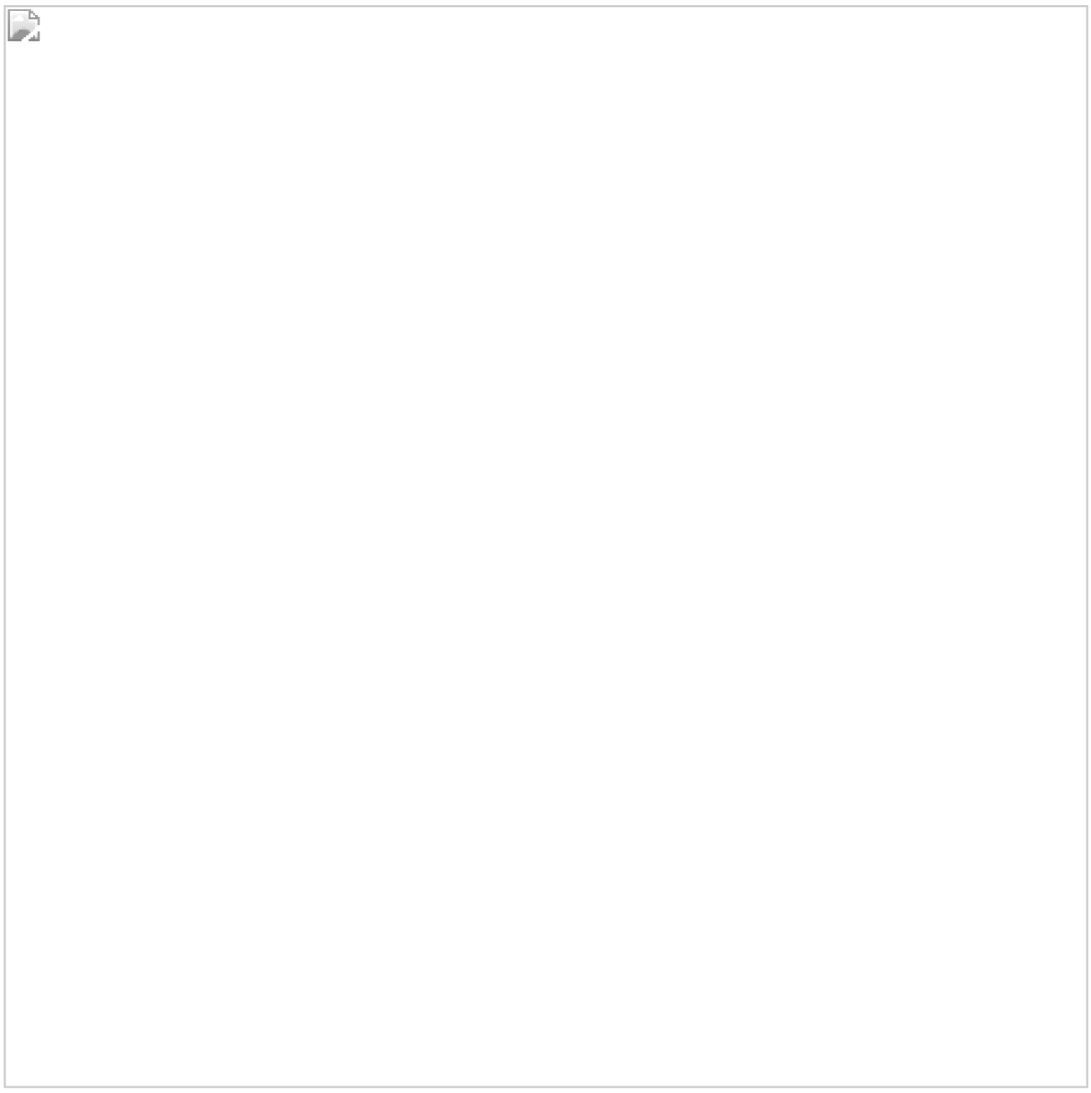
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Guy of Warwick

A Hero of England



Long ago, a lord named Gordian lost everything he owned in a great battle. He and his wife Brunhilda set out to find a new home, and at last they came to the town of Warwick, where Gordian became the steward of Lord Rohand.

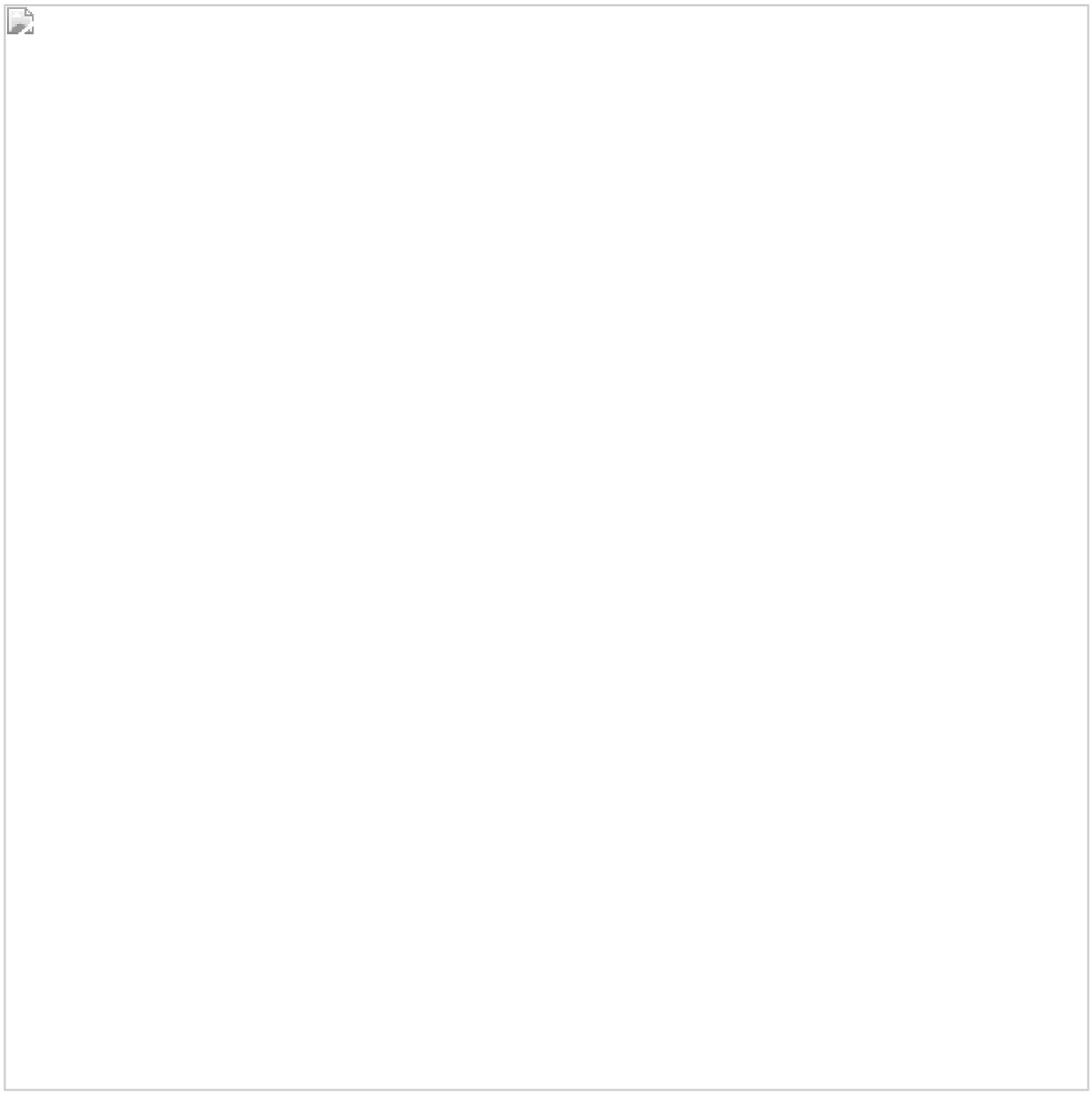
Not long after, their little son Guy was born. As he grew, everybody liked him, and he was often asked to the castle.

TALK ABOUT IT

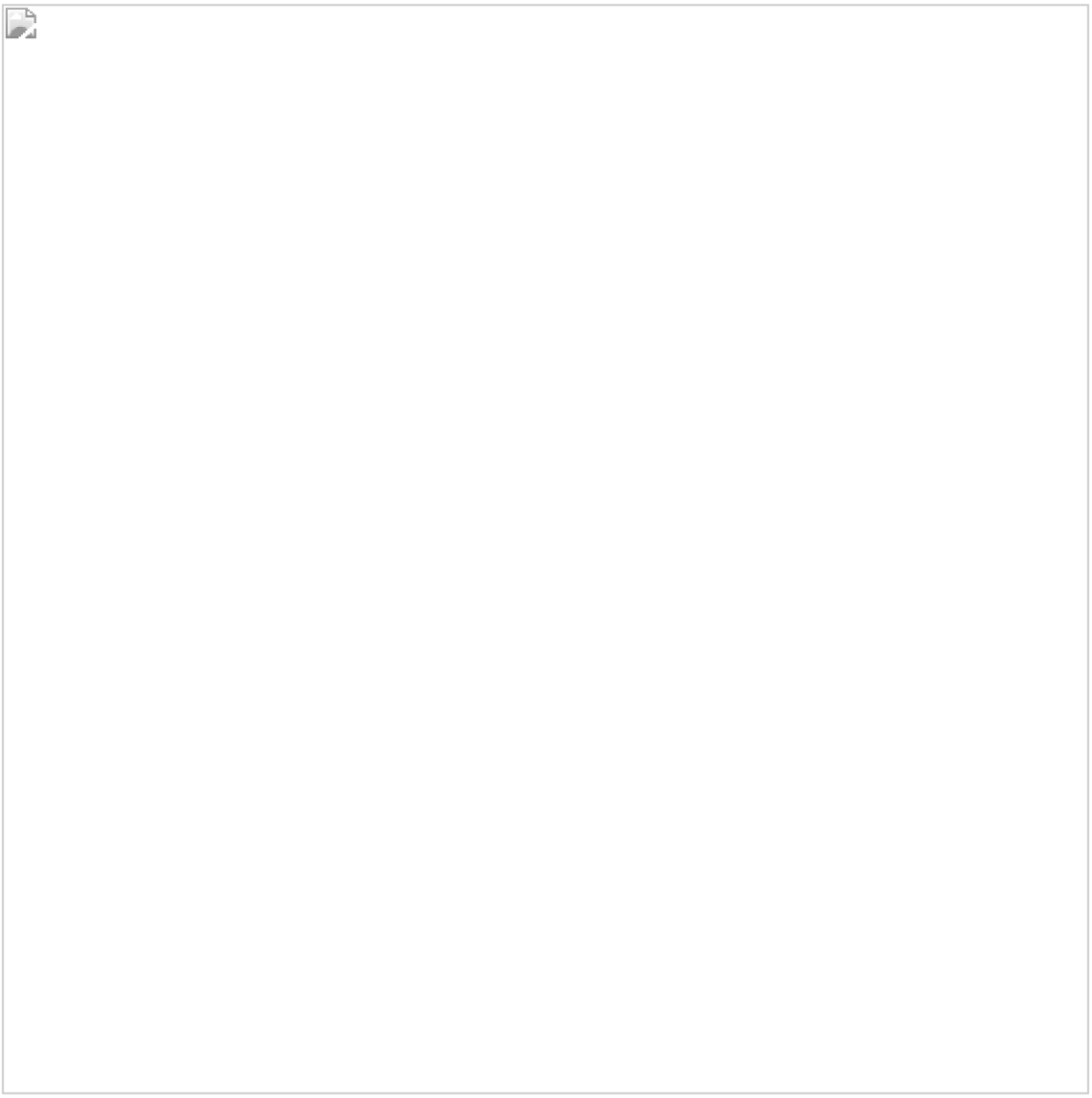
Gordian and Brunhilda lost everything and had to start over. What helps people begin again?

This book belongs to _____

Guy of Warwick · another picture



Guy and Phyllis



Lord Rohand invited Guy to a great dinner and a tournament. Guy sat across from the earl's lovely daughter Phyllis, and he wanted to show her how well he could fight. He beat every knight and won the prize. Phyllis crowned him with roses and put a chain of gold around his neck.

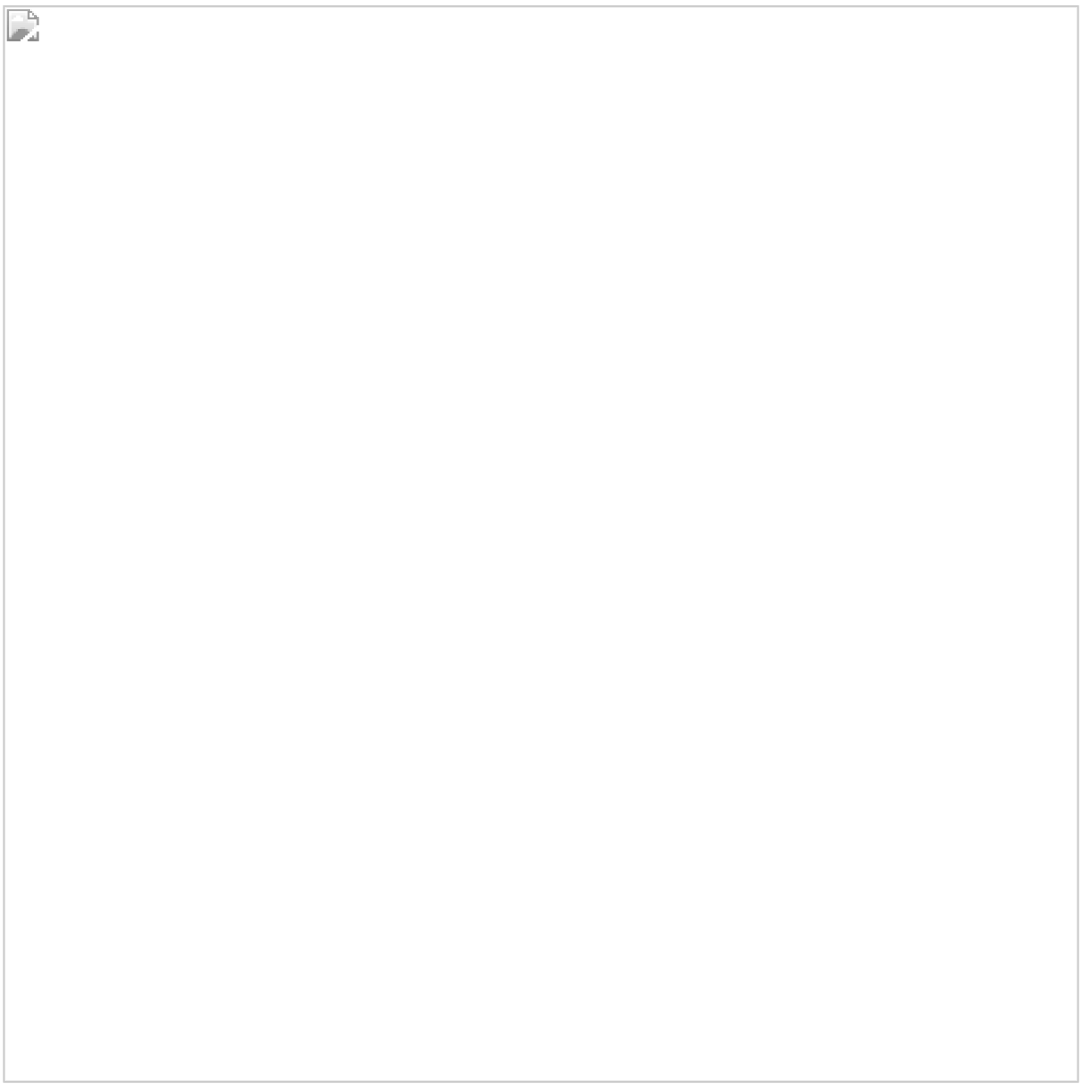
After that, Guy and Phyllis were often together. One day Guy said, “Phyllis, I love thee. I cannot help it.” She was angry and sent him away.

