



IS THERE
ANY TRUTH TO THE
KING ARTHUR
LEGENDS?

WHOSO PULLETH OUT THIS SWORD
OF THIS STONE AND ANVIL,
IS RIGHTWISE KING BORN OF ALL ENGLAND



King Arthur

Often overlooked because of his role as King, husband and epic legend, is the knight Arthur himself: the ruler of the land and yet the head of the Round Table. The first knight among equals.

The name Arthur is almost certainly a derivative of the name Artorius, a *Roman gens name*, but it possibly came from the name "Artos Viros" (*bear man*), which is from Celtic origin.



Sir Lancelot du Lac or *Sir Launcelot* was the son of *King Ban of Benwick* and Queen Elaine. Lancelot was the *First Knight* of the Round Table, and he never failed in gentleness, courtesy, or courage.

It has been said that Lancelot was the greatest fighter and swordsman of all the *Knights of the Round Table*, and yet he was also extremely intelligent and known for his charm and humor. Legend tells us that as a child, Lancelot was left by the shore of *The Lake*, where he was found by Vivien, *the Lady of the Lake*.



Sir Gawain was generally said to be the nephew of King Arthur. Gawain's parents were King Lot of Orkney and Morgause (though his mother is said to be Anna in *Geoffrey of Monmouth's History of the Kings of Britain*). Upon the death of King Lot, Gawain became the head of the *Orkney clan*, which includes in many sources his brothers Agravain, Gaheris, and Gareth, and his half-brother *Mordred*.

Though Lancelot is often referred to as the greatest knight, Gawain is also referred to as the greatest knight of the Round Table on occasion and is most recognized from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. It seemed to be common knowledge that Sir Gawain was also the most trusted friend of Sir Lancelot and in some legends he seems to be the rightful heir to the throne of Camelot once King Arthur passes.

