

"Hail, Arthur, noblest of Kings," he cried. "Sorrow not for the foolishness of thy knights! I will tell thee a way out of thy difficulty. Behold, I know a crafty workman who understands of tree works many wondrous crafts. I will command him now to make for thee a board exceeding fair. It shall be round and very large, so that sixteen hundred or more may be able to sit all round it. In this way there will be none outside, and no one will have a better place than his fellow. And when thou journeyest, thou canst carry the table with thee, so that no moody knights can ever make fight again!"

Arthur was greatly pleased with this proposal. He ordered Merlin to see at once about having the table made. In four weeks' time it was ready. Arthur summoned all the knights and princes to come to him, and for the first time they gathered about the famous Round Table. From that day they never dined at any other board, and soon Arthur's knights were known throughout the world as "The Knights of the Round Table."

The day of the festival at length arrived. Everything was ready, Arthur and all the kings, princes, nobles and knights were assembled in the City of Legions. The first part of the ceremony was a service of thanksgiving to God,