But Guy grew sad, and Phyllis grew lonely, and she sent for him. “Go away and make thyself famous,” she said, “then will I marry thee.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy had to go away and make himself famous before Phyllis would marry him. What do you think of that?

Guy and Phyllis · another picture

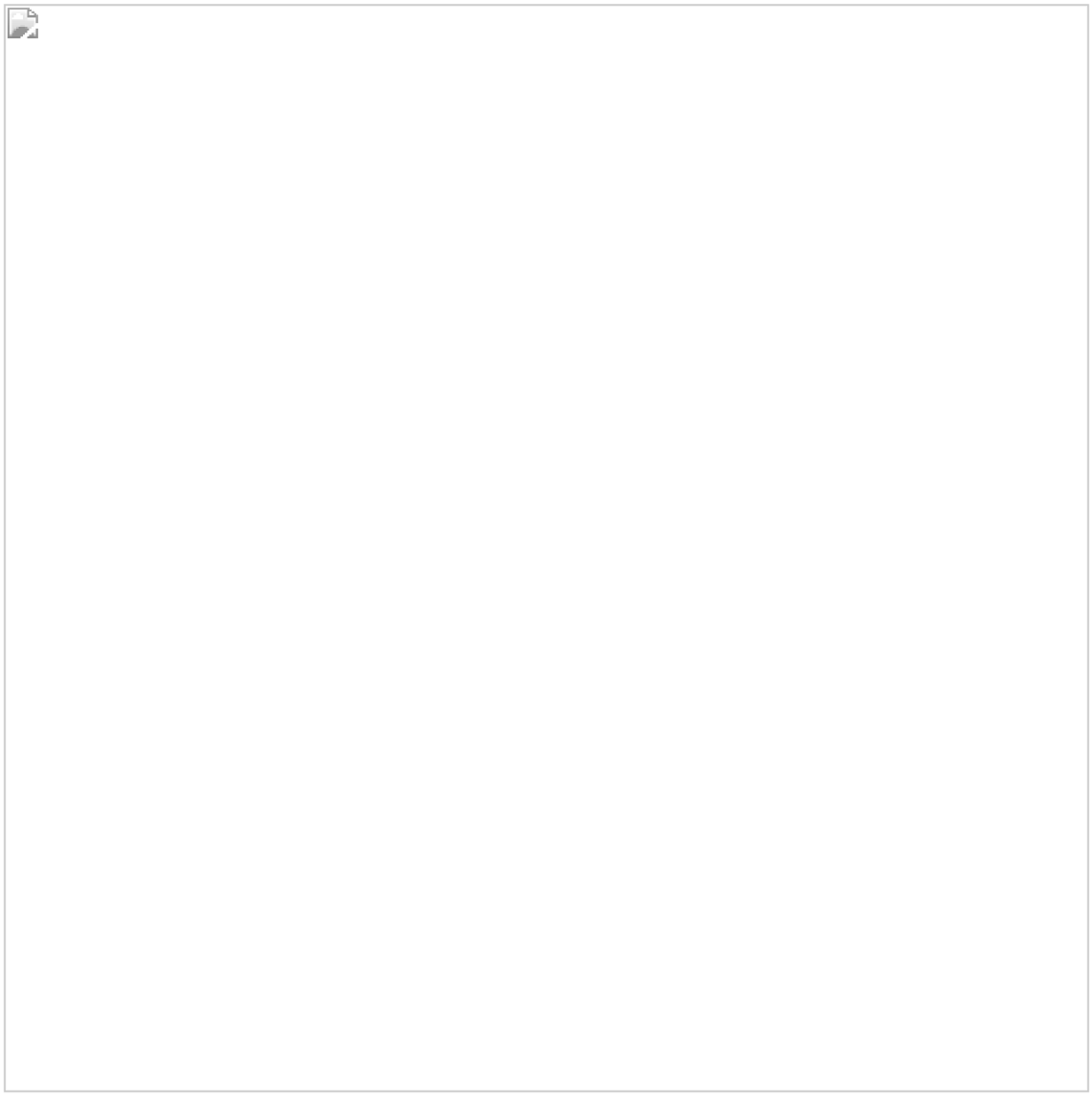


Think about it

1. What did Phyllis put around Guy's neck?

- ○ A scarf
- ○ A gold chain
- ○ A rope

The White Tournament



Guy sailed to Germany. There was a great tournament, and whoever fought best would marry the Emperor's daughter Blanche, which means white, and receive a white horse, two white hounds, and a white falcon.

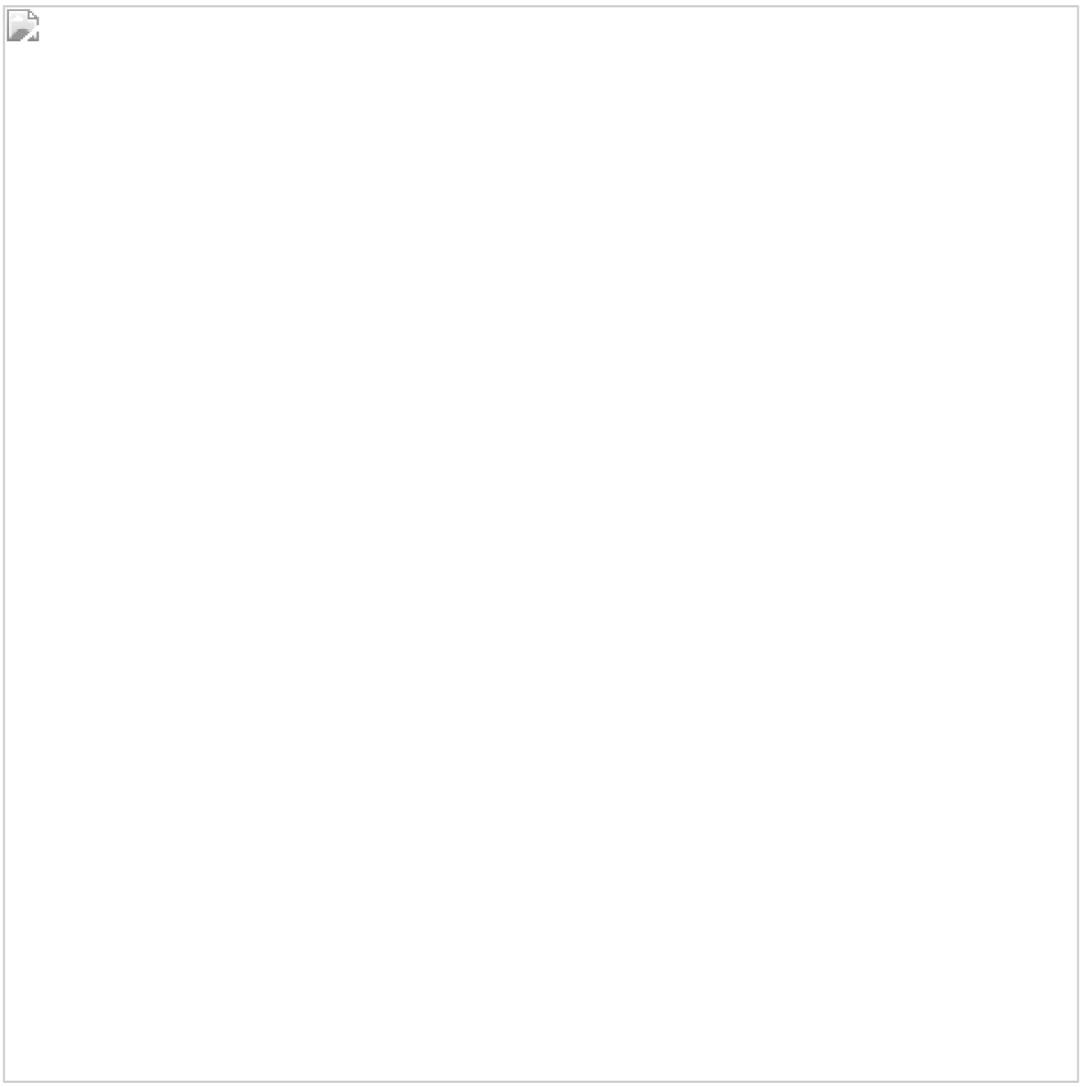
Guy came in plain black armor, with nothing painted on his shield, and the lords and ladies looked at him scornfully. But he beat Prince Philaner and three dukes, one after the other.

He took the prize, except for the hand of Blanche. “For my fair Phyllis alone I keep my love,” he said.

TALK ABOUT IT

The lords and ladies looked down on Guy because of his plain armor. Have you ever been looked down on? What helped?

The White Tournament · another picture

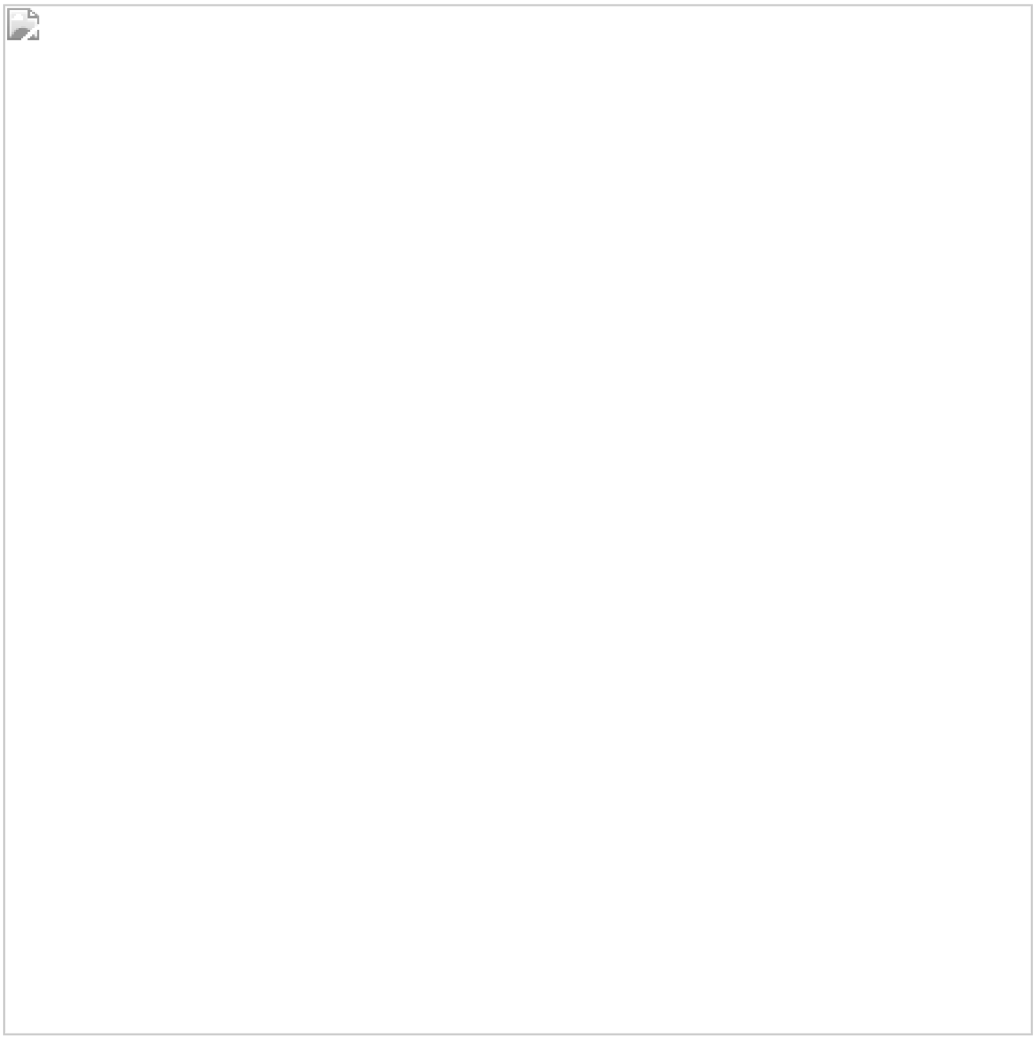


Think about it

1. Why did Guy not marry Blanche?

- ○ She said no
- ○ He was too young
- ○ He loved Phyllis

The Dun Cow



When Guy came back to England, he heard about a dun-colored cow, a terrible one, twelve feet high and eighteen feet long, with horns thicker than an elephant's tusks.

