

## Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)

Directed by Terry Gilliam & Terry Jones  
Written by Graham Chapman & John Cleese

### Scene 1

[wind]

[clop clop]

**ARTHUR:** Whoa there!

[clop clop]

**GUARD #1:** Halt! Who goes there?

**ARTHUR:** It is I, Arthur, son of Uther Pendragon, from the castle of Camelot. King of the Britons, defeater of the Saxons, sovereign of all England!

**GUARD #1:** Pull the other one!

**ARTHUR:** I am. And this my trusty servant Patsy. We have ridden the length and breadth of the land in search of knights who will join me in my court of Camelot. I must speak with your lord and master.

**GUARD #1:** What, ridden on a horse?

**ARTHUR:** Yes!

**GUARD #1:** You're using **coconuts!**

**ARTHUR:** What?

**GUARD #1:** You've got two empty halves of coconut and you're bangin' 'em together.

**ARTHUR:** So? We have ridden since the snows of winter covered this land, through the kingdom of Mercea, through--

**GUARD #1:** Where'd you get the coconut?

**ARTHUR:** We found them.

**GUARD #1:** Found them? In Mercea? The coconut's tropical!

**ARTHUR:** What do you mean?

**GUARD #1:** Well, this is a temperate zone.

**ARTHUR:** The swallow may fly south with the sun or the house martin or the plumber may seek warmer climes in winter yet these are not strangers to our land.

**GUARD #1:** Are you suggesting coconuts migrate?

**ARTHUR:** Not at all, they could be carried.

**GUARD #1:** What -- a swallow carrying a coconut?

**ARTHUR:** It could grip it by the husk!

**GUARD #1:** It's not a question of where he grips it! It's a simple question of weight ratios! A five ounce bird could not carry a 1 pound coconut.

**ARTHUR:** Well, it doesn't matter. Will you go and tell your master that Arthur from the Court of Camelot is here.

**GUARD #1:** Listen, in order to maintain air-speed velocity, a swallow needs to beat its wings 43 times every second, right?

**ARTHUR:** Please!

**GUARD #1:** Am I right?

**ARTHUR:** I'm not interested!

**GUARD #2:** It could be carried by an African swallow!

**GUARD #1:** Oh, yeah, an African swallow maybe, but not a European swallow, that's my point.

**GUARD #2:** Oh, yeah, I agree with that...

**ARTHUR:** Will you ask your master if he wants to join my court at Camelot?!

**GUARD #1:** But then of course African swallows are not migratory.

**GUARD #2:** Oh, yeah...

**GUARD #1:** So they couldn't bring a coconut back anyway...

[clop clop]

**GUARD #2:** Wait a minute -- supposing two swallows carried it together?

**GUARD #1:** No, they'd have to have it on a line.

**GUARD #2:** Well, simple! They'd just use a strand of creeper!

**GUARD #1:** What, held under the dorsal guiding feathers?

**GUARD #2:** Well, why not?