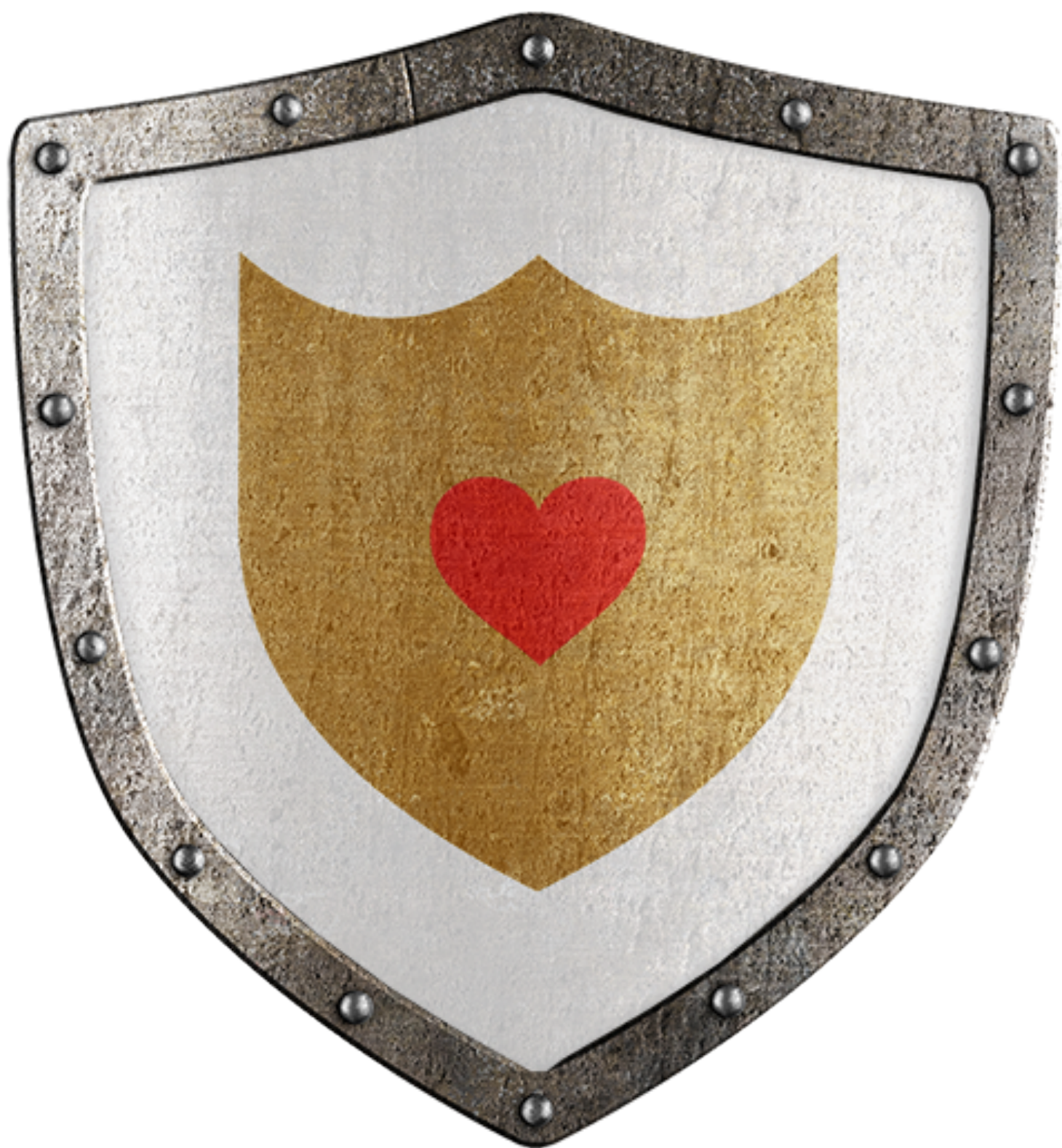


Sir Percival was raised by his mother in ignorance of arms and courtesy. Yet because of his upbringing, Percival was one of the most gracious and innocent of the Knights of the Round Table. Percival's natural prowess, ultimately led him to King Arthur's court where he immediately set off in pursuit of a knight who had offended Queen Guinevere.

Percival was the Grail knight or one of the Grail knights in numerous medieval and modern stories of the Grail quest. Sir Percival first appears in *Chrétien de Troyes's* unfinished *Percivale or Conte del Graal* (c.1190). The incomplete story prompted a series of "continuations," in the third of which (c. 1230), by an author named Manessier, Percival achieves the Grail. (An analogue to Chrétien's tale is found in the thirteenth-century Welsh romance *Peredur*.)

