

RAPSCALLION'S REVENGE SAMPLE

SCENARIO

Incredibly vain, cowardly and ambitious, Lord Rapsallion is trying to secure his legacy by tricking Cathedrals, Towns and Cities into erecting monuments, buildings, chapels and plaques in his honour. To fund his vanity projects he has placed a tax on the villagers of Wyndercott which often leaves the villagers facing ruin.

In an attempt to stop Lord Rapsallion from squandering their money, one of the villagers has set off on Pilgrimage to their nearby Cathedral where they plan to warn Lord Rapsallion's brother, Bishop Thomas, of Lord Rapsallions plan to replace one of the Cathedral's cherished items with one of his own.

HOW TO STOP HIM

A sad and unpopular figure, nothing makes Lord Rapsallion happier than finding a fellow Lord or Lady to show off to. If you can convince Lord Rapsallion that you are of noble blood then he is sure to reveal the plans to his latest project. Impress him by solving his riddles and he will reward you with a clue. But be warned, if you get the answer wrong he will consider you far too inferior to speak to and won't reveal a thing! From the clues that you gain you will be able to find out which item he is planning to replace and you will be able to warn Bishop Thomas before it's too late.

LORD RAPSCALLION'S BACK STORY

Born on the 13th of April 1221, Percival Eugene Rapsallion was the fourth son of Lord and Lady Rapsallion. As the youngest, and least favoured child, Percival watched as his eldest brother, Henry Edward, was raised to take over the family estate and fulfil his rightful place as the next Lord of Wyndercott. His second brother, Thomas Emanuel, was sworn to a life of righteousness at the local monastery and Percival's third brother, Oliver James, was awarded the role of Warden of the Estate and allocated a large part of the Rapsallion lands to manage and farm. As for Percival, he was given the less glamorous and less popular role of tax collector, a role Percival did not particularly enjoy because not only did it make him instantly disliked by the people of Wyndercott (who used to call him *Percy Pursestrings* or *Percy Penny-pincher*) but also because all the money he collected he had to hand over to his father and eldest brother.

For years Percival grew up under the shadow of his far more important and successful siblings and was constantly reminded that he was fourth in line for everything - lands, titles, food, marriage prospects, clothes and, most depressing of all, grave plots (his was next to the slurry pit on the North side of the lower marsh). Indeed as the runt of the litter Percival lived a life of hand-me-downs and obscurity.

In the year 1239 Percival was married off to Gwendolyn of Dribbleswitch, daughter of a local pig farmer, after Lord Rapsallion lost a game of cards with her father but didn't have enough money on him to pay the debt - 2 shillings 3 pence (he only had 2 shillings 2 pence on him at the time, Percival was offered as a makeweight). Sensing an opportunity for a better life Gwendolyn soon adapted to life 'at court' (as she called it) and demanded only the best textiles and jewels from her long suffering husband. This was compounded even further after the arrival of Percival's twin sons Roger and Ralph (1242) and his equally demanding daughter Agnes (1246).

In order to meet the growing needs of his greedy family Percival was forced to work even harder at collecting taxes and even imposed some of his own. Eventually he went to grovel to his father for a greater allowance. Lord Rapsallion agreed and gave Percival an extra 5 pounds a year (which Gwedolyn spent on truffles and silks) and the new title 'Sheriff of Wyndercott'. Thanks to his new title, and his well documented marriage, the people of Wyndercott stopped calling him *Percy Purse-strings* and *Percy Penny-pincher* but instead started to call him *Percy Pigswill* and *Sheriff of Swines-a-lot* (though never to his face).

It wasn't until the early Spring of 1261 that Percival's life changed for the better thanks to a rare quirk of fate. After his father, Lord Rapsallion, died from the pox Percival's eldest brother, Henry, decided to set off on Crusade as a homage to their father (though according to Percival it was a glorified holiday, an excuse to get drunk a lot and the chance for Henry to top up his suntan). With Henry now recognised as the new Lord Rapsallion, and yet to sire a male heir of his own (he had six daughters), Henry would need someone to sit on the seat at Rapsallion Towers as Regent until his return. With Percival's third brother, Oliver, now married off to the beautiful, fantastically wealthy and incredibly influential Lady Swoonsworth of Greengrass (a close friend of the Plantagenets), and his second brother, Brother Thomas of Meadsworth, tipped to be the next Bishop of Wessex, it fell on Percival to take on the role of Lord Regent and look over the people of Wyndercott until Henry returned.

Seizing his opportunity, during Henry's absence Percival dropped the Regent from his title and declared himself Lord Rapsallion then banished his Sister-in-law and six nieces to the neighbouring kingdom of Greengrass. With Henry away for at least the next 12 months (and with luck never to return) Percival has decided to try and amass as much personal wealth as possible and make the most of his temporary title. Furthermore, having always been aware he was the least favoured child, Percival is determined to secure his place in history for ever more. Driven by his desire to cement his reputation as wealthier than his eldest brother, more holy than his second brother and more influential than his third brother, Percival has started to spend the Rapsallion fortune on various vanity projects around the country.

Part of this plan is to convince some of the most important Cathedrals to install stained glass windows of 'Lord' Rapsallion doing good deeds, have bosses of his family crest installed on Cathedral vaultings, build chapels in his family name, carve elaborate wooden pews, shrines, fonts, plaques, gargoyles, towers, icons... basically anything that will make him look good.

WHAT WE LEARN

There are several opportunities for further discussion from the Path of the Pilgrim's game (which may need a new name). Key to these are the roles of beneficiaries who often donated money towards building Cathedrals and churches around the country or who left sizeable estates to the church on their death. In some ways Lord Rapsallion is merely doing what was done by those before him. In addition Lord Rapsallion's acts teeter on the cusp of iconoclasm. His desire to remove other objects to replace them with his own for political purposes - an act that continues to this day.