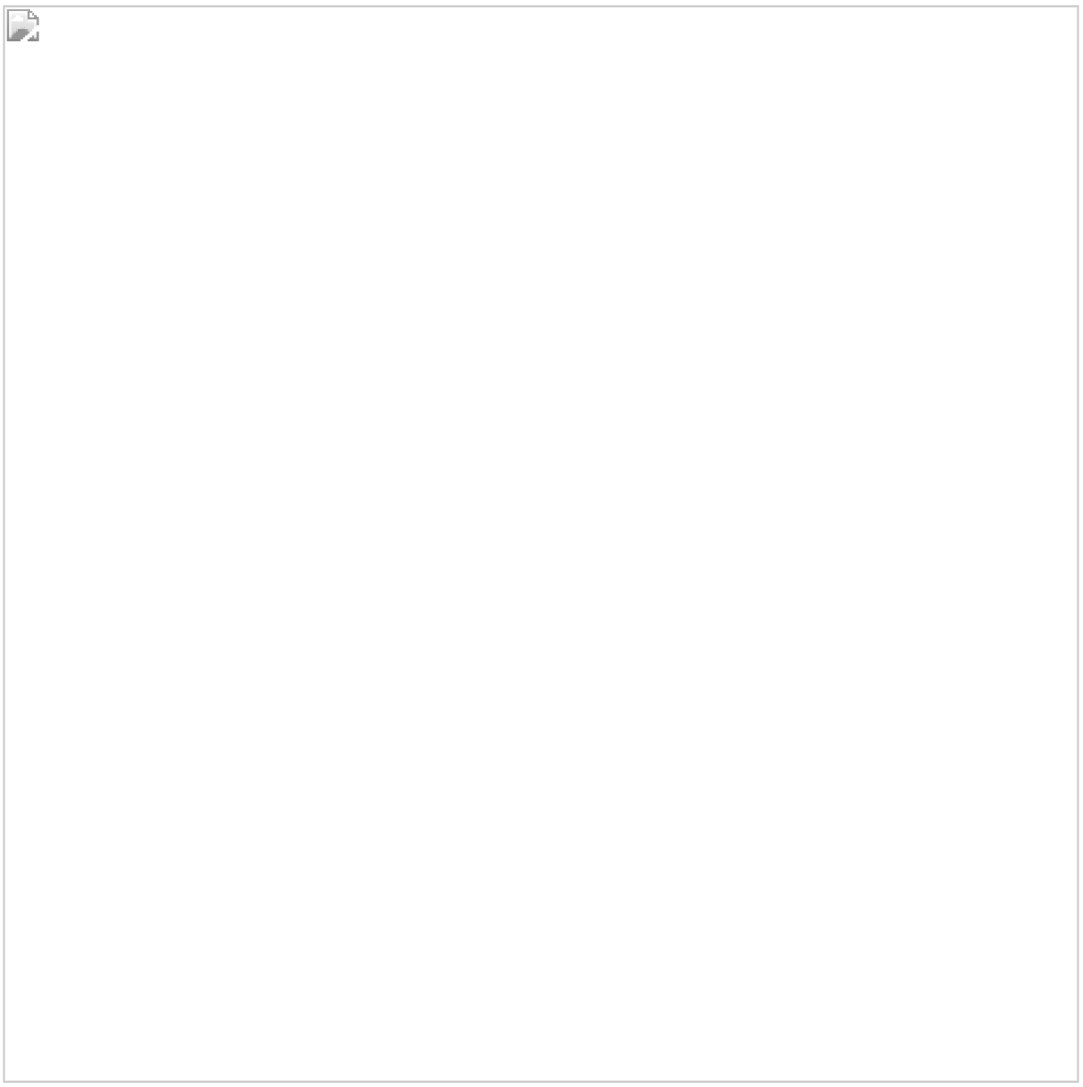
The King said that whoever killed the Dun Cow would be made a knight and given land and money.

Guy went out to meet it, and after a fearful fight he struck a deadly blow with his battle-axe behind the beast's ear.

The King gave him a pair of golden spurs, and Lady Phyllis fastened them on. One rib of the Dun Cow was hung at the gate of Coventry and another in Warwick Castle.

TALK ABOUT IT

The whole countryside was afraid of the Dun Cow. How do you think they felt when Guy came?

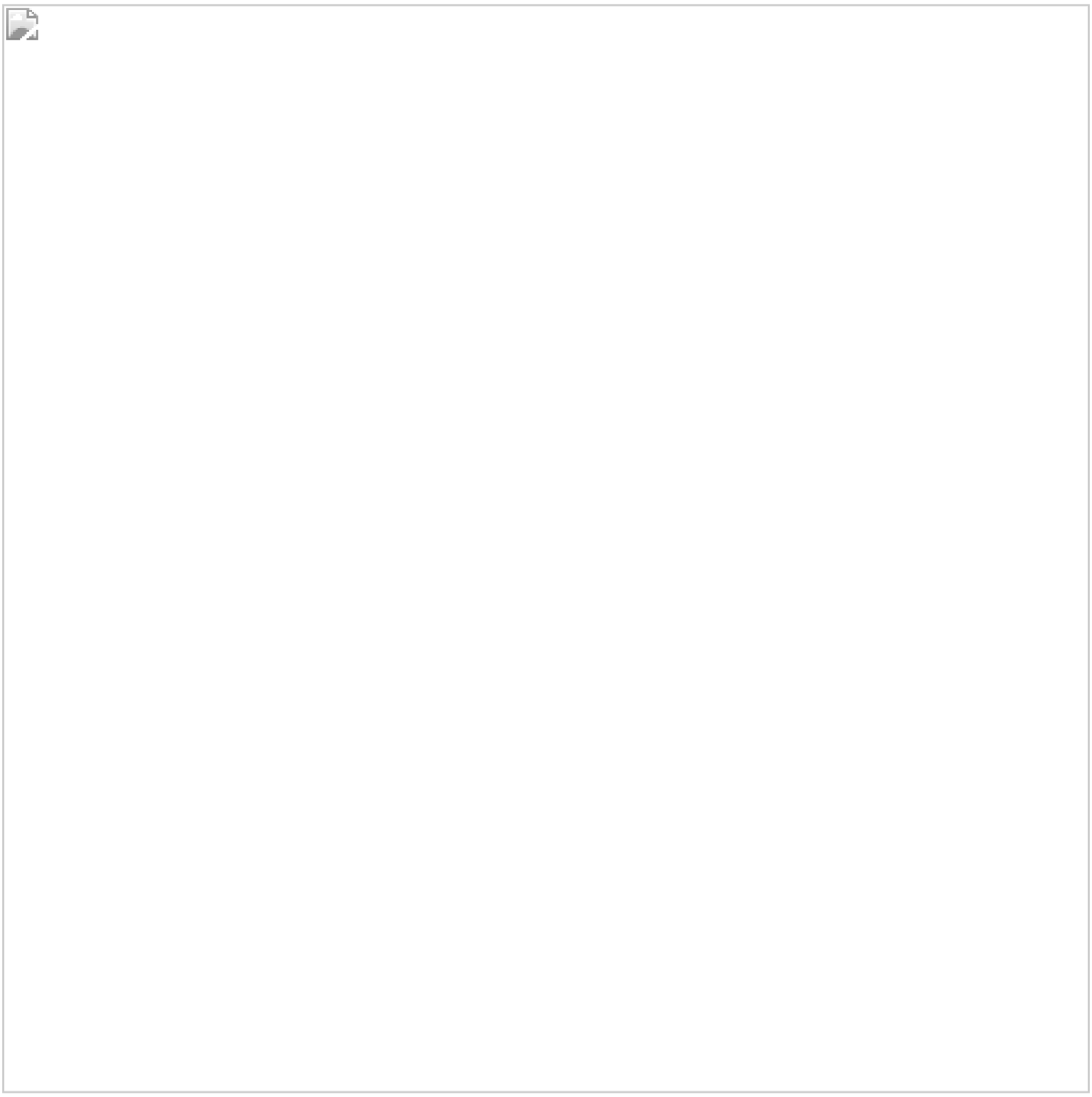


Think about it

1. What did Phyllis do for Guy?

- ○ Fastened on his golden spurs
- ○ Gave him a horse
- ○ Made him dinner

Guy's Friend Heraud



In France, Duke Otto, Guy's enemy, paid fifteen wicked men to lie in wait for him. Guy and his friend Heraud drove them off, but Heraud was struck down as if dead.

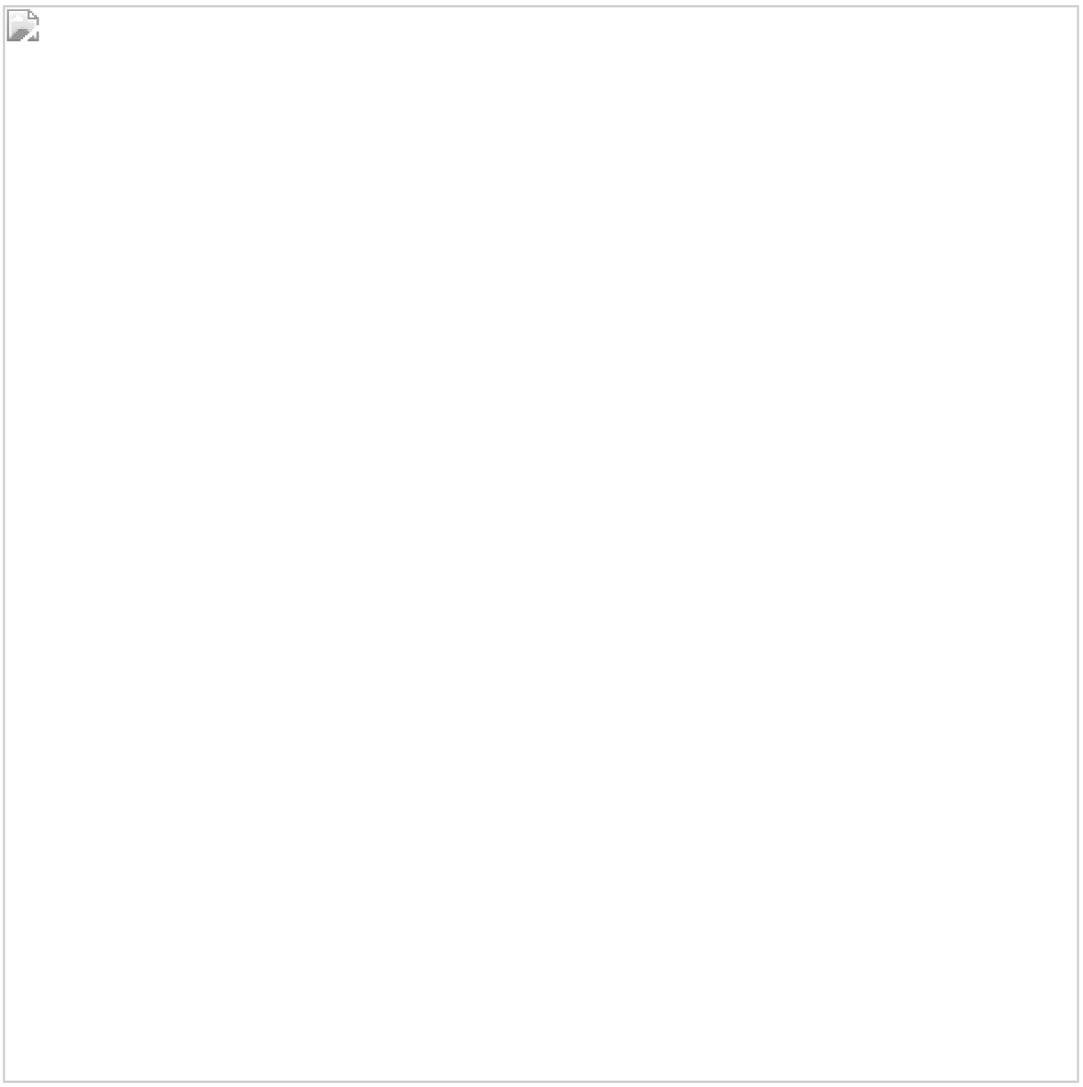
Later, Guy heard that his friend Ledgwin was shut up in his city by an army. Guy gathered his knights and set out to help.

On the road, he was overjoyed to find Heraud by the roadside dressed as a pilgrim. A kind hermit had nursed him back to health. Heraud put on armor again and rode with Guy to the city, and the army was beaten and the Emperor forgave Ledgwin.

TALK ABOUT IT

A kind hermit nursed Heraud back to health. Who has taken care of you when you were hurt or sick?

Guy's Friend Heraud · another picture

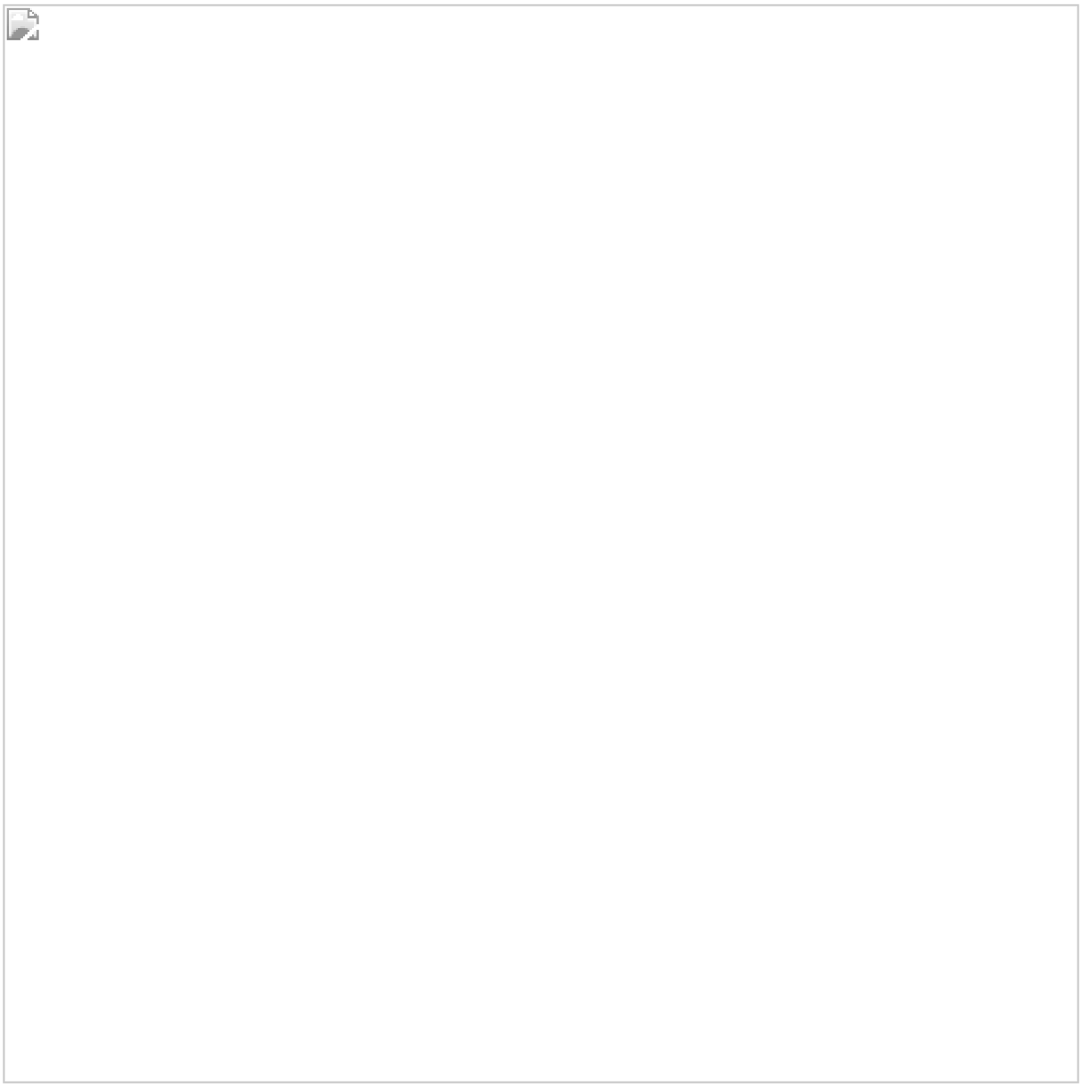


Think about it

1. Who nursed Heraud back to health?

- ○ The Emperor
- ○ A kind hermit
- ○ Duke Otto

The Lion



In Greece, Guy saw a lion and a dragon fighting. Just as the dragon was about to crush the lion, Guy leaped from his horse and plunged his sword into the dragon's side.

