**Knights of the Round Table – Act 1, Scene 3**

**Speakers:**

ARTHUR

GUINEVERE

*You need to know….*

*Arthur and Guinevere are happily married, but Arthur is not happy with his rule as king. He wants to change so that his country can use its strength to help people instead of using force to take over more land. When he discusses his feelings with Guinevere, Arthur comes up with an idea.*

**ARTHUR:** (.Excitedly) Is that the reason Merlyn helped me to win? To take all this might that's knocking about the world and do something with it. But what?

**GUINEVERE:** Yes, what?

**ARTHUR:** You see, Jenny? I'm still not a king. I win every battle and accomplish nothing. When the Greeks won, they made a civilization. I'm not creating any civilization. I'm not even sure I'm civilized. . . .

**GUINEVERE:** (Tenderly') Dear Arthur. You mustn't belabor yourself like this. Let us have a quiet dinner, and after, if you like, you can stroll again.

**ARTHUR:** Bless you. (He moves to exit. Then he stops and turns.) Jenny, suppose we create a new order of chivalry?

**GUINEVERE**: Pardon?

**ARTHUR:** A new order, a new order, where might is only used for right, to improve instead of destroy. And we invite all knights, good or bad, to lay down their arms and come and join. Yes! (Growing more and more excited) We'll take one of the large rooms in the castle and put a table in it, and all the knights will gather at the table.

**GUINEVERE:** And do what?

**ARTHUR:** Talk! Discuss! Make laws! Plan improvements!

**GUINEVERE:** Really, Arthur, do you think knights would ever want to do such a peaceful thing?

**ARTHUR:** We'll make it a great honor, very fashionable, so that everyone will want to be in. And the knights of my order will ride all over the world, still dressed in armor and whacking away. That will give them an outlet for wanting to whack. But they'll whack only for good. Defend women, restore what's been done wrong in the past, help the oppressed. Might for right. That's it, Jenny! Not might is right. Might for right!

**GUINEVERE:** It sounds superb. Arthur, it will have to be an awfully large table! And won't there be jealousy? All your knights will be claiming superiority and wanting to sit at the head.

**ARTHUR:** Then we shall make it a round table so there is no head.

**GUINEVERE:** (Totally won) My father has one that would be perfect. It seats a hundred and fifty. It was given to him once for a present, and he never uses it.