

(ARTHUR reins in the "horse" and surveys the castle. A GUARD appears through a window of the castle wall.)

ROBIN

Hello?! Who goes there?

#3 KING ARTHUR'S SONG

ARTHUR

I AM ARTHUR KING OF THE BRITONS
LORD AND RULER OF ALL
OF ENGLAND, AND SCOTLAND
AND EVEN TINY LITTLE BITS OF GAUL

ROBIN

And I'm the Emperor of Norway. Bigger of

PATSY

HE IS ARTHUR KING OF THE BRITONS
AND WE ARE OUT SEEKING MEN
VERY STRONG MEN
AND VERY ABLE

ARTHUR

TO SIT AROUND OUR VERY, VERY ROUND

ROBIN

What is it you want?

ARTHUR

I am looking for men.

ROBIN

I had a feeling.

ARTHUR

We have ridden the length and breadth of the land in search of knights to join me in my court at Camelot. I must speak with your lord and master.

ROBIN

What, ridden on a horse?

ARTHUR

Yes!

ROBIN
You're using coconuts!

ARTHUR
What?

ROBIN
You've got two empty halves of coconut and you're banging them together.

ARTHUR
So? We have ridden since the snows of winter covered this land, through the kingdom of Mercia, through...

ROBIN
Where'd you get the coconut?

ARTHUR
We found them.

ROBIN
Found them? In Mercia? The coconut's tropical!

ARTHUR
What do you mean?

ROBIN
Well, this is a temperate zone.

ARTHUR
The swallow may fly south with the sun or the house martin, or the plover may seek warmer climates in winter; yet these are not strangers to our land.

ROBIN
Are you suggesting coconuts *migrate*?

ARTHUR
Not at all. They could be carried.

ROBIN
What? A swallow carrying a coconut?

ARTHUR
It could grip it by the husk!

ROBIN

It's not a question of where he grips it! It's a simple question of weight ratios! A five ounce bird could not carry a one pound coconut.

ARTHUR

Well, it doesn't matter. Will you tell your master that Arthur from the Court of Camelot is here?

ROBIN

Listen, in order to maintain air-speed velocity, a swallow needs to beat its wings 43 times every second, right?

ARTHUR

Please!

ROBIN

Am I right?

ARTHUR

I'm not interested!

(LANCE appears at the opposite window)

LANCE

It could be carried by an African swallow!

ROBIN

Oh, yeah, an African swallow, maybe, but not a European swallow. That's my point.

LANCE

Oh, yeah, I agree with that... Beautiful bird, the African swallow. Lovely plumage.

ROBIN

The plumage don't enter into it. And besides, African swallows are non-migratory.

LANCE

Oh, yeah...

ROBIN

So they couldn't bring a coconut back anyway...

Mark + over the page.

MOTHER

Well, how did you become king then?

ARTHUR

Well, I'll tell you. One day, as I was riding forth from Camelot I saw a lady in the lake!

DENNIS

Dead?

ARTHUR

No. Not dead. She was...the Lady of the Lake! She lives in the lake.

DENNIS

What, underwater?

ARTHUR

Yes.

(DENNIS indicates to his mother that ARTHUR has been drinking.)
She appeared to me out of the bosom of the water...Her arm clad in the purest shimmering samite, holding aloft Excalibur signifying by its vine Providence that I, Arthur, was to carry Excalibur.

(ARTHUR draws his sword. It shines mystically.)

PATSY

Excalibur!

CHORUS (OFFSTAGE)

EXCALIBUR!
AH - AH!

(DENNIS and his MOTHER look around to see who sang.)

ARTHUR

That's why I am your King.

DENNIS

Listen, strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony.

ARTHUR
It's not just an ordinary sword. How many swords have their own names?

DENNIS
You can't expect to wield supreme executive power just because some watery tart threw a sword at you.

ARTHUR
Be quiet!

DENNIS
If I went around saying I was an emperor just because some moistened bint had lobbed a scimitar at me they'd spit me away!

ARTHUR
Do you think I could make that up?

DENNIS
Soggy old blondes with ^{birds?} their backsides in ponds can't replace the electorate.

ARTHUR
Very well, since you don't believe me, if I prove to you that the Lady of the Lake exists, will you join my army and enlist as a knight?

DENNIS
Oh sure, if she exists, I'll join any bloody army. And for the Tooth Fairy, I'll join the Navy ...

ARTHUR
Very well. Watch this.

Arthur

SCENE NINE

[A Bridge Too Far]

(ARTHUR and PATSY descend the stairs)

ARTHUR
Now how many Jews have we got so far?

PATSY
None, sir.

ARTHUR
It's hopeless. This is so depressing. I don't know a single Jewish person. And how are we going to put on a Broadway show? Broadway's a thousand years in the future in a country that hasn't yet been discovered. So let me get this straight. I'm a King, without a single knight to command. There's nobody. I'm absolutely alone.

#25 I'M ALL ALONE

ARTHUR
(Sings)
I'M ALL ALONE
ALL BY MYSELF
THERE IS NO ONE HERE BESIDE ME

(PATSY looks puzzled. There is him.)

I'M ALL ALONE
QUITE ALL ALONE
NO ONE TO COMFORT ME OR GUIDE ME
WHY IS THERE NO ONE HERE WITH ME
ON THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD?
TO LIFT MY HEAVY LOAD

(PATSY looks at his heavy load)

IF THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE WITH ME
HOW HAPPY I WOULD BE...

(ARTHUR stares at PATSY and may be about to recognize him. But no.)

BUT I'M ALONE
SO ALL ALONE