

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 09 of Season I “Excalibur” of the [BBC series Merlin](#).

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## Transcript

KILGHARRAH

In a land of myth and a time of magic, the destiny of a great kingdom rests on the shoulders of a young boy. His name: Merlin.

—

[INT. KING’S PALACE, BURIAL VAULTS - NIGHT]

NIMUEH

Gehiere mé’ wan cniht áwæce. Beo strangra ond steacra for breçþ wáne. úprærest wærc, Uther Pendragon.

[The tomb Nimueh is standing next to cracks and a gauntlet hand breaks through.]

—

[INT. KING’S PALACE, HALL OF CEREMONIES - NIGHT] [Arthur kneels before Uther. Gwen stands next to Merlin in the crowd.]

UTHER

Do you solemnly swear to govern the people of this kingdom and its dominions according to the statutes, customs and laws laid down by your forebears?

ARTHUR

I do, Sire.

UTHER

Do you promise to exercise mercy and justice in your deeds and judgments?

ARTHUR  
I do, Sire.

UTHER  
And do you swear allegiance to Camelot, now and for as long as you shall live?

ARTHUR  
I, Arthur Pendragon, do pledge life and limb to your service and to the protection of the kingdom and its peoples.

UTHER  
Now being of age and heir apparent, from henceforth, you shall be Crown Prince of Camelot.

[The court applauds. Arthur stands up and faces the crowd.]

GWEN  
So how does it feel to be servant to the Crown Prince of Camelot?

MERLIN  
Washing his royal socks will be even more of a privilege.

GWEN  
You're proud of him, really. Even though you complain about him constantly.

MERLIN  
I am not.

GWEN  
You are. I can see it in your face.

MERLIN  
Those socks are very clean! Of course I'm proud of them.

[Gwen laughs. a Black Knight on a horse bursts through the stained-glass window. Arthur and the knights draw their swords.]

UTHER

What in the devil's name?

[The horse walks to Arthur and the Black Knight throws down a gauntlet. Uther sees the crest on the Black Knight's shield with surprise. Arthur sheathes his sword to pick up the gauntlet, but another knight gets there first.]

SIR OWAIN

I, Sir Owain, accept your challenge.

TRISTAN

Single combat. Noon tomorrow. Till the death.

[The Black Knight rides out.]

MERLIN

Have you ever seen this Black Knight before?

GAIUS

I don't believe so.

MERLIN

You didn't recognise his crest?

GAIUS

Crest?

MERLIN

Which house is it?

GAIUS

I'm not sure. I didn't see it that clearly.

MERLIN

But he's not someone you'd forget in a hurry, is he?

GAIUS

No.

MERLIN

So you don't think he's from around here?

GAIUS

That would seem likely.

MERLIN

Then what's he doing here?

GAIUS

Merlin, your faith in my all-seeing knowledge is both touching and wholly misplaced. Maybe if you've finished your work, you could go to bed and leave me to finish mine.

MERLIN

OK, I'm going. Gaius?

GAIUS

Merlin.

MERLIN

Do you think Owain can beat him?

GAIUS

We'll find out soon enough.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Arthur speaks with Morgana and Gwen.]

ARTHUR

He shouldn't have picked up the gauntlet!

MORGANA

So put an end to it.

ARTHUR

The challenge has been taken up. The fight cannot be stopped.

MORGANA

Then fight in his place.

ARTHUR

I can't.

MORGANA

Why not?

ARTHUR

Owain picked up the gauntlet. Owain is the one who must fight. That's the Knight's Code. He knew that.

MORGANA

But it's a fight to the death!

ARTHUR

I know.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF RECORDS]

GEOFFREY

Gaius. Thank God.

GAIUS

You know why I'm here?

GEOFFREY

The Black Knight.

GAIUS

So it is he?

GEOFFREY

You saw his crest?

GAIUS

Have you confirmed it?

GEOFFREY

It is the crest of Tristan Dubois.

