

SCENE FIVE
A mud village

(ARTHUR rides in with PATSY. DENNIS GALAHAD enters behind a small traveling mound of mud. He is mining for mud.)

ARTHUR

Over! Old woman!

DENNIS

Man!

ARTHUR

Man, sorry. What knight lives in that castle over there?

DENNIS

I'm _____(use age).

ARTHUR

What?

DENNIS

I'm not old!

ARTHUR

Well, I can't just call you 'Man.'

DENNIS

Well, you could say 'Dennis.'

ARTHUR

Well, I didn't know you were called 'Dennis.'

DENNIS

Well, you didn't bother to find out, did you?

ARTHUR

Look...I did say I was sorry about the 'old woman' thing, but really, from behind you do look like...

DENNIS

What I object to is that you automatically treat me like an inferior!

ARTHUR

Well, I *am* king...

DENNIS

Oh, king, eh, very nice. And how'd you get that, eh? By exploiting the workers?? If there's ever going to be any progress...

(DENNIS'S MOTHER ENTERS)

MOTHER

Dennis, there's a lot of good mud over there. Oh how d'you do?

ARTHUR

How do you do, good lady.

MOTHER

How d'you do. I'm Mrs. Galahad, widowed mother of Dennis, married to Nobby the Cretin, dropped dead last Tuesday, which does leave me sadly available.

ARTHUR

I am Arthur, King of the Britons.

MOTHER

King of the who?

ARTHUR

The Britons.

MOTHER

Who are the Britons?

ARTHUR

Well, we all are. We are all Britons and I am your king.

MOTHER

I didn't know we had a king. I thought we were an independent collective.

ARTHUR

Be quiet! I order you to be quiet! I am in haste. Who is your lord?

MOTHER

Oh! Order, eh? Who does he think he is?

ARTHUR

I am your king!

MOTHER

Well, I didn't vote for you.

ARTHUR

You don't vote for kings.

#5 THE LADY OF THE LAKE

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

Was she alive?

ARTHUR

Yes. She was...the Lady of the Lake! She lives in the lake.

DENNIS

What, underwater?

ARTHUR

Yes.

(DENNIS indicates to his mother that ARTHUR is not right in the head.)