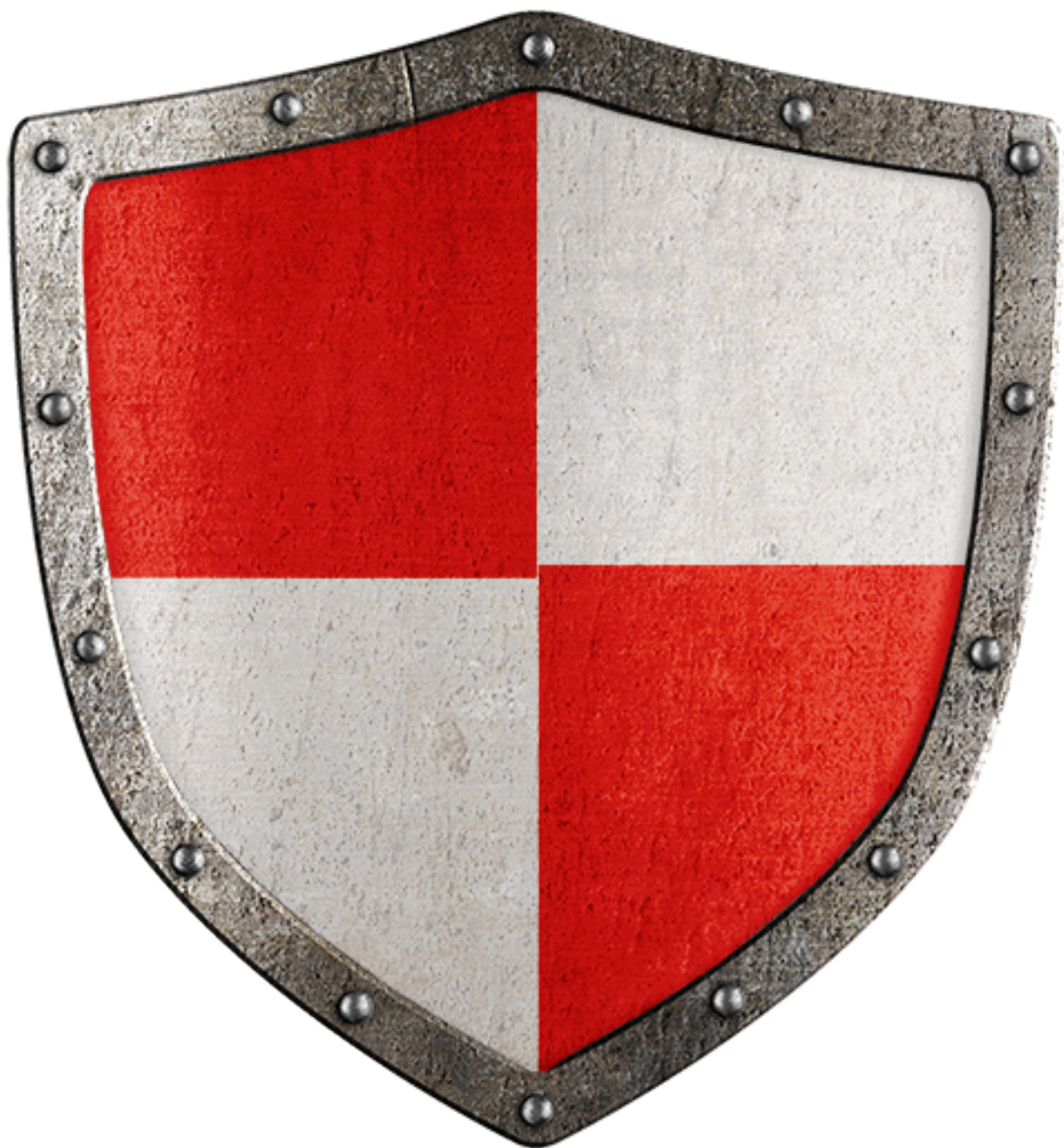


Sir Galahad was the son of Sir Lancelot and Elaine. His name may be of Welsh origin or come from the place name of Gilead in Palestine. Born out of wedlock, he was placed in a nunnery as a child being that the abbess there was his great aunt. On one occasion a "sword in a stone" was seen in a river by King Arthur's knights and legend stated that only the *world's best knight* could pull out the sword. Galahad was led into King Arthur's court where he sat in the Siege Perilous (the vacant seat at the Round Table reserved for the Knight who would one day be successful at recovering the Holy Grail). Following his seat at the Round Table, Galahad then drew the sword from the stone. Years later while at Arthur's Court, the Holy Grail appeared in a vision to Galahad and showed him that he was one of the three knights chosen to undertake the Quest for the Holy Grail. He was given a white shield, made by *Evelake* with a red cross which *Joseph of Arimathea* had drawn in blood. In the course of his Quest he joined up with Sir Percivale, Sir Bors de Ganis, and Percivale's sister. Once on board *Solomon's* ship, Sir Galahad obtained the *Sword of David*, and after the death of Percivale's sister the trio split up for a while and Galahad traveled with his father, Sir Lancelot.



Sir Geraint, who was the eldest son of *King Erbin of Dumnonia* was a Knight of Devonshire. After the death of his his wife, Prince Geraint spent much of his time at King Arthur's Court looking for action and adventure. It was during this period that he encountered the *Sparrow Hawk Knight* and ultimately came to marry *Lady Enid of Caer-Teim* (Cardiff), a story told in the ancient tales of *Erec (alias Geraint) & Enid* and "Geraint mab Erbin".

Sir Geraint restored *Sir Yniol* all of his possessions and then married his beautiful daughter, *Lady Enid*. At one point, Geraint heard Enid complaining that he was a lazy knight. He was so embarrassed that he accused Enid of cheating on him. To ease his conscience, Geraint took Enid on a journey through a *series of trials* until she convinced him of her faithfulness to him. Enid remained so devoted to Sir Geraint that ultimately they returned home and lived in happiness for the remainder of their lives



Sir Gareth was the youngest son of King Lot and Morgause of Orkney, which made him the youngest brother of Sir Gawain as well. Playing a significant role in Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, Gareth plays one of the most important roles of defending King Arthur and ultimately his death at the hand's of Lancelot. *The "Tale of Sir Gareth"* was apparently created by Thomas Malory, and presents Sir Gareth as a prime example of chivalry. Gareth served as page to and is ultimately knighted by and devoted to Sir Lancelot, which makes his passing even more tragic.