GAIUS

And he is the only knight ever to have carried such a crest?

GEOFFREY

Yes. According to the records.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Uther sits alone with his sword on the table in front of him. The door opens and Uther reaches for his sword for a moment. Gaius enters.]

UTHER

Yes?

GAIUS

I'm sorry to disturb you, Sire.

UTHER

What is it?

GAIUS

The knight, the stranger. He bears the crest of Tristan Dubois.

UTHER

Yes.

GAIUS

But he's been dead for 20 years.

UTHER

I know. I killed him.

GAIUS

But how do you explain...?

UTHER

Dead men do not return.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, SIR OWAIN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Tristan Dubois stands on the grounds in front of the castle the next morning. Merlin and Arthur help Sir Owain prepare for the fight.]

ARTHUR

You've never fought in mortal combat before. It's different. It's not like the training I've been giving you.

SIR OWAIN

Yeah, I know.

ARTHUR

Listen to me. The problem is, we've never seen him fight. You have to quickly get the measure of him.

SIR OWAIN

But I have the same advantage. He's never seen me fight.

ARTHUR

True.

SIR OWAIN

You've watched me.

ARTHUR

Yes.

SIR OWAIN

And?

ARTHUR

And I know no one braver. Remember, all it takes to kill a man is one well-aimed blow.

[The door opens. Gwen enters and curtsies to Owain.]

GWEN

The Lady Morgana asked me to give you this token. She wishes you to wear it for luck.

SIR OWAIN

You can thank her, and tell her I shall wear it with pride. But I won't need luck.

—

[EXT. TOURNAMENT GROUNDS - DAY] [Tristan Dubois waits in the arena. Arthur walks into the tournament grounds with Sir Owain.]

ARTHUR

Now remember, find the flow of the fight; try to control it.

[They enter the arena.]

ARTHUR

The fight shall be to the knight's rules! To the death!

[Arthur sidles into the stands.]

ARTHUR

Let battle commence!

[Tristan and Owain fight.]

GWEN

Come on, Owain!

ARTHUR

One well-aimed blow!

[Owain stabs Tristan in the gut.]

MERLIN

Yes!

[Tristan keeps fighting and kills Owain. the crowd gasps in horror. Morgana's favour flutters on the ground. Tristan faces the crowd and takes off his glove.]

TRISTAN

Who will take up my challenge?

[Tristan throws down his gauntlet. Arthur tries to bolt over the barrier of the stands, but his father grabs him. Another knight jumps over the stands and takes up the gauntlet.]

PELLINOR

I, Sir Pellinor, take up the challenge.

TRISTAN

So be it.



[Tristan exits the arena. Merlin watches him leave.]

MERLIN

Should we tend to his wounds? He took a hit.

GAIUS

Owain didn't land a blow.

MERLIN

No, I saw it. The sword definitely pierced him.

GAIUS

Are you sure?

MERLIN

My eyes are quicker than yours. He should be dead.

GAIUS

Perhaps he already is.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Uther and Arthur enter.]

ARTHUR

Why did you stop me?!

UTHER

We have to give our knights the chance to prove themselves.

ARTHUR

Have you seen how this stranger fights?!

UTHER

And Sir Pellinor is more than a match for him.

ARTHUR

He's not recovered from the wounds he suffered at Othanden!

UTHER

I can't help that.

ARTHUR

So you send him to his death?

UTHER

It was his choice to take up the gauntlet! I am not to blame.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, BURIAL VAULTS] [Merlin and Gaius enter the Tunnel Corridor to the Burial Vaults.]

MERLIN

Are you sure we should be doing this?

GAIUS

You're not scared, are you?

MERLIN

No, I love old crypts. I wouldn't be seen dead anywhere else.

[The door slams behind them.]

GAIUS

Must've been a gust of wind.

MERLIN

We should've brought a torch.

MERLIN

Leohtbora.

[Merlin lights a torch sitting in the wall of the Tunnel Corridor.]

