He calls to the otak but nothing happens. Then, the door opens and a beautiful woman comes in. She calls him Sparrowhawk and asks him if he remembers her. But Ged doesn’t remember her. The lady tells Ged he is in the Court of Terrenon. She tells Ged that he can rest in the court and regain his strength and power.

The lady, who is called Serret, leads Ged from his room, through the tower, and eventually to her husband, the Lord Bendersek, who tells Ged he can stay as long as he would like. As Serret speaks, Ged notices she not only speaks Osskillian but Hardic with an accent of Gont, his home.

Ged does not feel the threat or presence of the shadow while he is in the Court of Terrenon. But he also feels like he cannot think clearly. He notices no one comes or goes to the tower and wonders what it was that brought him here—chance? Something more? There is a cold in the Court that chills Ged’s bones. It seems to fill his heart with shame that he was defeated by the shadow and forced to run away. The shame soon turns to weariness. Ged leaves his room only rarely. When he does not want to be alone anymore, Serret keeps him company.

Ged is baffled by her beauty. He also notices she does not seem happy; she does not smile or laugh. He feels sorry for her being locked away in the Court with a husband three times her age. He tries to cheer her up with conversation. He asks her about the Terrenon jewel the court is named after and she takes him to see it.

Serret leads Ged deep into the secret tunnels of the court until finally they come to a small, empty cell. The jewel is set in the floor as the foundingstone of the tower. An old, terrible spirit is housed in the stone. Ged realizes Serret does not know enough about the stone to fear it as she should. Serret tells Ged the stone was made when the world itself was made. She says the stone has a voice; it can speak of the things that were, are and will be.

Serret tells Ged it might tell him how to defeat his enemy but Ged tells Serret he will not speak to the spirit trapped in the stone. He tells her it has been locked away in this tower in the middle of nowhere because of the evil it can do. Serret tells Ged she has touched the stone and talked to it and it has done her no harm.

The next day Ged finds Serret to apologize. She tells Ged he sees much, but perhaps not everything. She tells him there are types of sorcerythey do not teach in Roke. She tells him there are powers at work in Osskil that cannot be controlled with the Hardic language. A weaker man should be afraid of these powers, but not Ged. She tells him he was born to control the stone and that is why he is there. She tells Ged the stone spoke of his coming, and it has been waiting for him. Whoever controls the stone, can have power over their own destiny, over their enemies, and more! Ged tells Serret he does not have the power she thinks he does. He tells her the Old Powers are not for men to use and he cannot help her.

Serret tells Ged she was the one who sent the stranger to speak with him in Orrimy. She tells him only dark can defeat dark. Serret says the stone will tell Ged the shadow’s true name. She tells Ged there is no catch or price he will have to pay, and the stone will be his slave. Suddenly Ged feels his mind and eyes clear. He tells Serret only light can defeat the dark. He realizes he has been drawn here by Serret and Lord Bendersek. They had saved him from the shadow so they could use him as a slave to the stone.

The Lord tells Serret she has been a disloyal wife and he knew she could not lure Ged into her plan. He attempts to put a spell on her to disfigure her but before he can, Ged steps in and stops him, using magic. Ged and Serret run before the Lord’s servants come after them. They run out of the gates which only Ged can see through the spell of concealment the Lord had placed on them. Her appearance seemed to change as they passed through the gates. She was still beautiful but suddenly Ged knew who she was—the daughter of the Lord of Re Albi whom he had met when he was living with Ogion.

Now, out of the court, Ged senses the shadow again. Serret tells Ged to change his appearance and points to the creatures climbing out of the tower coming after them. Serret then changes herself into a bird and flies away. But Ged picks up a blade of grass and creates a new wizard staff from it. As the creatures attack Ged he uses the staff to fight them off before he turns into a hawk. They fight with one another until Ged heads out over the sea; the creatures do not follow because they are made of the Old Powers and cannot leave their own isle.