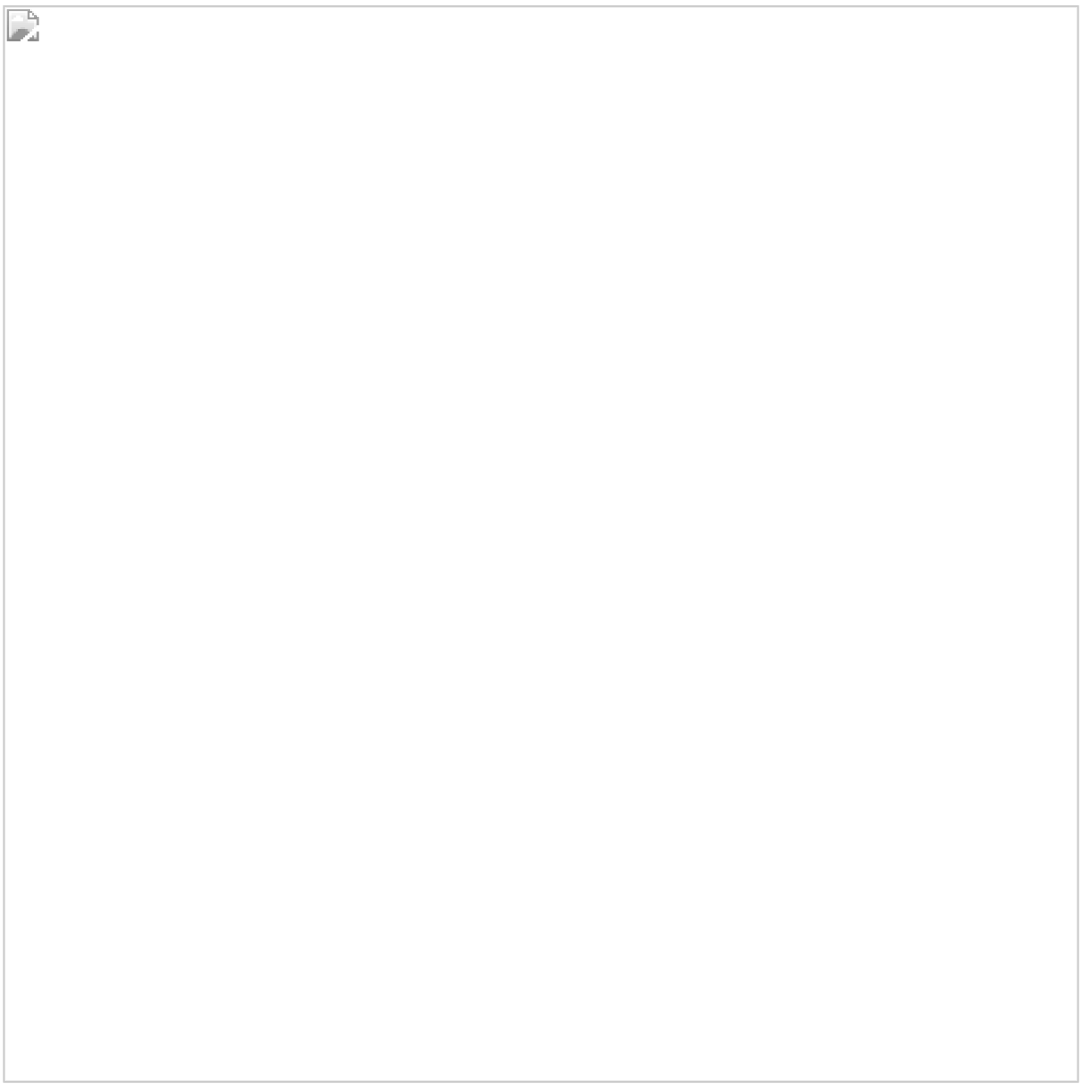
Guy thought he would have to fight the lion too. But the lion licked his feet and purred softly like a great pussy-cat.

When Guy rode home, the lion trotted after him and stayed with him.

But Guy had an enemy at court, Morgadour. “I cannot kill thee,” he said, “but I will grieve thee.” He secretly killed the lion. When the King found out, Guy fought Morgadour, and that was the end of him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The lion that Guy saved followed him home and stayed with him. Why do you think the lion trusted him?



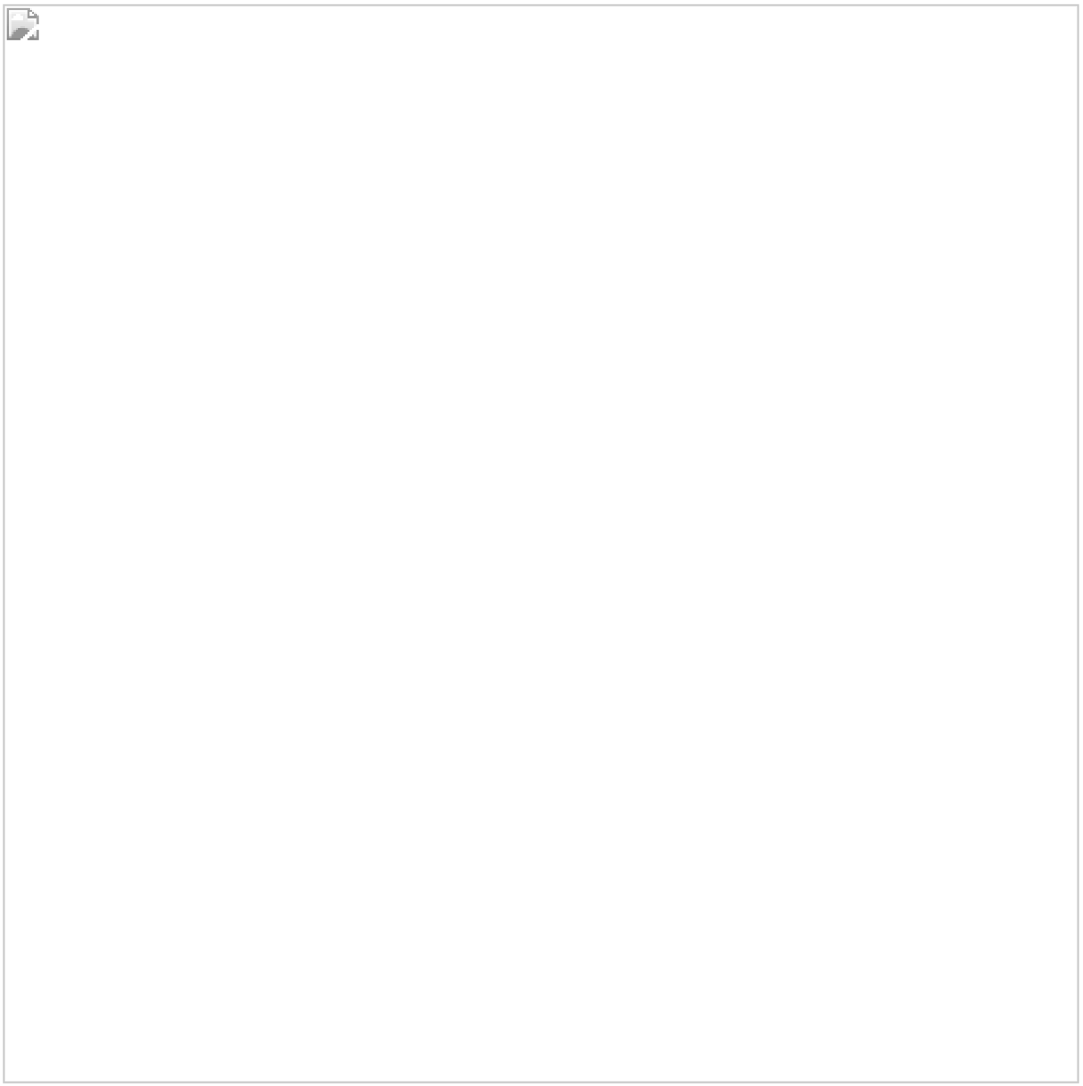
Think about it

1. How did the lion treat Guy after he saved it?

- ○ It licked his feet
- ○ It ran away
- ○ It roared at him

2. Morgadour wanted to hurt Guy by hurting the lion. What do you think of that?

I Must Go



Guy came home laden with riches, and there was a great and splendid wedding. For fifteen days there was feasting and merriment.

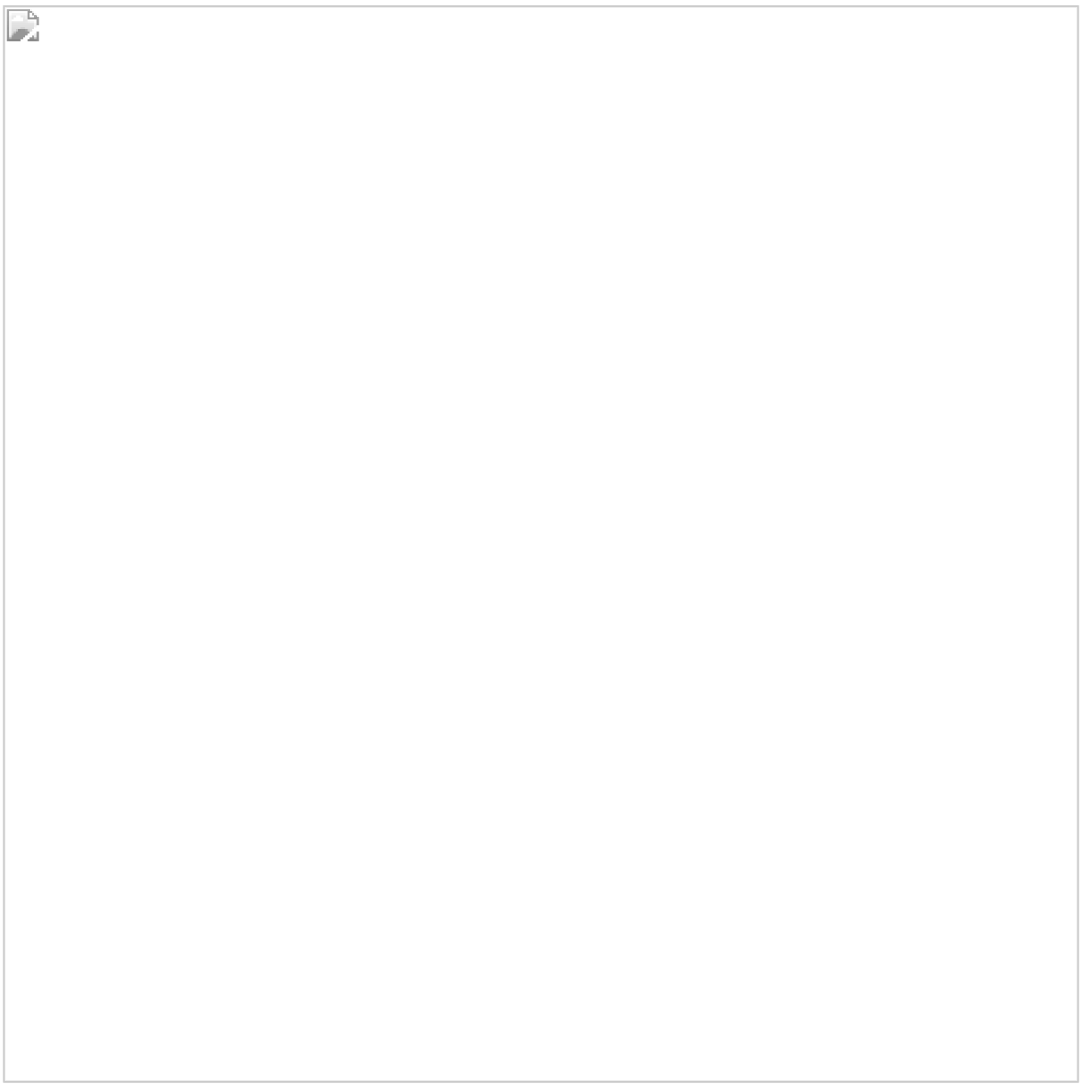
For some time, Guy and Phyllis lived happily together. Then Earl Rohand died, and Guy became Earl of Warwick.

One day he was thinking about his past life, and it seemed to him that he had caused much bloodshed. He decided to go to the Holy Land, to the tomb of the Lord, and be sorry for his sins there.

Phyllis begged him to stay. But Guy said, “I must go.” He put on pilgrim robes, took a staff in his hand, and set out.

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy was sorry for the hurt he had caused, and Phyllis begged him to stay. What would you have done, in Guy's place, or in Phyllis's?

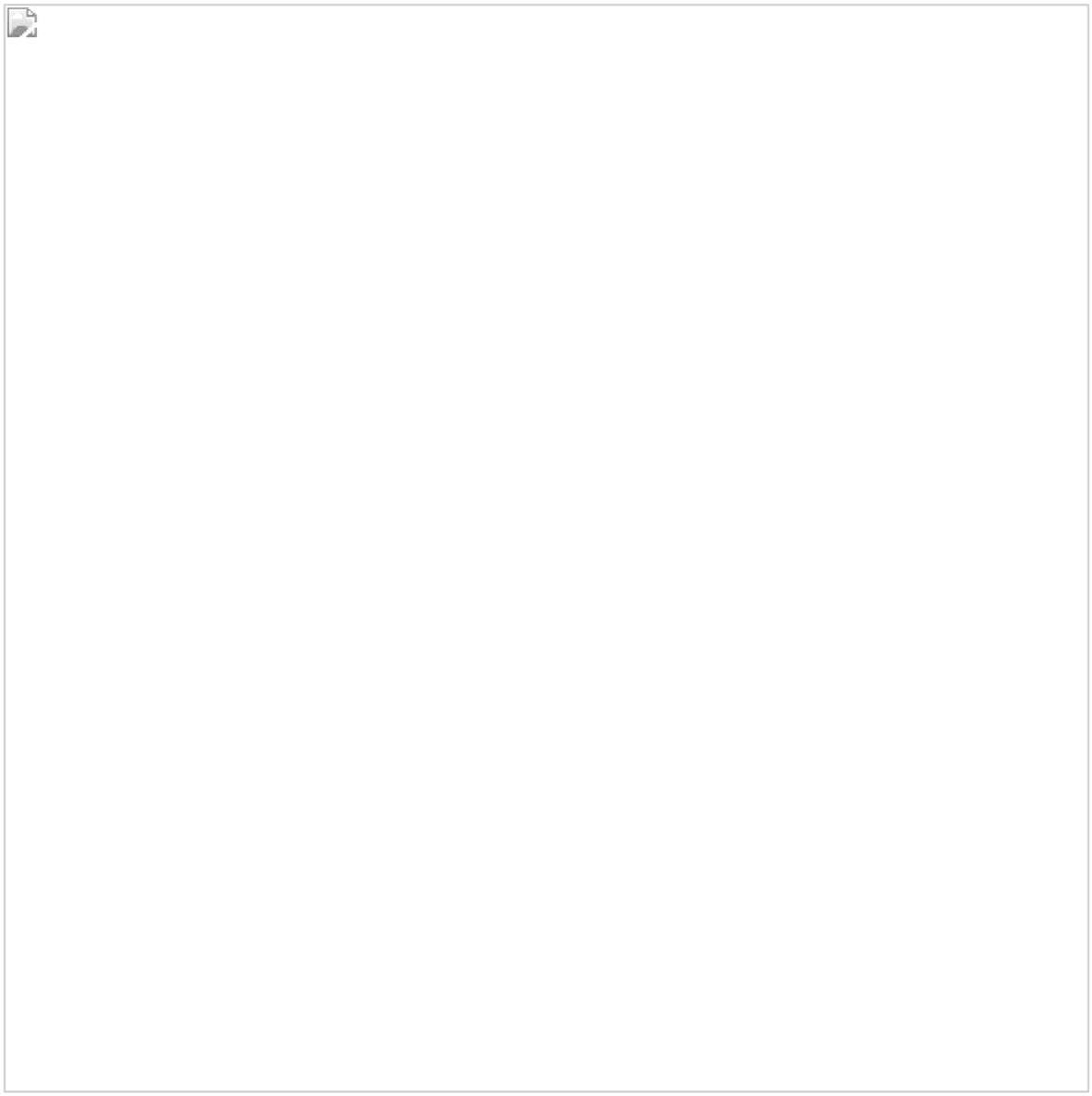


Think about it

1. What did Guy wear on his long journey?

- ○ Armor
- ○ A crown
- ○ Pilgrim robes

A Giant and a Sad Old Man



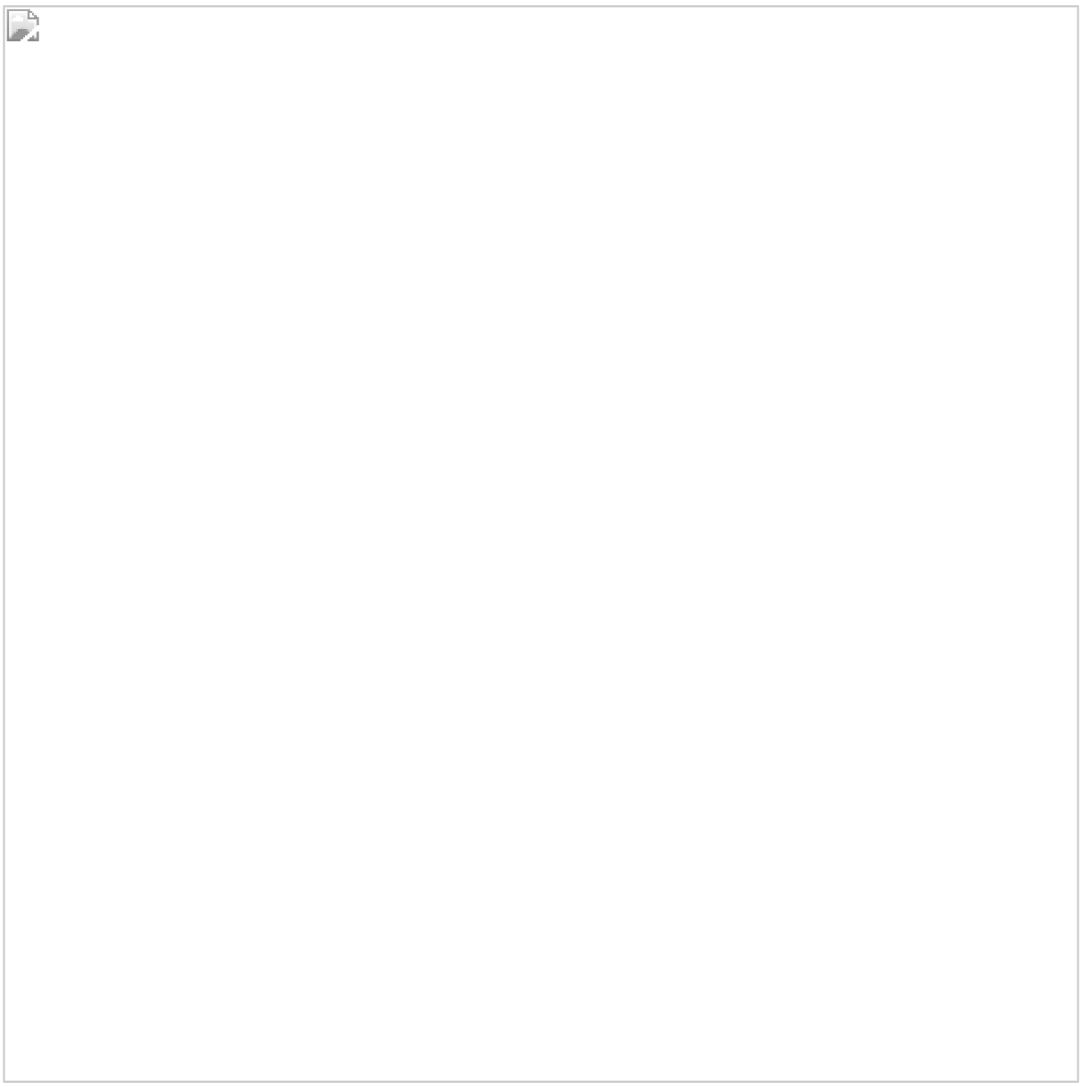
On the road, Guy met an old man who was very sad. “I am Earl Jonas of Durras,” he said. “I seek Guy of Warwick to help me.” A giant named Ameraunt was keeping the earl's daughter and fifteen sons shut in a strong castle.

Guy did not say who he was. He asked only for food, armor, and a sword. Then he called the giant out, and they fought all day, until Guy won.

He took the keys, and set free the earl's children and many other knights and ladies. Then he took off his armor, put on his pilgrim's robe again, and went on his way.

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy helped a stranger and did not even say his name. Why do you think he did not?

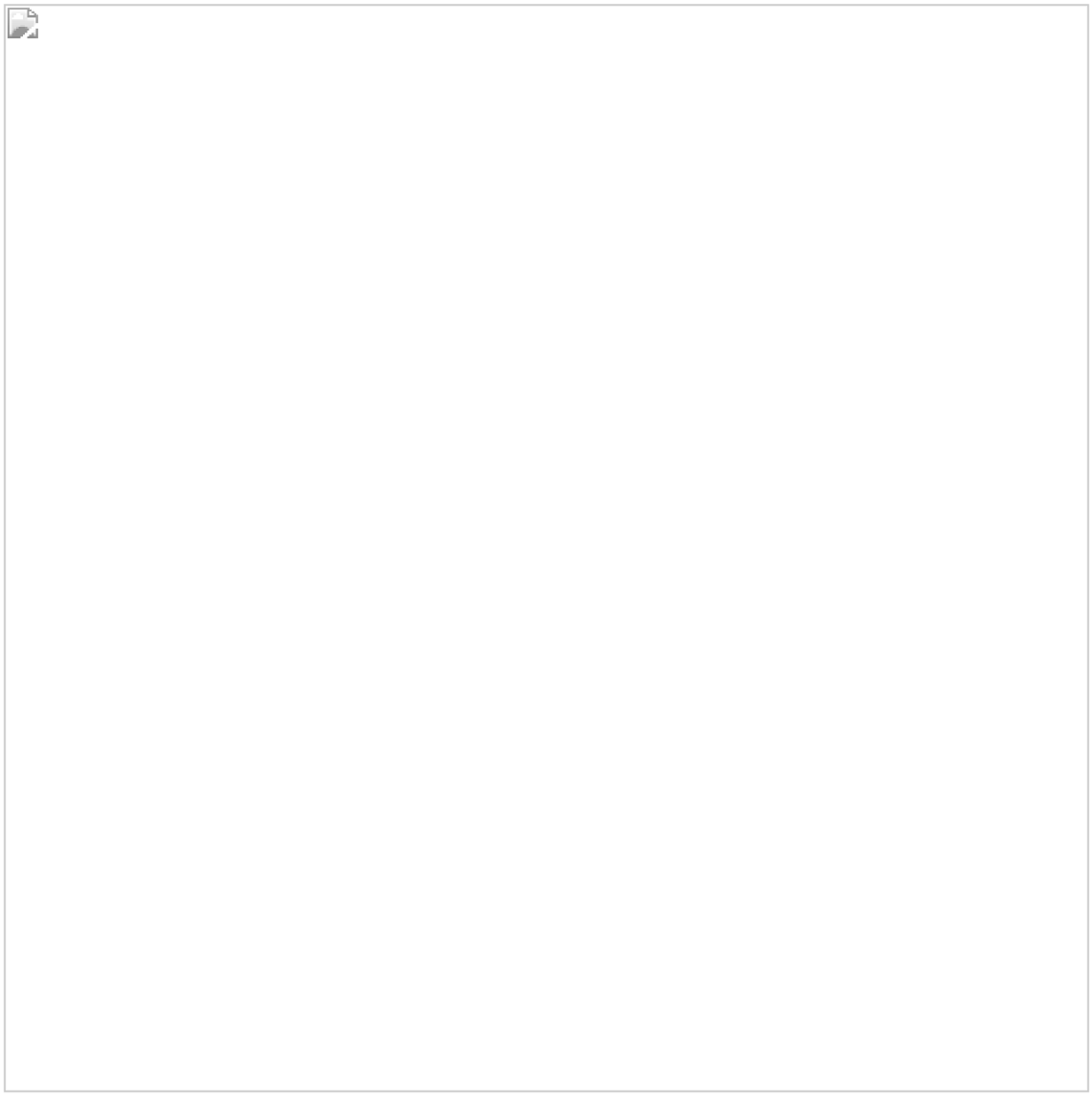


Think about it

1. Who did Guy set free?

- ○ A dragon
- ○ A lion
- ○ The earl's children and others

Phyllis at Home



While Guy was away, Phyllis was very sorrowful. But the good fairies had promised her a little son, Reinbroun, and he was so dear that she was comforted.

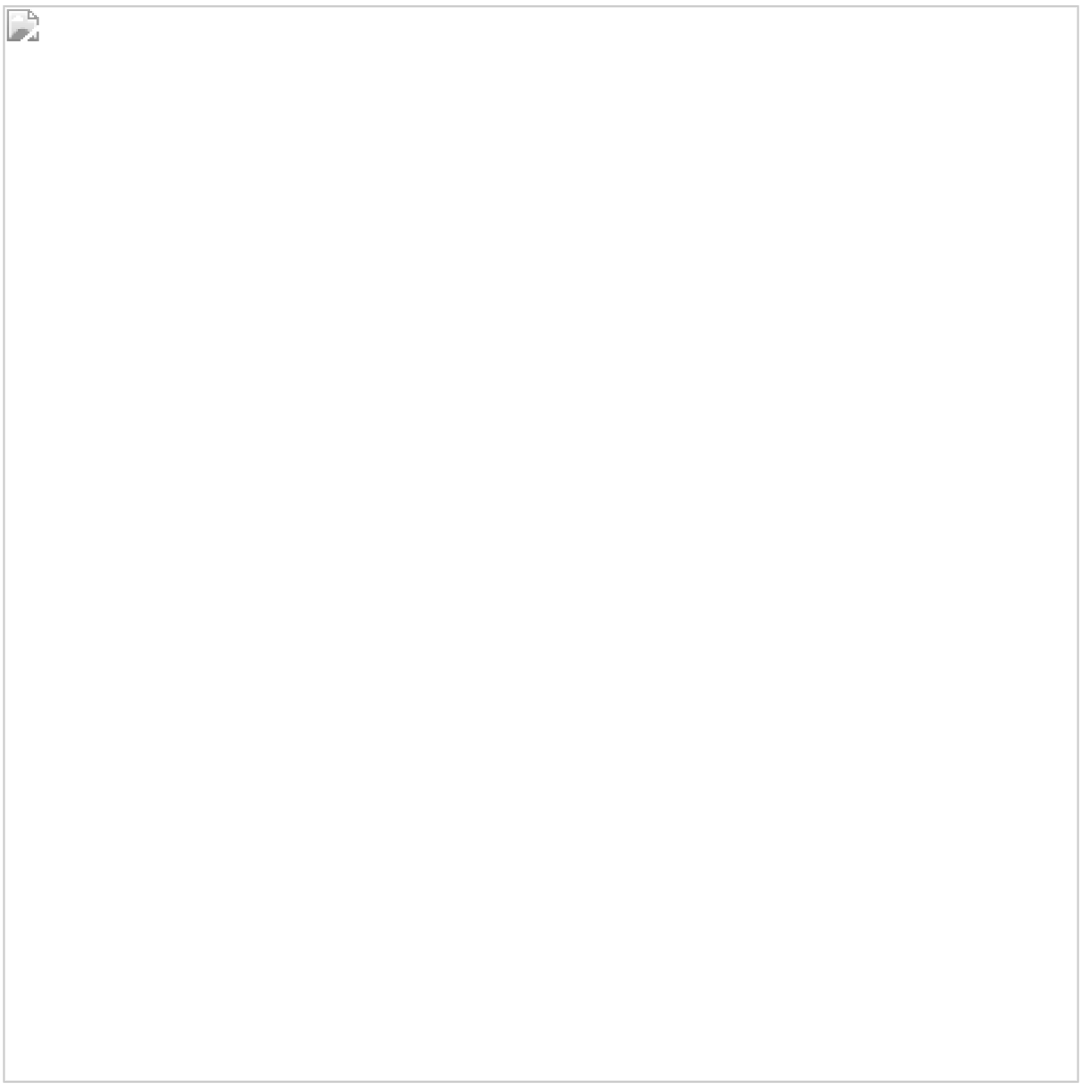
Because her lord was far away, Phyllis ruled the land for him. She made new roads, and rebuilt bridges that had broken down. She fed the poor, looked after the sick, and comforted those in sorrow.