GAIUS

Huh. Handy!

MERLIN

Yes.

[Merlin and Gaius walk among the graves.]

MERLIN

What are we looking for?

GAIUS

Bring your torch over here.

MERLIN

We're breaking into someone's grave?

[Gaius sees the open tomb.]

GAIUS

We're too late. I think someone's already broken out.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

GAIUS

Tristan Dubois was the brother of Ygraine, Uther's wife.

MERLIN

Arthur's mother?

GAIUS

Ygraine died in childbirth. He blamed Uther and came to the gates of Camelot and challenged him.

MERLIN

To single combat.

GAIUS

Uther won. But in his dying breath, Tristan cursed Camelot to one day suffer his return. I thought it was the ramblings of a dying man.

MERLIN

Men don't just rise up from the dead, though, no matter how angry they are.

[Gaius opens a book.]

GAIUS

It's my guess we're dealing with a wraith.

MERLIN  
A wraith?

GAIUS  
The spirit of a dead man conjured from the grave.

MERLIN  
So this is the work of a sorcerer?

GAIUS  
Powerful magic can harness the grief and rage of a tormented soul and make it live again.

MERLIN  
How do we stop it?

GAIUS  
We can't. Because it's not alive, no mortal weapon can kill it.

MERLIN  
Surely there must be something.

GAIUS  
Nothing can stop it until it has achieved what it came for.

MERLIN  
And what's that?

GAIUS  
Revenge.

MERLIN  
On Camelot? What does that mean for Sir Pellinor?

GAIUS  
I'm afraid it doesn't look good.

—

[EXT. TOURNAMENT GROUNDS - DAY] [Sir Pellinor fights Tristan Dubois in the arena. Sir

Pellinor is doing well and the crowd cheers.]

MERLIN

Maybe you were wrong.

GAIUS

I hope so.

[Sir Pellinor runs Tristan through. Tristan does not fall.]

GWEN

The sword went in, I'm sure of it.

MORGANA

I saw, too.

[Tristan kills Pellinor, crowd groans. Tristan turns to the crowd. Arthur throws his gauntlet down, Uther tries to stop it.]

ARTHUR

I, Arthur Pendragon, challenge you.

TRISTAN

So be it.

ARTHUR

Single combat. Noon. Tomorrow.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM] [Uther enters. Arthur is waiting.]

UTHER

How could you be so stupid? I'll revoke the challenge.

ARTHUR

No. The Knight's Code must be upheld. That's what you told me.

UTHER

This is different.

ARTHUR

Once the challenge has been laid down it cannot be rescinded.

UTHER

You are Crown Prince.

ARTHUR

There cannot be one rule for me and one for all the rest.

UTHER

I forbid you to fight.

ARTHUR

You want me to prove that I'm worthy of the throne. I cannot do that by being a coward.

UTHER

No, Arthur, this will be your death!

ARTHUR

I'm sorry you have so little faith in me, Father.

[Arthur leaves.]

UTHER

Arthur!

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

MERLIN

You were right.

GAIUS

I wish I wasn't.

MERLIN

If Arthur fights that thing, he'll die.

GAIUS

He is Camelot's strongest warrior. If anyone can defeat it, he can.

MERLIN

You said yourself, no mortal weapon can kill it. Which means we have to find a way to defeat the wraith ourselves.

GAIUS

How do you propose to do that?

MERLIN

If no mortal sword will kill it... then I will.

[Merlin runs to his chamber to fetch his magic book.]

MERLIN

With mortal magic.

GAIUS

Merlin, it's too dangerous.

MERLIN

We don't have a choice.

—

[EXT/INT. TRAINING GROUNDS/COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Tristan Dubois stands motionless outside. Uther paces the Council Chamber. Gaius enters and bows.]

GAIUS

Good evening, Sire.

UTHER

Gaius.

GAIUS

There is a matter of great urgency, which I must discuss with you.

UTHER

Then spit it out.

GAIUS

Tristan's tomb is empty. I believe he's been conjured from the dead.

UTHER

How is this possible?

GAIUS

I believe he's a wraith.

UTHER

A spirit?

GAIUS

He has come to take vengeance for Ygraine's death.

UTHER

It was magic that killed her, not I.

GAIUS

Nevertheless, it was you he blamed. You cannot allow Arthur to fight. No weapon forged by man can kill a wraith. It will stop at nothing till it has accomplished what it came for. Arthur cannot win, he will die.

UTHER

He will not listen to me.

GAIUS

Then you must tell him who the knight is.

UTHER

No.

GAIUS

You cannot hide the truth forever.

UTHER

I am the King. You will not tell me what I can and cannot do.

GAIUS

That is your choice, Sire. You tell him, or let him go to his death.

UTHER

No one but you or I will ever know the secret of Arthur's birth.



GAIUS

The boy is of age, he should know.

UTHER

Never! You made an oath. I warn you not to break it.

GAIUS

Very well, Sire.

UTHER

Leave me.

—

[EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - NIGHT] [Merlin approaches Tristan.]

MERLIN

Cume her fyrbryne.

[Merlin lights Tristan on fire. the fire fades and Tristan remains unscathed. Tristan looks at Merlin and growls. Merlin runs.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin bursts into the room.]

ARTHUR

Merlin, you know that conversation we had about knocking...

MERLIN

You have to pull out.

ARTHUR

And why is that?

MERLIN

Because he'll kill you.

ARTHUR

Why does everybody think that?

MERLIN

Because they're right! Just pull out. You're the Crown Prince. No one wants to see you die over some stupid challenge.

ARTHUR

I am not a coward.

MERLIN

I know that. I've stood there and I've watched you overcome every fear you've ever faced.

ARTHUR

That's what's required of me.

MERLIN

But you are more than that. You're not merely a warrior. You're a prince, a future king! You've proved your courage, but you must prove your wisdom.

ARTHUR

I'm not backing down.

MERLIN

Please, Arthur, listen to me. This is no ordinary knight. Look at him. He doesn't eat, he doesn't sleep. He just stands there, in complete silence. Doesn't that tell you something?

ARTHUR

No one is unbeatable.

MERLIN

If you fight him, you will die.

ARTHUR

I'm not listening to this.

MERLIN

I'm trying to warn you, Arthur.

ARTHUR

And I'm trying to warn YOU, Merlin!

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Uther drinks alone. The

candles blow out and Uther turns to see Nimueh.]

UTHER

I should've known.

NIMUEH

It is more than I'd hoped for, Uther. Soon Arthur will be slain. You will have sent him to his death.

UTHER

Haven't you tired of revenge?

NIMUEH

Haven't you? You began this war when you threw me from the court and slaughtered all of my kind.

UTHER

You brought it on yourselves. You practised evil.

NIMUEH

I was your friend, Uther! You welcomed me here.

UTHER

You betrayed that friendship.

NIMUEH

I did as you asked! I used the magic you so despise to give your barren wife the son you craved.

UTHER

Don't ever speak of her in that way. She was my heart, my soul. And you took her from me.

NIMUEH

She died giving birth to your son. It was not my choice. That is the law of magic. To create a life, there had to be a death. The balance of the world had to be repaid.

UTHER

You knew it would kill her.

NIMUEH

No, you're wrong. If I had foreseen her death, and the terrible retribution you would seek... I would never have granted your wish.

UTHER

I wish you hadn't.

NIMUEH

You wish you didn't have a son? Well, your wish will come true tomorrow.

UTHER

I will not let you take him.

NIMUEH

I have watched so many people I love die at your hands, Uther Pendragon. Now it is your turn.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF RECORDS - NIGHT] [Merlin searching through old tomes.]

GEOFFREY

How did you get in here?

MERLIN

The door was open.

GEOFFREY

No, I locked it.

MERLIN

Well, someone else must've opened it, then.

GEOFFREY

And you thought you'd come in and help yourself?

MERLIN

I was looking for a book. For Gaius. He thinks the Black Knight is a wraith.

GEOFFREY

Then Arthur is in grave peril.

MERLIN

Which is why I'm here. I need to find a weapon that will kill something that's already dead.

GEOFFREY

Well, I've read of such things in the ancient chronicles.

MERLIN

Really? What did they say?

GEOFFREY

Well, several fables speak of ancient swords.

MERLIN

That can kill the dead?

GEOFFREY

The swords the fables speak of could destroy anything, alive or dead.

MERLIN

Can you show me one of these fables?

GEOFFREY

Well, let me think. Yes. Mm...

[Geoffrey searches a shelf.]

MERLIN

I'm sort of in a hurry.

GEOFFREY

Yes, you young people always are.

[Geoffrey flips through a book.]

GEOFFREY

This is the Chronicle of Beltain. Now then... Ah, here we are. "Sir Marhaus looked upon the great sword, begotten in the dragon's breath and found it passing good."

MERLIN

What did you say?

GEOFFREY

“Sir Marhaus...”

MERLIN

No. No, no. No, no. Not about him. The dragon.

GEOFFREY

“The great sword begotten in the dragon’s breath...”

[Merlin takes off.]

GEOFFREY

...and found it passing good.”

—

[INT. KING’S PALACE, MORGANA’S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Gwen opens Morgana’s door to see Merlin standing outside.]

GWEN

Merlin. What are you doing here?

MERLIN

I’ve come to ask a favour.

GWEN

Yes?

MERLIN

I’m not sure how to ask it.

GWEN

Ask, Merlin. You know I’d grant you anything. I mean, not anything. Obviously, not anything. What is it you want?

MERLIN

I’ve come to ask for a sword. The strongest sword your father’s ever made.

GWEN

What for?

MERLIN

To save Arthur.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Arthur stares out the window in his chambers at Tristan Dubois. Morgana enters.]

MORGANA

I don't want you to fight tomorrow.

ARTHUR (snort)

You're worried about me?

MORGANA

I don't know what it is. Please, I'm begging you.

ARTHUR

I have to do this. It's my duty.

MORGANA

I understand.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Uther enters.]

UTHER

I'm sorry. You knew that one day this business would come back to haunt me.

GAIUS

Not quite so literally.

UTHER

I should've listened to you. You said that no good would come of using witchcraft at Arthur's birth.

GAIUS

You wanted an heir. You thought it was the only way.

UTHER

Nimueh told me there would be a price to pay.

GAIUS

You weren't to know that that price would be Ygraine's life.

UTHER

I cannot let Arthur die.

GAIUS

Then you must stop the fight.

UTHER

No, I will take his place.

GAIUS

Do you know what you're saying?

UTHER

Ygraine gave up her life for him. So must I.

GAIUS

Uther...

UTHER

I have no other choice.

GAIUS

There must be another way.

UTHER

My death will stop the wraith and Arthur will live. But it means you are the only person left who knows the truth about Arthur's birth. I want you to swear to me that you will keep your oath.

GAIUS

I will take it to my grave.

UTHER

You have always been a good friend, despite my temper.

GAIUS

I always thought that would be the death of you.



UTHER

I have one other favour to ask.

—

[INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT] [Gwen pulls a sword out from under her father's bed.]

GWEN

My father's been saving this. He's always said it was the best sword he's ever made.

MERLIN

It's perfect.

GWEN

He'll kill me if he finds I've taken it.

MERLIN

He'll understand. You did it for Arthur.

GWEN

I knew you were proud of him really.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, DRAGON'S CAVE - NIGHT] [Merlin takes the sword to the Dragon's Cave.]

KILGHARRAH

Merlin!

MERLIN

Do you know why I'm here?

KILGHARRAH

It may surprise you, Merlin, but my knowledge of your life is not universal.