Still in the form of a hawk, Ged flies to Ogion. Ogion brings the hawk into the house and then begins to weave a spell. When he is done, he whispers Ged’s true name. Ged appears back in his true form, weak and tired. Ogion knows Ged has been in hawk form for so longhe cannot speak so he puts Ged to bed.

Three days later, Ged speaks to Ogion. He tells Ogion he has no strength against the shadow. Ged tells Ogion he has come for counsel. Ogion tells Ged there is no safe place for him and warns against his transforming again. He then tells Ged he must turn back; he must hunt down that which hunts him.

Ged tells Ogion he is Ged’s true master. Ogion leaves and when he returns he has a piece of yew with him. He sits and works on it for hours and when he is finished, Ogion presents the yew staff to Ged. It is Ged’s new wizard’s staff. The next morning Ogion wakes up and Ged is gone. All that is left is a note that says “Master, I go hunting.”

***Brief Analysis:***

The plot continues to evolve as Ged continues his journey. Somehow he has managed to escape the clutches of the shadow again but this time he had help from Serret, the Lady of the Court of Terrenon. Things have changed for Ged. He feels he is powerless, Hoeg has died, and the longer he stays in the Court of Terrenon, the more depressed and hopeless he feels.

The only brightness in his life at this time is the beautiful Lady of Terrenon. One evening, the Lady leads Ged to a power stone hidden deep within the court. She wants him to touch it but Ged knows the thing is evil, and there is an ancient spirit trapped in the stone that gives it its power. Ged refuses to touch the stone. The next day the Lady once again tries to get Ged to use the stone.

She tries to appeal to Ged’s fear of the shadow, telling him the stone’s power can defeat the shadow. She tells him only he can control the stone and it will have to serve him and together she and Ged can rule. She tries to appeal to his pride as well, telling Ged he will be mightier even than the Archmage.

Suddenly, Ged feels like his eyes have been opened. He realizes he has been lured to the Court by the Lady to use the stone. He also realizes the Lady’s intentions are not to have him defeat the shadow but to have the shadow take over Ged after he has become a slave to the stone—then the powerful shadow would be the stone’s slave and the Lady’s slave.

This is the second time something has attempted to take control of Ged—first the shadow not the stone—and both times, Ged has kept the evil at bay. Once Ged realizes why he has been brought to the Court, the Lord decides he has had enough of his wife’s tricks and of Ged and sets the Servants of the Stone, winged beasts from the Old Powers, on them both.

When Ged and Serret make it out of the courts of Terrenon, Ged realizes she is the daughter of the Lord of Re Albi, where he lived with Ogion. She is the one Ogion had warned him about so many years ago. Serret then transforms into a bird and flies away but Ged chooses to fight and transforms himself into a great hawk. He fights off the Servants of the Stone and flies across the sea eventually landing at Gont where he finds Ogion.

Ogion brings Ged back to his home and lets him recover. When Ged has recovered and can speak again, he tells Ogion about the shadow and how he feels helpless against it. Ogion tells Ged he does have the power to fight it. He tells Ged there is no safe place to hide from it and he believes Ged should go after it—he should hunt which hunts him. Ged comes to realize even though he has trained at Roke, his true master is and always was Ogion. The next morning Ged takes his master’s advice and heads off after the shadow.

***Critical Study:***

[Ged](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/A-Wizard-of-Earthsea/character-analysis/#Ged) wakes up in a luxurious bed but without his otak. A finely dressed woman enters and introduces herself as Serret, wife of Benderesk, the lord of the Terrenon. One day Serret shows him the treasure of the keep. Ged recognizes it as "an old and terrible spirit" imprisoned in stone and does not want to have anything to do with it. Serret tells him he could defeat the shadow with it and be the most powerful man ever. Ged realizes that Serret plans to let the shadow take him over once he touches the stone so that she can control the power. Benderesk calls Serret a fool for thinking she could trick Ged and attempts to strike her down, but Ged intervenes. The two escape out of the castle, and Ged finds the dead body of his otak. Ged changes a blade of grass into a staff and fights off his winged attackers. Serret transforms into a gull and flies away but is caught and killed. Ged escapes in hawk form, finding his old master, [Ogion](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/A-Wizard-of-Earthsea/character-analysis/" \l "Ogion).

