

# SIR GALAHAD

Look at my once fertile kingdom, completely barren, and my people dying in droves. What can I do, Merlin?



Only the magical Grail has the power to cure these ills. Even the great Merlin is powerless.

As the years and adventures passed, Knights were killed or died, but always others came to fill their place. But still the Siege Perilous stood empty. The time came when Britain was devastated by famine and plague which, Merlin told the assembled Knights, only the finding of the Grail could bring to an end.



Suddenly, there was a loud banging as a gust of wind slammed shut all the palace doors.

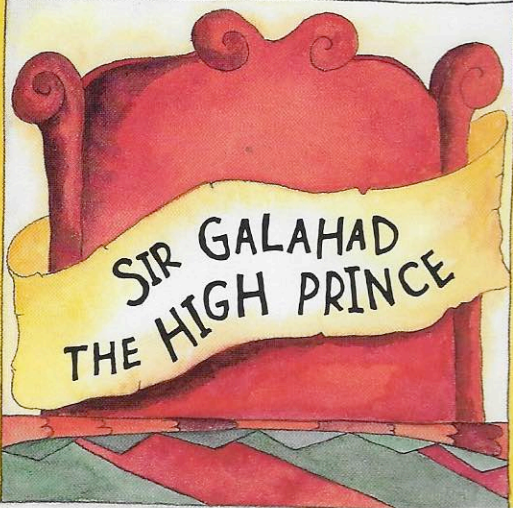


Then, as if from nowhere, an ancient man, dressed in white, appeared in the great hall.



Then came a young knight dressed in red, without sword or shield.

As the court watched in silent wonder, the old man led the Red Knight to the Siege Perilous. There, golden letters began to appear, spelling out the young Knight's name.



As the Knight took his seat, everyone marvelled that one so young should sit there. But King Arthur was delighted to have his Knights of the Round Table complete at last.



I know it's for you, son.

Sir Lancelot realized with joy that Sir Galahad was his son, born to Princess Elaine. He led young Sir Galahad to the river where he had, that morning, seen a floating stone with a sword buried in it. As Lancelot had hoped, Sir Galahad withdrew the sword with ease. But still his son had no shield.





Thinking that he could lead them on the Grail Quest, the Knights agreed that Sir Bagdemagus should take Sir Galahad to an abbey where a special shield hung waiting for the worthiest knight. Other knights had tried to remove the shield, but all had come to harm and been forced to return it to the Abbey.

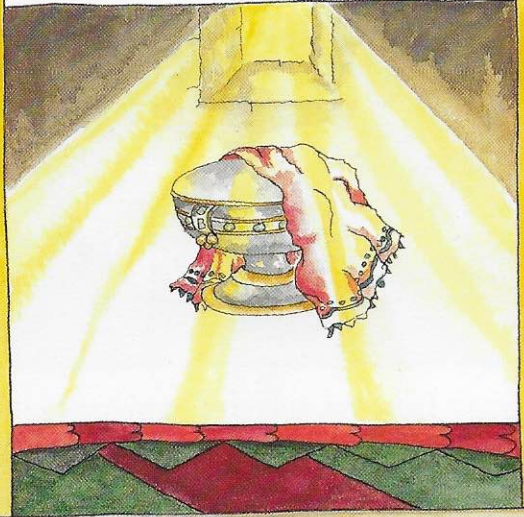


The abbot welcomed the two Knights and let Sir Galahad remove the shield.

Being worthy of the honour, Galahad carried the shield back to Camelot, unchallenged.

A loud cheer rose from the hall as Sir Galahad entered, bearing his new sword and shield.

As Sir Galahad took his seat at the Round Table, a cracking of thunder shook the castle. In the midst of the noise a sunbeam entered the hall.



Held in its light was the mystical Grail, partly covered by a silken cloth. Then, as suddenly as it had come, the vision of the Grail vanished.



King Arthur and his Knights sat in wonder as the Grail faded from sight. Merlin told the court that this was the long-awaited sign that the time had now come for the greatest adventure, the quest for the Grail, which would rescue Britain from the disastrous famine and plague.