MERLIN

It's to do with Arthur. His life's in danger. He will die, unless I can make a weapon that will kill the dead.

KILGHARRAH

So what do you come to ask of me?

[Merlin floats the sword in front of Kilgharrah.]

MERLIN

Will you burnish it, to save Arthur?

KILGHARRAH

The dead do not return without reason. Who has he come for?

MERLIN

Uther.

KILGHARRAH

Then let him take his vengeance and the wraith will die without my aid.

MERLIN

But it's Arthur who's going to fight him. You have to save him.

KILGHARRAH

That is your destiny, young warlock, not mine.

MERLIN

But if Arthur fights the wraith and dies, Camelot will have no heir. I will have no destiny.

KILGHARRAH

A weapon forged with my assistance will have great power.

MERLIN

I know.

KILGHARRAH

You do not know. You can only guess. You have not seen what I have seen. If you had, perhaps you would not ask this of me.

MERLIN

What do you mean?

KILGHARRAH

In the wrong hands, this sword could do great evil. It must be wielded by Arthur and him alone.

MERLIN

I understand.

KILGHARRAH

You must do more than understand. You must promise.

MERLIN

I promise.

[Kilgharrah breathes fire on the sword.]

KILGHARRAH

Heed my words. The sword was forged for Arthur, and him alone.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, Uther's CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Uther stares out his window at Tristan.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Gaius knocks on Arthur's door.]

GAIUS

I've brought you something that might help you to sleep.

[Gaius enters.]

ARTHUR

I'm fine. I don't need it.

GAIUS

Here. It'll relax you, take the edge off your nerves.

[Arthur drinks it.]

ARTHUR

I wouldn't drink it for pleasure.

GAIUS

Why don't you sit down for a moment?

ARTHUR

Mind you, if you...forget about the taste, the, er, after-effect is quite pleasurable.

GAIUS

Just lie back.

[Arthur passes out on the bed. Gaius leaves the room and lock's the door.]

—

[EXT. TOURNAMENT GROUNDS - DAY] [Tristan Dubois waits for Arthur in the arena the next morning.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, ARMOURY - DAY] [Merlin picks up Excalibur. Uther enters.]

UTHER

That's a fine blade.

MERLIN

It's for Arthur.

UTHER

He won't be needing it today. I will be taking Arthur's place.

MERLIN

But Sire...

UTHER

Prepare me for battle.

MERLIN

Arthur should be the one that fights today.

UTHER

The grievance was with me, the fight is mine.

MERLIN

I don't have your armour.

UTHER

That'll do. It's likely to make little difference.

MERLIN

Erm, I-I'll get you your sword.

UTHER

This will be fine.

MERLIN

No, Sire. You don't understand. Erm, That one was made specifically for Arthur.

UTHER

Who made it?

MERLIN

Erm, er, Tom, the blacksmith.

UTHER

It's worthy of a King.

MERLIN

You would be better off with a sword you trusted.

UTHER

No. It has almost perfect balance. Tom's not the Royal Swordsmith. I'm surprised Arthur went to him.

MERLIN

Oh, that was me. I felt he needed a better sword.

UTHER

You show him the most extraordinary loyalty.

MERLIN

That is my job, Sire.

UTHER

But beyond the line of duty.

MERLIN

Well... You could say...that there is a bond between us.

UTHER

I'm glad. Look after him.

—

[EXT. TOURNAMENT GROUNDS - DAY] [Uther enters the arena. the crowd murmurs in surprise.]

UTHER

You can have what you came for. The father, not the son.

[A guard removes Uther's cape. Arthur sleeps in his chambers. The fight begins. Arthur wakes in his bed to the sound of swords clashing. Arthur hears the sound and goes to the window. The fight continues. Arthur tries to get out of his room, but it's still locked. The fight continues. Arthur struggles against the door. Uther knocks off Tristan's helmet to reveal the mummified face. Nimueh watches in the crowd. Uther loses his sword. Tristan has him on the ground, but his sword gets stuck in Uther's shield. Uther kicks his shield at Tristan, grabs Excalibur and runs him through. Tristan explodes. Nimueh leaves angrily. Uther gets up and removes his helm and the crowd cheers. Uther tosses Excalibur on the ground.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Gaius tends Uther's wounds.]

