

THE RING OF HALLWYL



A LONG TIME AGO IT HAPPENED
IN HALLWYL CASTLE ...

In the 13th century, the Lord of Hallwyl lived with his family in Hallwyl Castle. He was a very important man and a steward to the King of Habsburg. He collected taxes for the king and when there was war, he had to fight for the king.



SAMUEL,
IS THIS ALL
YOU HAVE TO
GIVE?

IT IS ALL. AS YOU
KNOW, WE HAD A
VERY BAD HARVEST
THIS YEAR!

YOU
WILL DO
BETTER NEXT
YEAR!



THANK
YOU MY
LORD!

The Lord of Hallwyl owned a lot of land. He gave the land to farmers to live and farm on. The farmers paid him with food they produced from the land. In return the Lord of Hallwyl looked after the people and protected them from danger. The people on his land had to obey Lord Hallwyl's orders.

The old Lord had a son called Johans. One day he told his father about his plans.

5

FATHER, I WANT TO GO ON CRUSADE TO JERUSALEM!

6

MY DEAR SON, THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS. I DON'T LIKE TO SEE YOU GO.

7

HERE MY SON, TAKE ONE HALF OF THIS RING. I AM AN OLD MAN. I MIGHT DIE BEFORE YOU RETURN. THIS RING WILL HELP YOU TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE MY SON AND THE HEIR OF HALLWYL CASTLE. TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!

9

NOW I AM A TRUE KNIGHT!

11

The son set off to Jerusalem on his horse. He was a brave soldier. He fought in many battles. In Jerusalem, he was knighted.

A few months later, the Lord of Hallwyl became very ill. He was about to die.

12

MY LIFE IS COMING TO AN END. I WILL DIE SOON!

LORD, YOU DON'T HAVE AN HEIR. WE MONKS COULD USE THE CASTLE AS A MONASTERY

YES, DO THAT. BUT I HAVE A SON, JOHANS. HE IS A CRUSADER. WHEN HE COMES BACK WITH THE OTHER HALF OF THIS RING, YOU HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE CASTLE. HE IS THE TRUE HEIR.

13

14

15

After the Lord died, the monks moved into the castle and built a chapel where they could pray. They lived for several years in their new home.

Everybody thought the son had died. But one day, he returned...

16

LOOK
AT THESE
KNIGHTS!

THEY
MUST HAVE
BEEN ON THEIR
WAY FOR WEEKS
OR MONTHS!

WE
HAVE NOTHING
TO GIVE, NOBLE
LORDS. THERE ARE
LOTS OF THIEVES AND
BAD MEN, STEALING
ALL OUR FISH. WE ARE
SUFFERING FROM
HUNGER EVERY
DAY!

17

MATHILDA,
DON'T YOU
RECOGNISE
ME!?

18

19

MY
LORD, YOU
ARE BACK!!!

In front of the old church, the priest welcomed the knights.

20

GOD BE
WITH YOU.
WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

21

TO
MY FATHER'S
CASTLE,
REVEREND.
IS MY FATHER
HEALTHY?

ALAS!
THE YOUNG
LORD OF HALLWYL !
I AM VERY SORRY, BUT
YOUR FATHER DIED
SEVERAL YEARS
AGO.

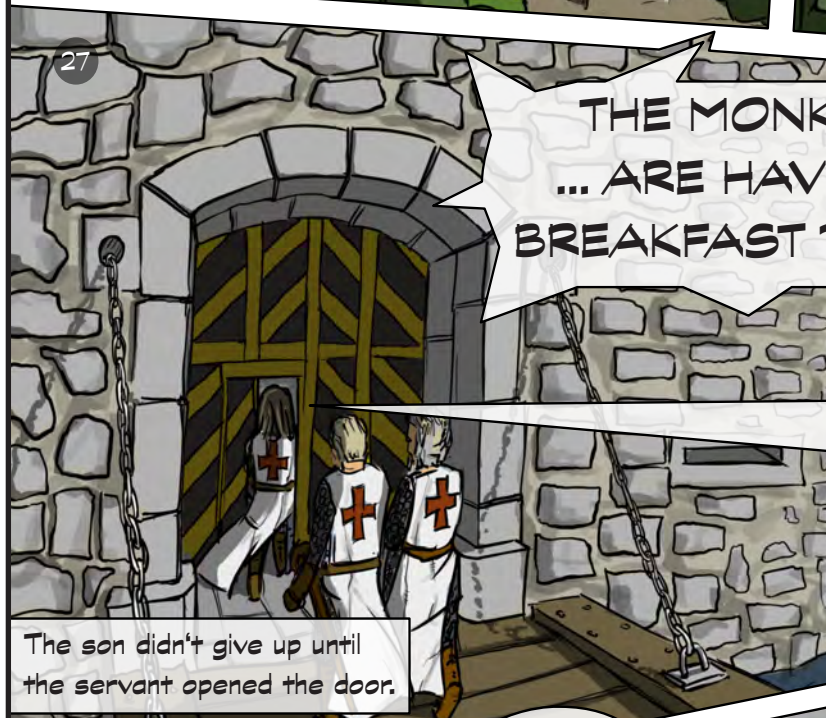
22

WE BURIED
HIM IN OUR
CEMETERY.

He pointed at a nice
cross, standing near.

23

Johans said a prayer.



The Prior walked over the courtyard to the young lord...



NO, YOU PROVE THAT THE CASTLE BELONGS TO YOU AND THE OTHER MONKS!

YOU SAY, YOU ARE LORD OF THIS CASTLE? PROVE IT!

THE LORD OF HALLWYL WAS ABOUT TO DIE WHEN HE GAVE THE CASTLE TO THE MONKS. ONLY IF HIS SON RETURNS FROM THIS CRUSADE ALIVE AND PRESENTS THE OTHER HALF OF THIS RING, WE WILL LEAVE THE CASTLE AND THE CASTLE WILL BE HIS!

LOOK! HERE IS MY HALF OF THE RING! MY FATHER GAVE IT TO ME BEFORE I LEFT THE CASTLE.

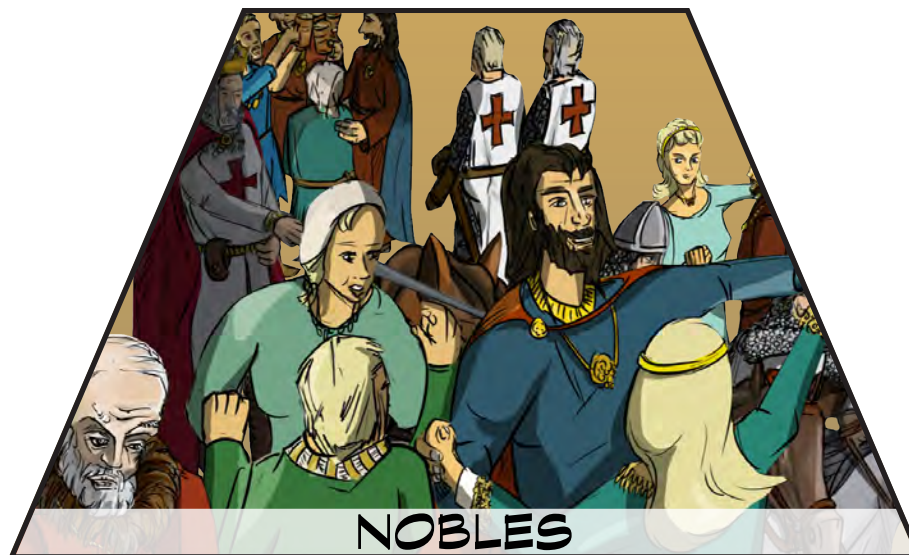
ALAS YOUNG LORD. IT MATCHES PERFECTLY THE OTHER HALF! YOU ARE THE TRUE LORD OF HALLWYL! LET ME WELCOME YOU.

I'M BACK HOME FATHER! YOUR HERITAGE IS IN GOOD HANDS. I WILL TAKE CARE OF IT!

Thus, the castle was returned to its rightful owner and the monks left it after a few days...

The knight Johans became the new Lord of Hallwyl and he lived again in the castle. There was a big feast to celebrate his safe return from his long voyage.





In the Middle Ages there were three estates:

The clergy, the nobles and the commoners.

The clergy were responsible for the soul. The duty of nobles was to protect the people. The commoners produced the food for everyone.

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