Ogion changes Ged back into his own form, but it takes three days for Ged to be able to speak again. Ged tells of his life during the years they were apart. Ogion tells Ged he must stop running and instead "hunt the hunter." Ogion fashions a staff of yew wood for him, and Ged sets out to hunt down his shadow.

Even though the palace [Ged](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/A-Wizard-of-Earthsea/character-analysis/#Ged) rests in is lovely and full of light, Ged's "mind never [seems] to clear." He realizes that no one comes to the Court of Terrenon by chance, and indeed no one comes in or out while he is there. He is utterly isolated and away from his, or any, community. Not even his otak is with him any longer. Due to his isolation, Ged is filled with "a cold shame." Le [Guin](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/A-Wizard-of-Earthsea/author/) shows how evil preys on a person's feelings of shame and confusion by having Serret lure Ged to the Terrenon stone. Serret proposes that the stone could help Ged defeat the shadow. He could have "power over his own destiny." But where a younger, more ignorant Ged might have been tempted by such power, this wiser Ged is humble. He rejects the notion that he could control the stone and instead rightly insists such a power would lead to his undoing. Because he remains humble, he is able to see Serret for her true self and realizes she means to use him. The stone cannot use him, because "it is very hard for evil to take hold of the unconsenting soul."

When Ged escapes in hawk form, he is pure instinct and returns to his "true master," [Ogion](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/A-Wizard-of-Earthsea/character-analysis/" \l "Ogion). Ogion is able to help Ged change back to his human form, and Ged acknowledges that Ogion has been his best teacher and advisor. Ogion is satisfied that Ged has finally learned the lessons of patience and humility he initially tried to teach him. Ogion has faith that this hard-won education will help Ged defeat the shadow and advises Ged to turn and face the shadow rather than run. Ged realizes that Ogion is right: going on the offensive is his only chance.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) wakes in a large bed upon a stack of mattresses. He is in a large room made of stone. From a nearby window, he can see the wintry moor outside. He is surprised to be alive. As Ged rises from the bed, he realizes that his otak is missing. He calls for it by its [true name](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/symbols/true-names), but still, it does not come to him—he knows this means it is dead. He wonders what could have happened to it and finds that he cannot remember much about his struggle against the gebbeth. A door opens, and a young woman in fine clothing enters the room. She welcomes the wizard Sparrowhawk to her home.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Ged has no memory of how the encounter with the shadow ended—but without his staff or his otak, he is alone, defenseless, and more lost than ever before. Ged has come to a strange land after taking the circumspect advice of a stranger, and now he is truly on his own.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) asks the woman where he is. She tells him that he is at the Court of the Terrenon, ruled by the lord [Benderesk](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/benderesk), who is the keeper of the precious stone called Terrenon. The woman introduces herself as [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret). She promises Ged that he is safe in their castle—the mighty stone walls will protect him from the thing that drove him here. Here, she tells him, he may find a new and different kind of strength as he heals. Serret takes Ged on a tour of the castle and introduces him to her elderly husband Benderesk. Ged senses something strange about the place and wonders whether he is here by chance or by fate.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Ged trusted the stranger on Orrimy and he trusted Skiorh upon arriving in Osskil—now, having seen the ill effects of placing his trust in unknown individuals, he takes nothing for granted and adopts an air of suspicion. Ged doesn’t know what has truly brought him here or what this place holds, but he is not willing to be trapped a third time.

***Summary Part 3:***

As the days pass in the cold, dreary palace, [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) finds himself full of sadness and shame. He feels he has disappointed all who have taught him so far: the Masters of Roke, the Archmages [Gensher](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/archmage-gensher) and [Nemmerle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/archmage-nemmerle), and [Ogion](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ogion), too. He is embarrassed about running away from his [shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow) yet again. He keeps mostly to himself, but occasionally takes walks through the halls with [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret). Soon a friendship grows between them and they talk more and more each day.

Identity and the Shadow Self Theme Icon

***Analysis Part 3:***

Ged feels lost, vulnerable, and ashamed—and it is in this state that Serret seizes upon him and begins to grow closer to him. Ged felt skeptical about the Court of the Terrenon from the moment of his arrival, but now, in the depths of his self-loathing, he allows himself to be charmed by Serret.

***Summary Part 4:***

One afternoon, [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) asks [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) about the precious stone of Terrenon. Serret offers to show it to him. She leads him up to a high, empty tower and unlocks a large door with a special silver key. Ged stares in amazement as Serret unlocks two more doors in a long, winding hall, breaking through the final door with a whispered enchantment. As Ged peers into the small, dank room she has unlocked, he feels a sickness come over him. He spots the stone of Terrenon: it is rough and unshapen yet it possesses a great, dark power—the power of an “old and terrible spirit” imprisoned within it.

***Analysis Part 4:***

As Serret reveals the stone of Terrenon, Ged knows that he has made a mistake both in coming here and in trusting that he’d be safe within the castle walls. True, the shadow cannot pursue him here—but there is a greater, darker power living here.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) tells [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) that the stone was made at the beginning of time itself—its infinite power allow it to answer any question asked of it. She invites Ged to ask it anything he wants, but he refuses to do so. Serret asks Ged if he is afraid of the stone, and he admits that he is. The stone, he explains, has the power to work terrible evil. Serret insists she’s touched the stone and spoken to it before, yet she has come to no harm. Serret abruptly leaves the room, and Ged follows her.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Ged proves yet again that he has learned from his past mistakes, as he does not dare go near the stone. He knows that power corrupts: his own search for power, dominion, glory, and greatness and his youth has led him only to ruin. He is not going to make the same mistake twice—but he cannot bring Serret back from the dark territory into which she’s already tread.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) does not sleep well that night. The next morning, he apologizes to [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) for offending her. Serret explains that there is nothing to be afraid of—she believes that he is the lone individual who can control the stone. The stone itself, she says, prophesized Ged’s arrival. Serret encourages Ged to use what is his for the taking: the power of the stone. Ged insists that the Old Powers are not for the use of men—he believes he is here by chance, not by fate. Serret, however, explains that the man who spoke to him in the streets when he arrived in the north was once a wizard, now a servant of the Terrenon, who brought Ged to the castle. Only darkness, Serret says, can defeat [the shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow).

***Analysis Part 6:***

Serret, having failed to lure Ged into using the power of the stone once, now tries a different tactic: she presents the stone as the only thing that can defeat Ged’s shadow. Ged, however, is staunchly opposed to using Old Powers not meant for him. He has seen what destruction dark powers in the hands of the wrong master can do, and he will not fall into his old ways again.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) says the only way he can defeat [the shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow) is to learn its [true name](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/symbols/true-names). [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) says the stone can reveal that name. Though Serret quietly encourages Ged to give in and approach the stone so that they can rule the land together, Ged stands up and replies that it is light that defeats the dark—not more darkness. He realizes that he has fallen into a trap and is in danger of being bound to the Stone forever.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Ged stands firm against Serret’s tricks, just as he did against the Dragon on the isle of Pendor. Ged is proving himself to be someone deeply attuned to the balance of the universe and the dangers of unchecked power—a far cry from the impetuous, headstrong boy he once was.

***Summary Part 8:***

As [Benderesk](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/benderesk) enters the hall, he reprimands [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) for being unable to bend [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) to their will—and the will of the stone. He calls his wife—addressing her as “woman of Gont”—a fool. Benderesk casts a Changing spell on Serret, transforming her into a hideous, sniveling beast. Ged reverses the spell. Serret grabs his hand and pulls him through the halls outside to a courtyard to make their escape before Benderesk unleashes the mysterious Servants of the Stone.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Benderesk, it turns out, has been even more profoundly corrupted by the stone than Serret. Ged attempts to save them both from the horrors that await those who refuse the stone’s power. Ged believes there’s still a way they can both escape the darkness surrounding the keep.

***Summary Part 9:***

Outside, [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) leads [Serret](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/village-girl-serret) through the charmed gate, which is invisible to her, and out onto the moors. Ged at last recognizes Serret as the Gontish village girl, the daughter of the Lord of Re Albi—the girl who initially encouraged him to speak that horrible spell that loosed [the shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow). Ged looks around nervously as they emerge onto the moor for any sign of the gebbeth or the shadow itself—instead, he spots the dead body of his otak preserved in the snow.

***Analysis Part 9:***

Ged failed to recognize Serret for who she was during his stay at the keep, though she seemed familiar to him. Ged now realizes that Serret has perhaps always served dark powers—she was able to tempt him once but not twice. Ged’s different reactions to Serret’s two attempts to force him into the use of dark magic show his growth over the course of his harrowing journey.

***Summary Part 10:***

Serret urges [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) to change himself quickly—the Servants of the Stone are creeping forward from the castle. Serret transforms into a grey gull and flies away. Instead of changing himself, Ged transforms a blade of grass into a wizard’s staff and uses it to cast a spell that will drive the dark creatures away. Still, the winged creatures continue attacking Ged, while others fly after Serret. Ged transforms himself into a hawk and flies after them. When he catches up with them, he realizes they have already killed Serret. Ged flies out to sea, where the Old Powers, bound to the isle of Osskil, cannot follow him.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Ged cannot save Serret in the end, yet he is able to escape the Court of the Terrenon without succumbing to the fearsome stone or its dark, shadowy servants. By transforming himself into an animal, however, Ged is still dabbling in dark and unrestrained power—yet doing so is by far the lesser of two evils.

***Summary Part 11:***

Ogion, who has been wandering the forests of Gont for a whole season, returns to his hut in Re Albi. The morning after his return, as he fetches water from a spring, he hears the scream of a hawk—moments later, the hawk alights on his wrist. The hawk looks directly at him. Ogion recognizes the hawk as something he once [named](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/symbols/true-names). He brings the hawk home and offers it water, but it is too frightened to drink. After speaking a spell and saying [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk)’s name aloud, the hawk transforms into a trembling, scarred young man dressed in fine silks. Ogion leads him to a pallet in the corner and helps him to lay down and rest.

***Analysis Part 11:***

Ged flew directly to Ogion’s house, knowing that his old master—whom he sought out before being lured to the Court of the Terrenon—is the only one who can help him. Ogion’s ability to recognize Ged even in hawk form shows that Ogion truly knows, understands, and accepts Ged, and that acceptance is what Ged needs in order to heal and return to himself after so long in a different form.

***Summary Part 12:***

[Ogion](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ogion) knows that great dangers accompany the art of changing—the longer a person stays in their changed form, the greater risk they run of being unable to find their way back to themselves and forgetting their human identities entirely. While in hawk form, [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk)’s instincts merged with the instincts of a hawk, and by the time he reached Ogion, he had lost the ability to return himself to his true form. Ogion knows he has saved Ged at the last possible moment.

***Analysis Part 12:***

Le Guin again demonstrates how upsetting the careful balance of the universe—even in dire circumstances—can profoundly threaten one’s well-being. To throw off the world’s equilibrium is to invite in dark forces; to change one’s nature is to risk being lost forever. Le Guin shows how important it is not to lose sight of oneself even in one’s darkest moments.

***Summary part 13:***

In the morning, [Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk) wakes and apologizes to [Ogion](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ogion). He feels he has returned to him just as he left: as a fool. As snow begins to fall, Ged tells Ogion about the years that have passed since he left Gont, informing him about the battle he wages against his [shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow). Ged tells Ogion he fears he has no power against it. Ogion points out the feats Ged has accomplished—but Ged attributes his survival to luck alone.

***Analysis Part 13:***

Ged is feeling low, lost, and full of self-loathing. Ogion, however, sees how much his prentice has grown. Ogion doesn’t want Ged to ignore the accomplishments he’s achieved or lose sight of the fact that he still stands a fighting chance against the forces that haunt him.

***Summary Part 14:***

Ged tells [Ogion](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ogion) that he needs [the shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow)’s [true name](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/symbols/true-names) to defeat it—but he believes it has none. All things, Ogion tells him, have a name, and Ged senses the certainty in Ogion’s voice. Ogion remarks how strange it is that the shadow knew Ged’s true name. Ogion gets lost in thought, but Ged assures his former master he will not stay long enough to bring the shadow to Re Albi—he will soon move on. Ogion warns Ged that there is no safe place in the world, and that he will only make himself more vulnerable by changing shape to try escaping it. Ogion tells Ged the only thing he can do is turn around and seek that which seeks him. He must become the hunter rather than the hunted.

***Analysis Part 14:***

Ged is feeling defeated, hopeless, and useless. He fears he’ll never be able to best the shadow and will spend his life fleeing from it. Ogion, however, has faith in Ged’s ability to best the shadow. More than that, Ogion knows that all Ged needs to do is reframe how he thinks of the shadow—by seeing the shadow as something he pursues rather than the thing which purses him, Ged will be able to find the confidence and strength to outwit it. Things are far from over, Ogion knows, and all is definitely not lost yet.

***Summary Part 15:***

[Ged](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ged-duny-sparrowhawk), [Ogion](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/ogion) points out, has already returned to Gont, the place where his journey began—now, he must seek the source of [the shadow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-wizard-of-earthsea/characters/the-shadow). Maybe at their third meeting, Ogion suggests, Ged will have the opportunity to defeat it. Ged thanks Ogion for being his “true master.” Ogion gets to work whittling Ged a new staff of yew-wood. Ged, still weary from his ordeal, sits quietly and watches and listens as Ogion forms the staff. At last, the staff is finished. Ged accepts it with gratitude. In the morning, when Ogion wakes, he finds that Ged is already gone. Ged has left Ogion a note which reads only, “Master, I go hunting.”

***Analysis Part 15:***

Ged long rejected Ogion’s sage advice, believing he knew better than the slow, steady old man. Now, however, Ged is immensely grateful for Ogion’s help, wisdom, and generosity. Ged defied Ogion’s advice once before, and he is determined not to make the same mistake twice. As Ged departs Ogion’s hut, he’s full of renewed resolve and the determination to make his master proud.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

"I named you once, I think," he said, and then strode to his house and entered, bearing the bird still on his wrist. (7.81)

Ogion is right, of course – the falcon is really Ged – but notice that this sentence doesn't actually indicate that this is Ged. At the end of the sentence, it's still "the bird." The name "Ged" only appears at the end of this paragraph, even though the whole time, we know this bird is Ged. It's funny that the story can use one word to describe this character ("the bird"), while Ogion and we know who this really is all the while. It seems as if the book is demonstrating the difference between use-name ("the bird") and true name ("Ged"): we can call it a bird all we want, but it's still Ged.

***Quotation 2:***

As a boy, Ogion like all boys had thought it would be a very pleasant game to take by art-magic whatever shape one liked, man or beast, tree or cloud, and so to play at a thousand beings. But as a wizard he had learned the price of the game, which is the peril of losing one's self, playing away the truth. (7.84)

Check out that little move Le Guin makes – "like all boys." Now, we totally agree: what little kid doesn't want to change into an animal shape? (We wanted to be a Tyrannosaurus Rex at least once a day.) But Ogion grows up and he realizes that what he thought would be cool as a child (changing shape) actually comes with a pretty steep price. So, in one tiny section, Le Guin gives a small version of the lesson that Ged goes through over the course of the book.

***Quotation 3:***

"He who throws away his power is filled sometimes with a far greater power," she said, smiling, as if his fears and scruples were childish ones. (7.53)

This is Serret trying to convince Ged that he should accept the power of the Stone of the Terrenon. (She'll also try to convince him that you should fight shadow with darkness.) Now, we know that Serret has her own purposes (she wants to make a slave of Ged), but does her theory of power hold up in this book?

***Quotation 4:***

"But I know this, the Old Powers of earth are not for men to use. They were never given into our hands, and in our hands they work only ruin. Ill means, ill end: I was not drawn here, but driven here, and the force that drove me works to my undoing. I cannot help you." (7.52)

We like the distinction that Ged draws here between being drawn and being driven. We're fans of it because it may be true (he's driven by the shadow monster), but it also shows the way he's thinking about choice now, which is that he thinks he doesn't have any choice: he's either pulled to the stone or pushed by the shadow. When, in fact, as Ogion will point out, he can also do some pushing of his own.

***Quotation 5:***

"I ran hot lead in the marrow of their bones, they will die of it." (7.70)

There's a lot of philosophical talk in this book about magic, so it's interesting to see some more traditional magic. And by "traditional," we mean this is a spell you could find in a video game. But notice also that it's the untrustworthy Serret who uses this magic. Do we ever see Ged and Vetch use magic like this? Or would that upset the Balance?

***Quotation 6:***

The creatures returned to the attack: botched beasts, belonging to ages before bird or dragon or man, long since forgotten by the daylight but recalled by the ancient, malign, unforgetful power of the Stone. (7.75)

A lot of the supernatural elements that Le Guin uses in this book are good old fantasy standbys (like dragons), but the Servants of the Stone are pretty original. They exist beyond the categories of bird, dragon, man (which might be the Earthsea equivalent of animal, vegetable, mineral). We're just not sure what they are. How does that affect the way you read about them?

***Quotation 7:***

He stooped, and then softly picked it up in his two hands. It was the otak, its fine short fur all clogged with blood and its small body light and stiff and cold in his hands. (7.72)

Maybe we're just the type that coos over pictures of cute animals, but this part always gets us. After all, Ged basically has two friends – Vetch and the otak – and here he's failed in protecting this one friend. If the otak is a connection Ged has with the natural world, then how does it make us feel when the otak gets killed by Ged's shadow?

***Quotation 8:***

Every prentice-sorcerer learns the tale of the wizard Bordger of Way, who delighted in taking bear's shape, and did so more and more often until the bear grew in him and the man died away, and he became a bear, and killed his own little son in the forests, and was hunted down and slain. (7.84)

Balance is presented as an important attribute when dealing with the natural world, but it's also an important personal quality. That is, when you transform into an animal, you might want to balance that out with some time as a human being. Perhaps one way to think about this would be to remember one's place in the natural world.

***Quotation 9:***

He flew to the right haven. There were few on Roke and only one on Gont who could have made him back into a man. (7.86)

Wait, wait, wait – in the last quote, it really seemed like people couldn't be friends unless there was some equality. But then, when Ged has nowhere to turn, where does he fly? Back to Ogion. Now, Ged calls Ogion his master a few times, so it doesn't seem like they're equals. But then Ogion also gives advice to Ged and never really tells him what to do. So… what's the deal with Ged and Ogion – are they friends, or what?

***Quotation 10:***

Ged paced on a while, and then suddenly turned, and kneeling down before the mage he said, "I have walked with great wizards and have lived on the Isle of the Wise, but you are my true master, Ogion." (7.113)

It's interesting that Ged has to go home to get the sort of advice that he couldn't get at the Roke magic school. (Seriously, if you compare Ogion's advice to the advice of Archmage Gensher, well, Ogion comes out looking like a genius.)

***Quotation 11:***

"Master, I go hunting." (7.118)

In this short sentence, Ged expresses two duties: 1) he has to stop the shadow from hurting more people, and the best way he can do that is to hunt the shadow; and 2) he has a duty to Ogion, his master, who's his real teacher and the one person who always gives him good advice.