Year after year went by, and still Guy did not come. Every evening Phyllis paced the path where she and Guy had so often walked. To this day it is called Fair Phyllis's Walk.

TALK ABOUT IT

Phyllis missed Guy so much, and she still fed the poor and cared for the sick. Why do you think she did?

Phyllis at Home · another picture



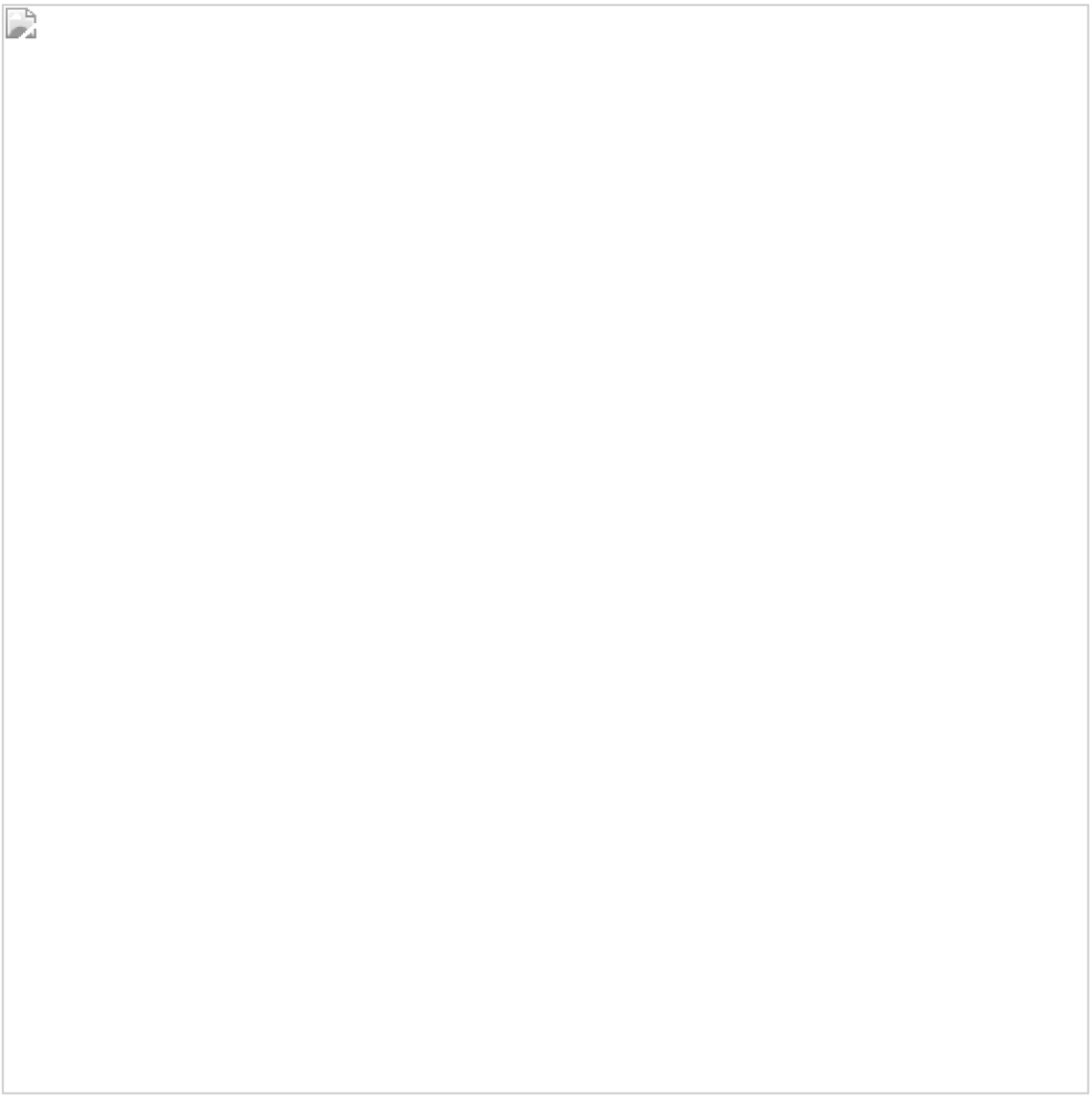
Think about it

1. What did Phyllis build and mend?

- ○ A boat
- ○ Roads and bridges
- ○ A tower to the moon

2. Who is looking after the people at home when someone is away? What can we learn from Phyllis?

A King Prays for a Champion



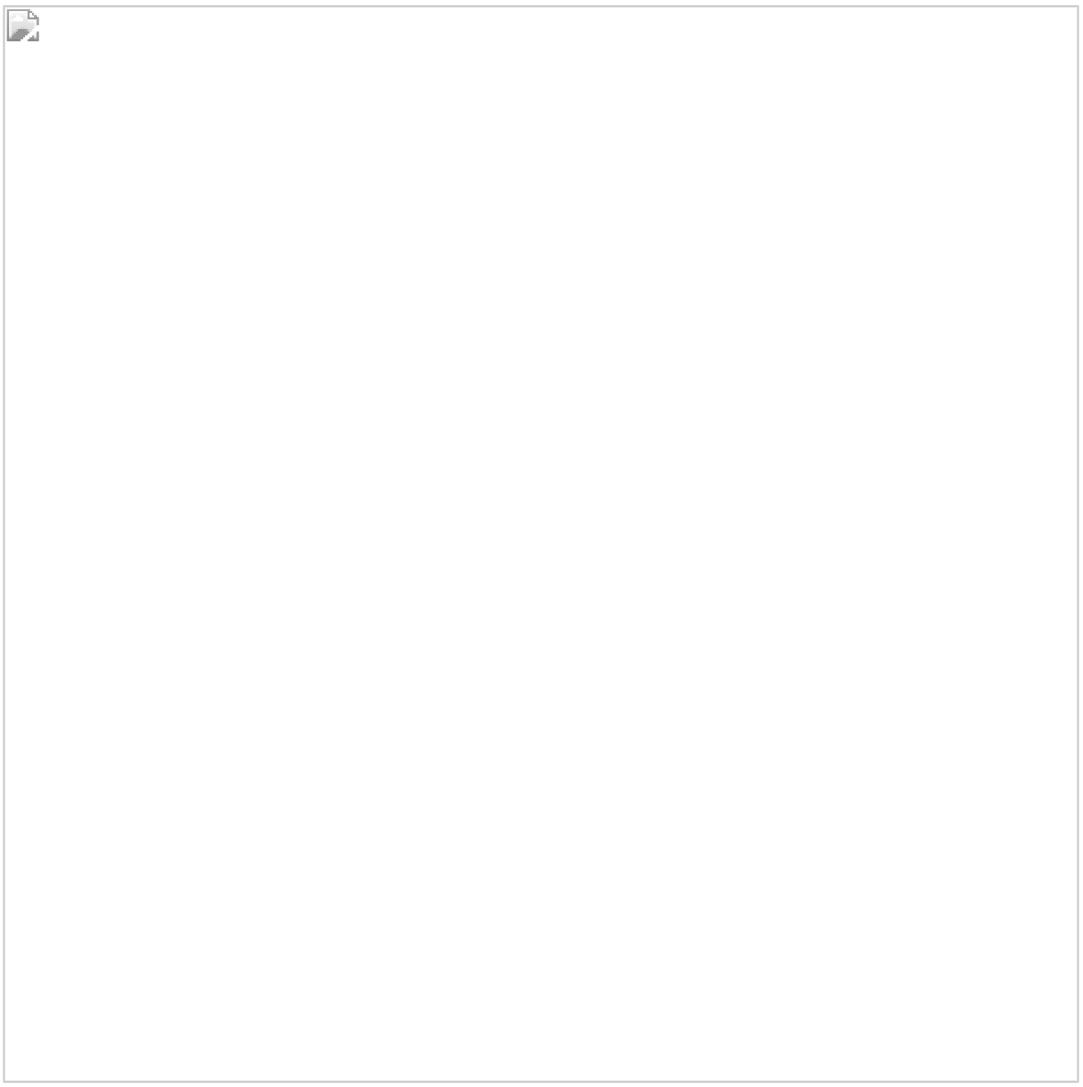
After many years, Guy came back to England. He was an old man now, with a long beard and white hair, and no one knew him.

He found the whole country in dread. Anlaf, the King of Denmark, had come with a great army, and had a giant with him called Colbrand. Anlaf said King Athelstane must find a champion to fight the giant, or give up his kingdom.

The King had sent messengers north, south, east and west, but no one dared to face the giant. Now the King and his people were kneeling in the great church of Winchester, asking God to send a champion.

TALK ABOUT IT

The whole kingdom was kneeling and asking for help. Who do you turn to when you are afraid?

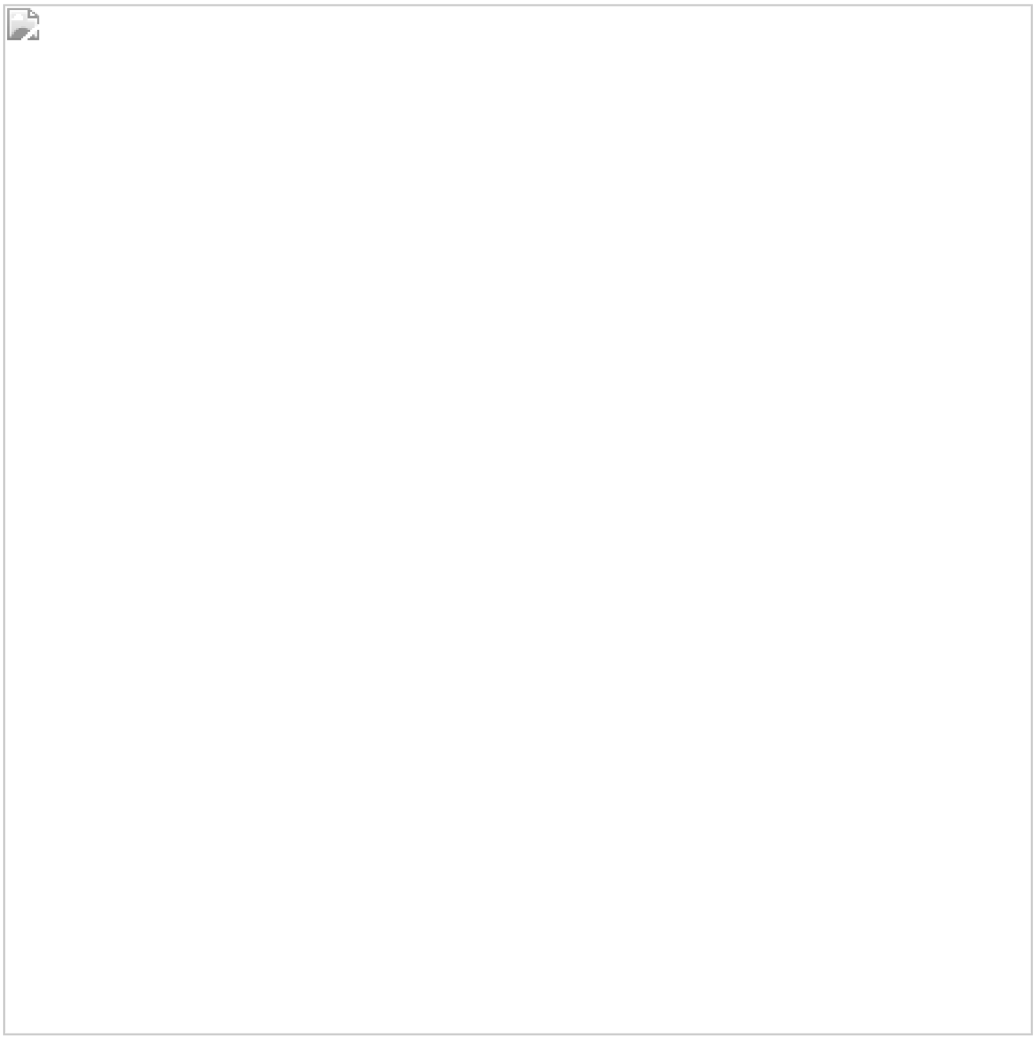


Think about it

1. What did the King of Denmark demand?

- ○ A champion to fight Colbrand, or the kingdom
- ○ A feast
- ○ A castle

The Pilgrim and the Giant



Then an old pilgrim with bare feet and a staff stepped forward in the silent hall. “I will fight for thee,” he said.

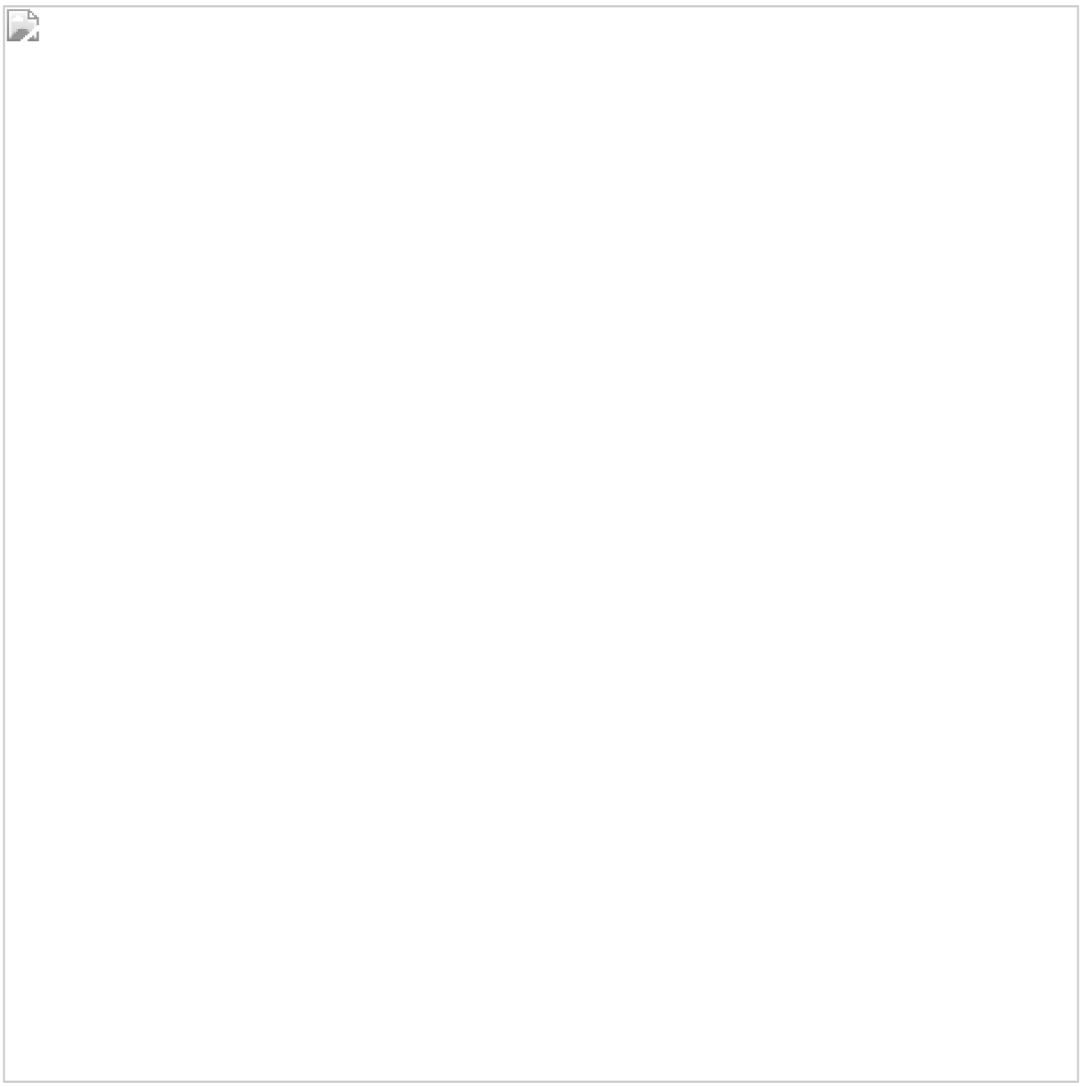
“Thou seemest more fit to pray than to fight for us,” said the King. But there was no other. Guy borrowed the earl's armor from the Countess of Warwick, and it fit him well.

Colbrand was so huge that no horse could carry him, and Guy came only up to his shoulder.

Colbrand offered Guy castles and towers to join the Danes. “Better death than that,” said Guy. At last his battle-axe brought the giant down, the Danes ran to their ships, and England was saved.

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy said no to castles and towers. Why do you think he chose to keep fighting for what was right?

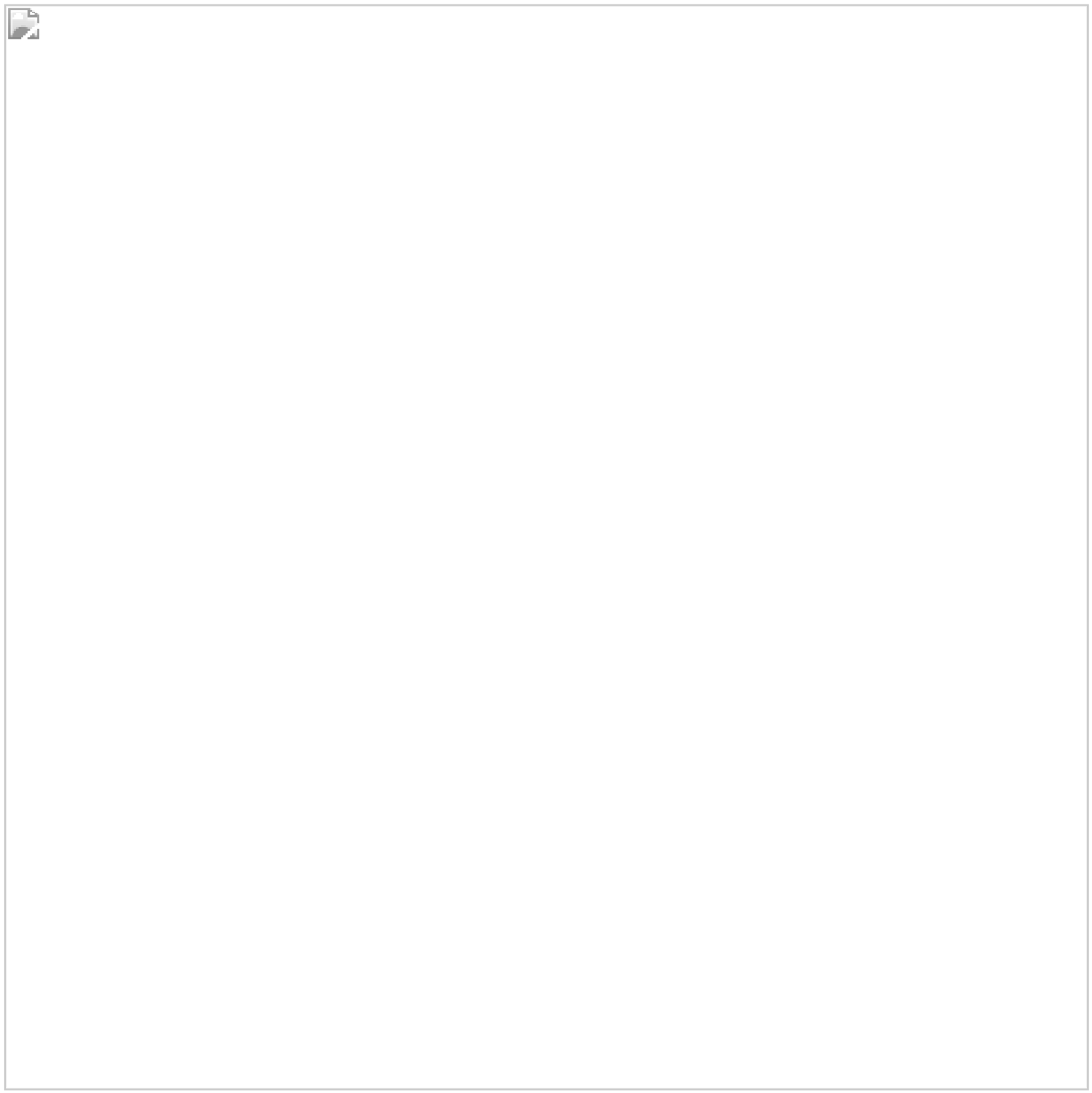


Think about it

1. What did Guy refuse?

- ○ A drink of water
- ○ Colbrand's offer of castles and towers
- ○ His armor

Bless God, Not Me



The King and the priests came out singing hymns to lead Guy back, and the King offered him rewards, even half the kingdom.

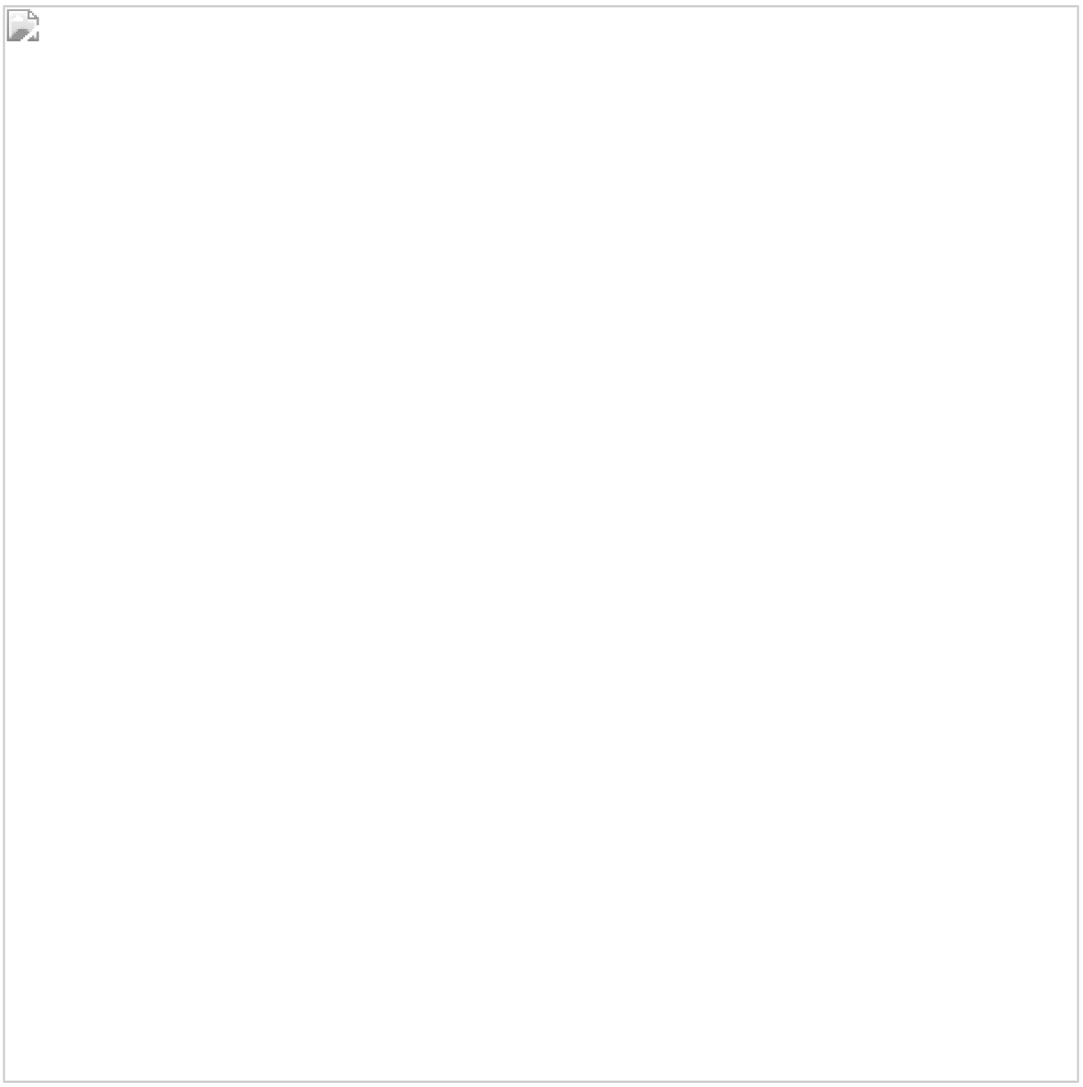
But Guy would have none of it. “Give me my pilgrim's dress again,” he said. When the King asked his name, Guy said, “Bless God, not me.”

Alone outside the city, Guy told the King who he was. The King threw his arms around him. “Now thou wilt come with me and help me to rule,” he said. But Guy would not, and asked the King to tell no one.

He had sworn never again to fight for glory, only for a right cause.

TALK ABOUT IT

An old book says, “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6). Why do you think Guy gave away all the credit?

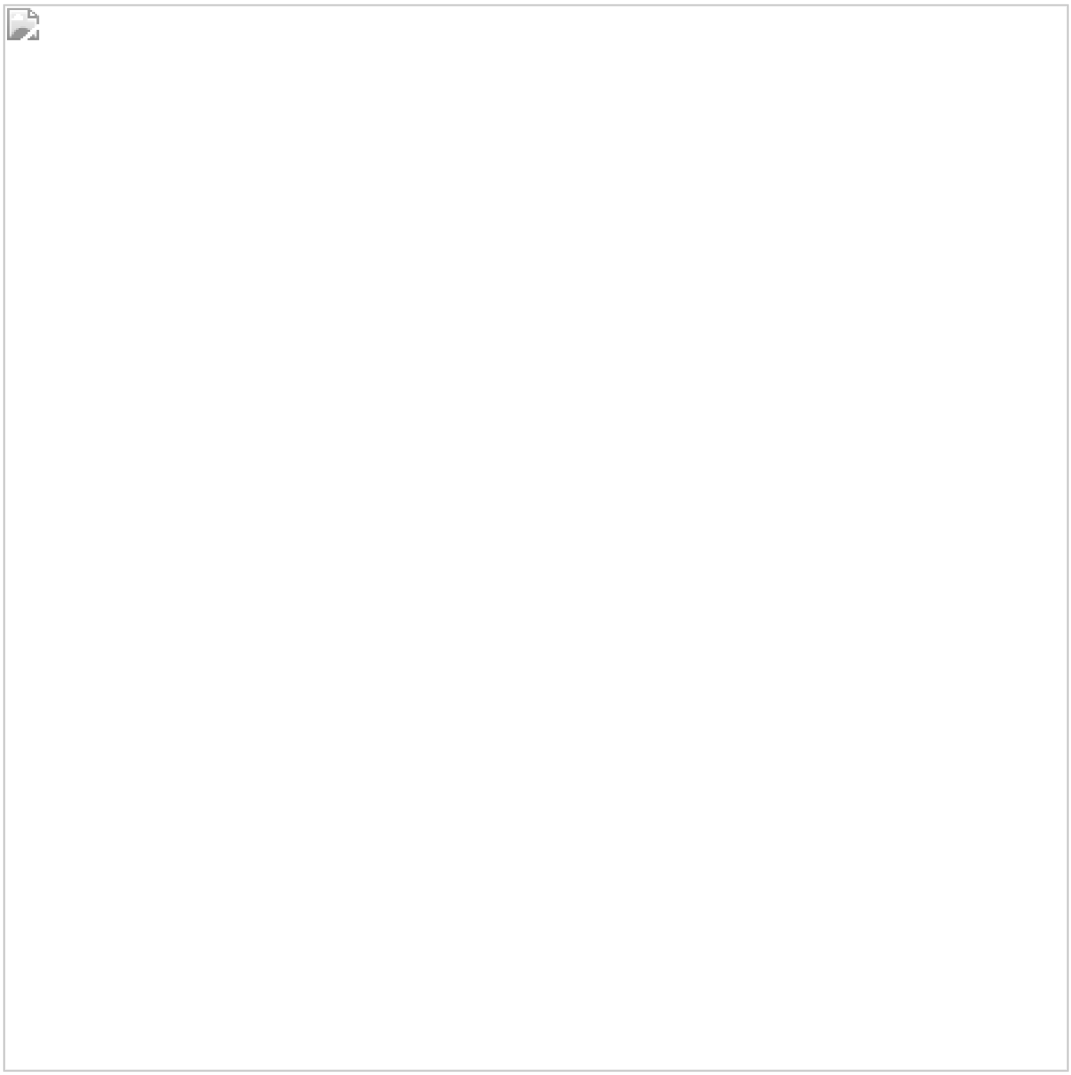


Think about it

1. What did Guy ask for, instead of rewards?

- ○ Half the kingdom
- ○ A crown
- ○ His pilgrim's dress

At the Castle Gate



In Warwick no one knew him, so Guy stood with the poor men at the castle gate each morning, waiting for food from the countess.

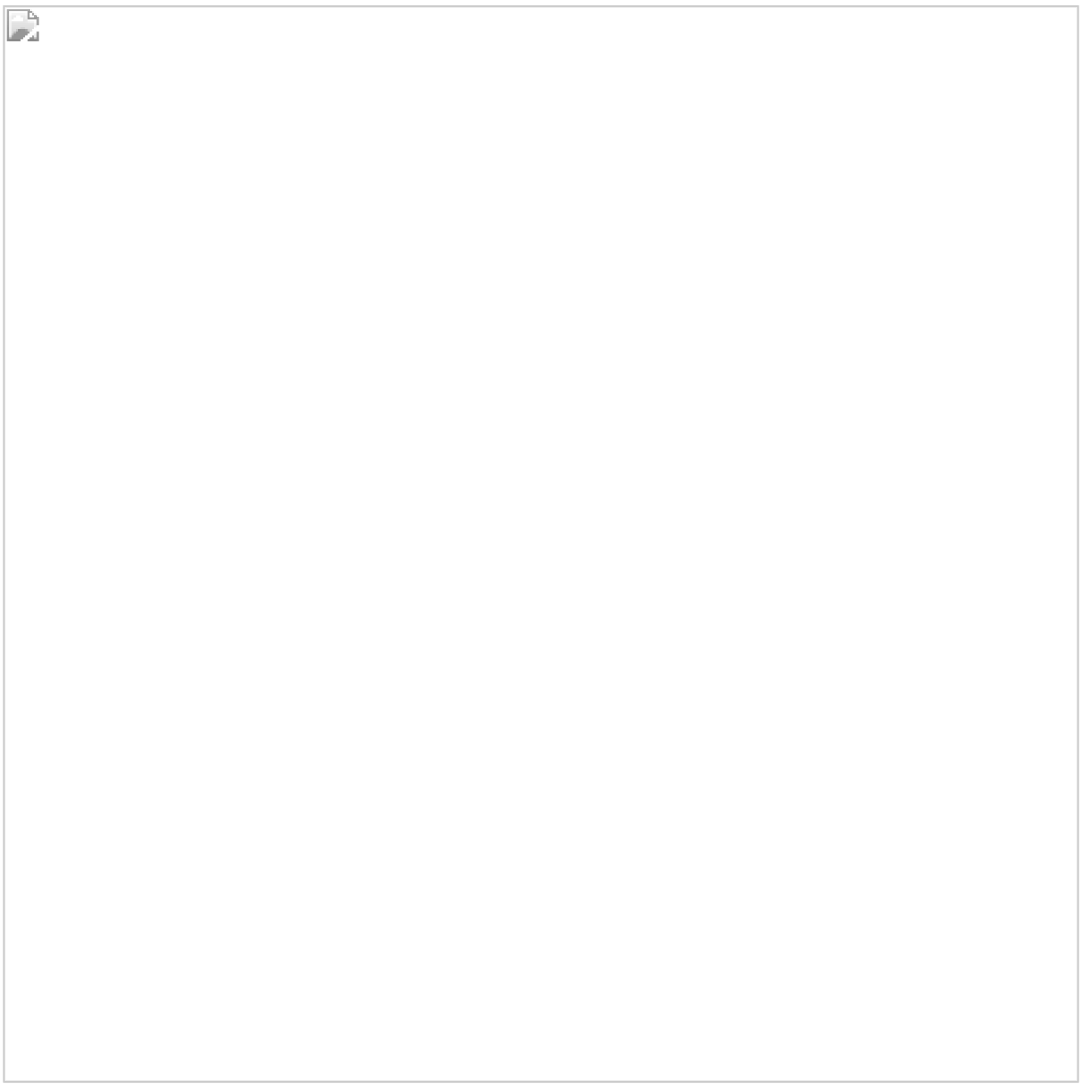
He heard them bless Phyllis as the best woman who had ever lived, and his heart was glad.

Phyllis did not know him, but she felt sorry for the thin, worn pilgrim. She spoke kindly to him, gave him more food than the others, and told him to come every day.

Guy made his home in an empty hermit's cave nearby, living on bread and spring water. Every evening he could hear Phyllis walking, but he could not say, “I am here.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy was so close to Phyllis, and still he said nothing. Why do you think that was?

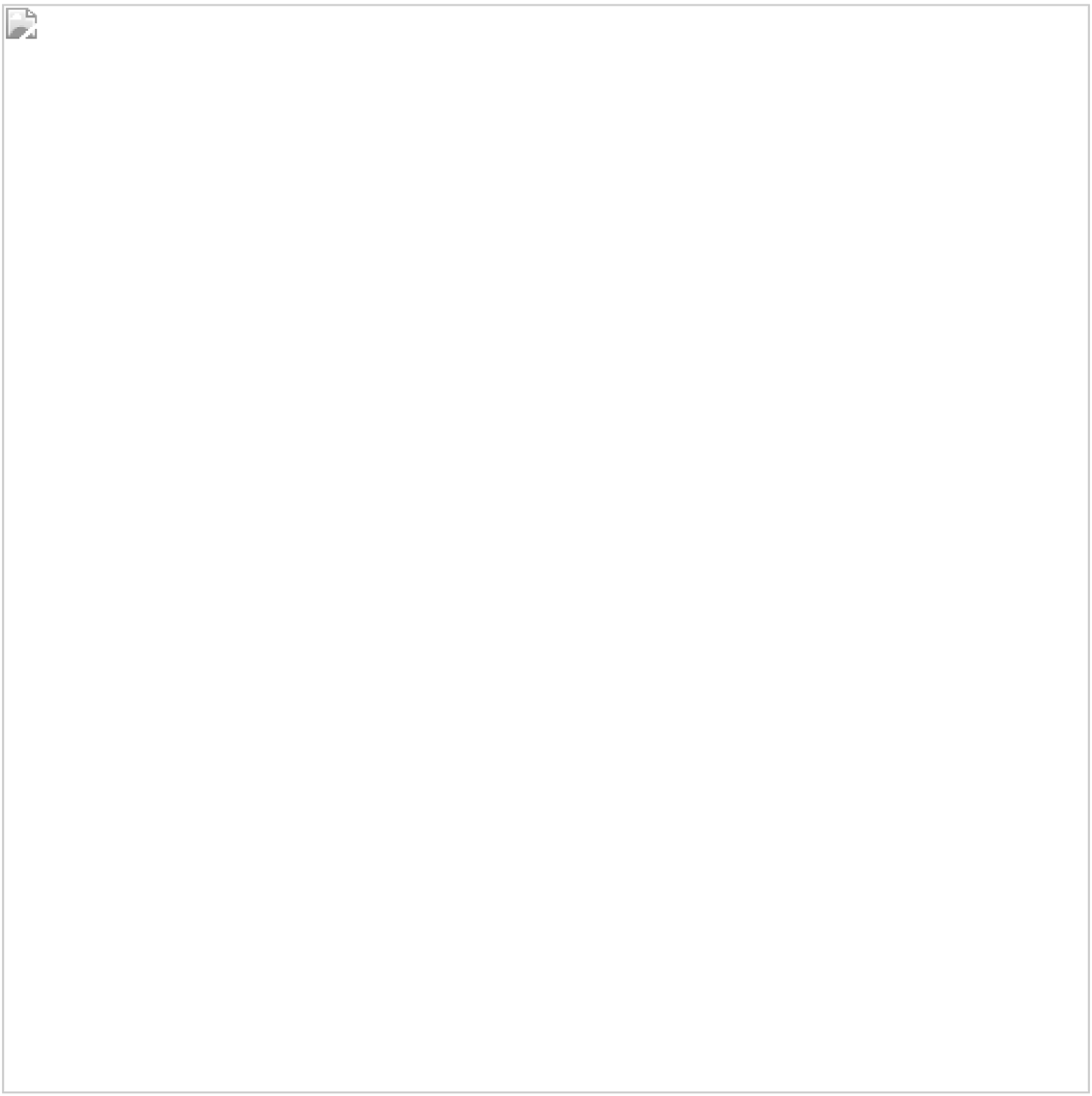


Think about it

1. How did Phyllis treat the poor pilgrim?

- ○ Kindly, with extra food
- ○ Rudely
- ○ She ignored him

The Ring



One day Guy became very ill. He gave a countryman the ring Phyllis had given him long ago. “Tell her to come hastily,” he said.

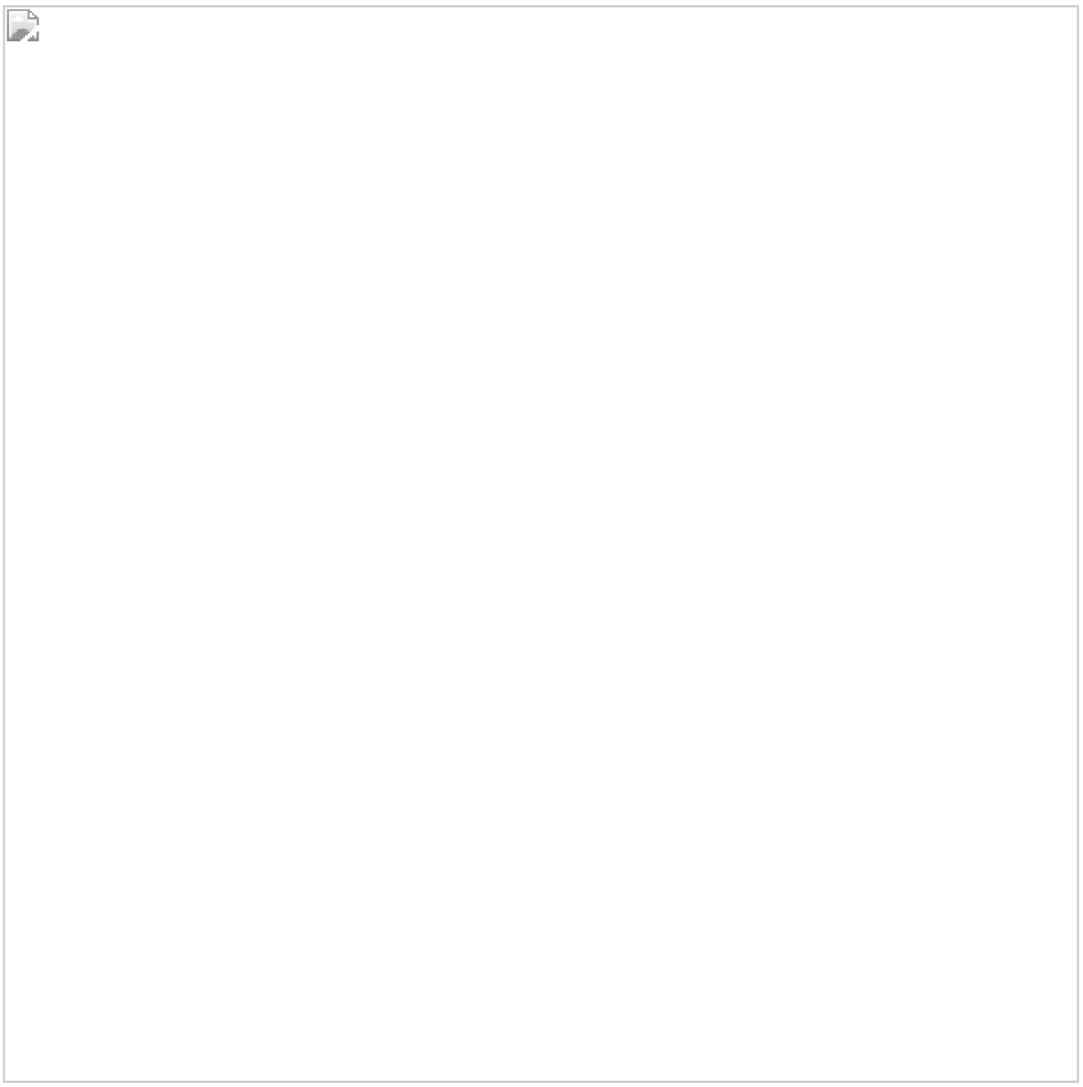
When Phyllis saw the ring, she cried, “It is mine own lord, Sir Guy.” She rode to the cave, knelt beside Guy, and put her arms around him, weeping.

“Weep not,” said Guy, “for I go where sorrows end.” He kissed her, and died.

All the land mourned, and Guy and Phyllis were laid in the same grave. The minstrels sang of how he slew giants and dragons, and how he was always a gentle and courteous knight.

TALK ABOUT IT

Guy had been a famous knight, and he ended in a cave with the one he loved. What do you think mattered most to him at the end?



Think about it

1. How did Phyllis know the ring was Guy's?

- ○ It had his name
- ○ She had given it to him
- ○ A bird told her

2. If you could ask Guy one question, what would you ask?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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