In addition to his loyalty and bravery, Gareth was one of the most chivalrous knights. His continued chivalrous and respectful attitude toward and treatment of *Lady Lynette*, even after her abu

se of him shows the true gentleman that he was.



Sir Gaheris of Legend

Like his other brothers, Sir Gaheris first visited King Arthur's Court when his mother, Morgause, his mother, first arrived after the Battle of Bedegraine. Gaheris served as his older brother, Gawain's page for a time, and traveled by his side to the court for the knighting of Gawain and the marriage of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere. Sir Gaheris would often act as Sir Gawain's conscience, and he helped cool his temper when Gawain was tempted to challenge Pellinore. Praising him for his skills in his combat with Allardin of the Isles, Gaheris also admonished Gawain when he failed to show mercy and caused the death of the *Lady of Ablamar of the Marsh*.

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Throughout Gawain's early adventures, Sir Gaheris was his steadfast companion and friend. There were two knights named Gaheris and both were Knights of the Round Table. This Sir Gaheris is most well-known for being the brother of Gawain, Gareth, and Agravain.



Sir

Bedivere

A truly deep and fervent supporter of King Arthur from the very start, Sir Bedivere never waned from that support. Bedivere was also one of the first knights to join the fellowship of the Round Table, and was by King Arthur's side at his death/transport to the Isle of Avalon. Sir Bedivere also helped King Arthur fight the Giant of Mont St. Michel and later was made *Duke of Neustria*.

Sir Bedivere lost one of his hands in battle and spent the rest of his life fighting with only one hand. He had a son called Amren and a daughter named Eneuavc.



Sir Tristan, or *Tristram in Old English*, was a contemporary of King Arthur and a Knight of the Round Table. He was the nephew and champion of King Mark of Cornwall and the son of Meliodas, King of Lyonesse. Tristan's mother died when he was born, and as a young man he went to live with his uncle, Mark in Cornwall, becoming his uncle's champion.

Sir Tristan became the champion of his uncle upon defeating and killing Marhaus of Ireland in a duel. That defeat led to a truce with King Anguish of Ireland who arranged for his daughter, Iseult to be married to King Mark. Sir Tristan who was sent to Ireland to fetch the *would be* Queen, but while in the process of bringing her back to Cornwall, Tristan and Iseult fell hopelessly in love with one another. Upon realizing there was no hope for them to stay together and live a normal life, they fled from King Mark and lived the rest of their days on the run.



Sir Agravain

Touted as being one of the most handsome knights of the Round Table, Sir Agravain was also a skilled fighter and strategist. Legend has it, that in the earliest of texts Agravain may have had a not so perfect reputation, but in later manuscripts he's referred to as noble and chivalrous. In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Agravaine is mentioned as *Agravain of the Hard Hand*, and later on in Chrétien de Troyes' *Perceval*, he is mentioned in a list of "respectable knights".

According to most legends, Sir Agravain is the second oldest son of King Lot of Orkney and his wife Morgause, the sister of King Arthur. Along with being a nephew of the King, he was the brother of Sir Gawain, Gaheris, and Gareth, and a half-brother of Mordred.



Sir Dagonet is a Knight of the Round Table in Arthurian legend. His depictions and characterisations have varied from a foolish and cowardly knight, to a violently deranged madman, to the now-iconic image of King Arthur's beloved court jester.

His first, brief appearance is found in the early 13th-century Vulgate Cycle's section Prose Lancelot. Known as "Daguenet the Fool / the Coward", an utterly lousy and hapless knight that people constantly make fun of, he "captures" (and actually rescues) the great hero Lancelot by finding and leading a horse with the unconscious Lancelot to Queen Guinevere.

In the more positive (and best known today) characterization by Thomas Malory in his seminal *Le Morte d'Arthur*, Dagonet is King Arthur's court fool who has been knighted in an award for his loyalty and comedic talents. The Knights of the Round Table use Dagonet to play practical jokes on their rivals or their enemies, at the same time protecting him from harm.

OTHER KNIGHTS:

