**PIPPIN, PEASANT, NOBLE, SOLDIER, LEWIS, LEADING PLAYER**

PEASANT *(kneels in the light)*

Sire, I am a poor man …

PIPPIN

You may stand. You may all stand.

PEASANT

Thank you, sire. I am a poor man, a peasant. I own not one millimeter of land on which I’ve worked so

hard all my life. Is that fair?

PIPPIN

No. That’s completely unfair. But I will do something about it. I hereby decree that from now on, all

Peasants shall own the land they cultivate. *(ALL applaud.)*

LEADING PLAYER

King Pippin, the Just!

NOBLE

Sire, now that you’ve given our land to the peasants, we loyal nobles have no source of income.

Therefore, we can no longer pay taxes.

PIPPIN

Well, then … I abolish taxes! *(ALL applaud.)*

LEADING PLAYER

King Pippin, the Generous!

SOLDIER

You realize, sire, without taxes you’ll have no money to support an army.

PIPPIN

That’s all right. I don’t need an army. That’s it. No more taxes, no more army. *(ALL applaud.)*

LEADING PLAYER

King Pippin, the Peaceful!

LEWIS *(LEWIS enters.)*

Hey, Pippin*!* Sire, it is my duty to inform you that the Infidel Hun has attacked in the East. He has

destroyed three villages and murdered thousands of your royal subjects.

PIPPIN

Can he do that?

LEWIS

*But* he will withdraw … on one condition.

PIPPIN

Well, that’s very reasonable. What’s the condition?

LEWIS

He demands your reproductive organs on a pike staff.

PIPPIN

Oh. *(Crosses his legs)* Well, in that case, I guess you’ll just have to go out and destroy the Infidel.

SOLDIER

But sire, we have no army.

PIPPIN

Good point. Excuse me a moment. Noble? You remember that decree I made about land and taxes?

NOBLE

Yes, sire.

PIPPIN

That’s off.

NOBLE

But sire, without land I have neither money nor power over the peasants.

PIPPIN

Oh. Right. Uh … Peasant?

PEASANT Yes, sire.

PIPPIN

I hereby suspend land reform.

PEASANT

Suspend land reform? You mean, give it back?

PIPPIN

That’s right. Give it back.

PEASANT

Up thine, sire!

PIPPIN

Take that man away and hang him!

No. Stop! Wait! Could you just let me think a minute … please …