UTHER

I thought you said a wraith couldn't be killed.

GAIUS

Yes, it was remarkable.

[Gaius notices Excalibur on the table.]

GAIUS

Is that a new sword, Sire?

UTHER

It's the best I've ever fought with.

GAIUS

May I have a look?

UTHER

I was intrigued by those markings.

GAIUS

On one side it says, "Take me up," and on the other, "Cast me away."

UTHER

What does that mean?

GAIUS

May I ask who made it, Sire?

UTHER

Merlin gave it to me. It was forged for Arthur.

[Arthur enters.]

GAIUS

Well, that should heal pretty quickly. I'll re-dress it tomorrow.

UTHER

Thank you, Gaius. Thank you for everything.

ARTHUR

You had Gaius drug me! I was meant to fight him!

UTHER

No, you weren't.

ARTHUR

But the Knight's Code is very clea...

UTHER

Be damned! I believed you would die. And that was a risk I could not take. You are too precious to me. You mean more to me than anything I know, more than this entire kingdom, and certainly more than my own life.

ARTHUR

I... always thought that...

UTHER

What?

ARTHUR

That...I was a big disappointment to you.

UTHER

Well, that is my fault, and not yours. You are my only son. And I wouldn't wish for another.

ARTHUR

I heard you fought pretty well.

UTHER

Thanks.

ARTHUR

You should join us for training. Sort out your footwork.

UTHER

I'll show you footwork.

[Uther gets up and playfully kicks Arthur.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Gaius staring at Merlin while they eat.]

GAIUS

You know why I'm looking at you.

MERLIN

No.

GAIUS

Uther told me you provided him with his sword today.

MERLIN



It must have been a very powerful blade to slay the dead.

GAIUS  
Did you enchant it?

MERLIN  
No. I didn't.

GAIUS  
Who did then?

MERLIN  
Wasn't me.

GAIUS  
Shame. It saved the King's life, I'd have been very proud of you.

MERLIN  
Well...

GAIUS  
Never mind.

[Gaius gives Merlin a knowing smile.]

—  
[INT. KING'S PALACE, MERLIN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT] [The Great Dragon calls to Merlin in his sleep.]

KILGHARRAH  
Merlin! Merlin...Merlin!

—  
[INT. KING'S PALACE, DRAGON'S CAVE - NIGHT] [Merlin goes down the Tunnel Corridor to the Dragon's Cave.]

KILGHARRAH  
So, does Arthur live?

MERLIN

Yes, the sword worked. It was incredible, amazing.

KILGHARRAH  
As I promised.

MERLIN  
But...

KILGHARRAH  
Yes?

MERLIN  
Things didn't quite go according to plan. I mean they did, except... It wasn't Arthur who wielded the sword. It was Uther.

KILGHARRAH  
NO! \*ROARS\*

MERLIN  
I tried, but he just took it!

KILGHARRAH  
ARGH!

MERLIN  
Uther's the King. I couldn't stop him!

KILGHARRAH  
The sword was born of the old magic. You have no idea of its power. In the hands of Uther, it will bring only evil.

MERLIN  
I'll get it back.

KILGHARRAH  
You have betrayed me. You are not ready to be trusted.

MERLIN  
I'll bring it to you. You can destroy it.

KILGHARRAH

What is made cannot be unmade.

MERLIN

So what do you want me to do?

KILGHARRAH

Take the sword far from here and place it where no mortal man can ever find it.

—

[Merlin goes to the armoury and takes Excalibur. he exits Camelot, walks to the Lake of Avalon, and throws the sword into the lake.]

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts