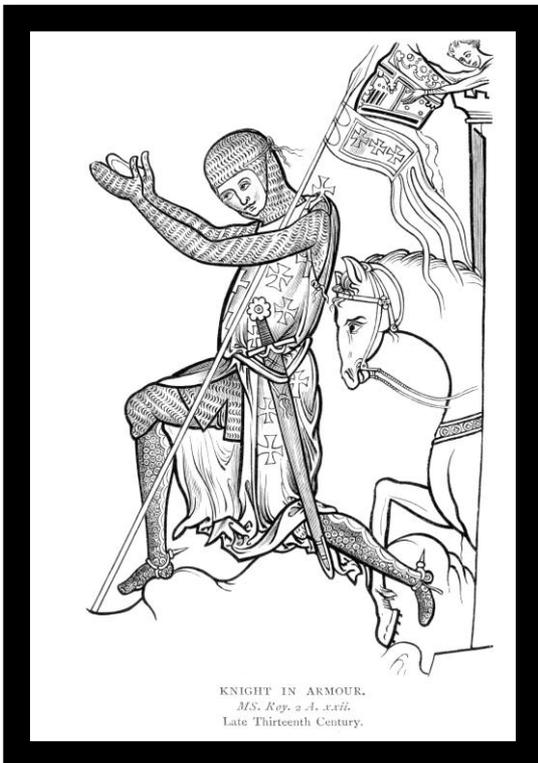


Widow

You were married to a mean husband for 20 years. Sadly, the only good thing about him was that he was wealthy. He has just died and you are finally free. Now you have fallen in love with a young but poor farmer, who lives nearby. You would like to marry him next. However the rules state that, as a widow, you have to pay the king, in order to marry who you want. The payment is going to take a lot of the money that your husband has left you. Try and negotiate to include your complaint in the petition to the king. Widows everywhere will benefit if you succeed.



Knight

As a knight you are expected to fight for the king whenever he asks you. You have already fought for him twice in France. The last time you fought you were injured in battle and lost two fingers. Now you have received a letter asking you to fight again. You are very nervous after last time and anyway you do not think you will be able to hold a sword properly. Also you feel you have already done enough to help the king. The problem is that knights who refuse to fight usually have to pay big fines. This would mean selling your land and castle. You do not think it is fair that knights are treated in this way.

Try and negotiate to include your opinion in the petition going to the king. It will help other knights if you succeed, and it might save your life.



Abbot

You are the head of a monastery just outside Durham. Your monastery is very old and full of precious pictures, books and gold. This means you can live comfortably and also help the poor who live nearby. Now the king is trying to get his hands on your monastery's wealth. He has asked you to hand over a blank document with the seal of your monastery on it. You are reluctant to do this as you cannot control what he will write on the document. You are afraid he will use it to take all your treasure. This would mean you have no money left to look after the other monks or the poor.

Try and make sure that your concerns are included in the petition to the king. If you are successful you might help other monasteries as well.

monastery: (noun) a building where monks live and pray



RAYMONDIN ASKS A BOON OF THE EARL.

Baron

You are a rich and powerful man and you used to be very close to the king. Recently, for no reason, he has accused you of not being his friend any more. He has taken your son as a hostage to make sure that you do not try and plot against him. You are very worried about your son because you have heard that the king's hostages are usually treated badly. Sometimes they even starve to death. You want to petition the king to release your son and all the other hostages. You must get your demands included in the petition to save your son.

to plot: (verb) to make a secret plan

to starve: (verb) to become very thin and ill, or even die, because of lack of food



Peasant

Last year one of your neighbour's cows went missing. Your neighbour thought you had stolen it. Even though there is no evidence that you stole the cow, you have been put in prison. You have been in prison for nine months now and there is still no date for a trial. In any case, you have no money to pay for a lawyer. You want to petition the king to complain about your situation and also to complain about all the other prisoners who have been forgotten. You must make sure that your case is included in the petition, or you will be in prison for a very long time.

evidence: (noun) a fact that proves something is true