

Who were the Crusaders?

Crusaders were people of all classes¹. Some were beggars², and others were noblemen. They left their homes to join this enormous army.

Many wanted to free the Holy Land from the Turks. Some wanted to find treasures and lands. Others went for adventure.

The Crusaders wore a grey cloak³ with a hood⁴. Every Crusader wore a red cross on his breast⁵. This was the symbol of Christianity. Each Crusader had a big, heavy sword and a shield⁶. He had a big belt⁷ around his waist. Many things hung from his belt.

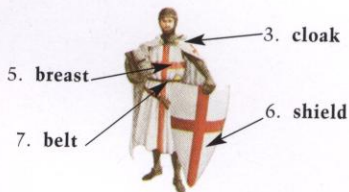
Crusaders often brought chickens and goats⁸ with them. They wanted to have fresh eggs and milk during their journey.

To arrive at the Holy Land, many Crusaders rode horses. Some went on ships full of people and others walked! The journey was very long and difficult. The sanitary⁹ conditions were terrible. A great number of Crusaders died of illness. Others died in the Holy Wars. Some returned home and brought many new things with them.

1. classes : 阶层。

2. beggars : 乞丐。

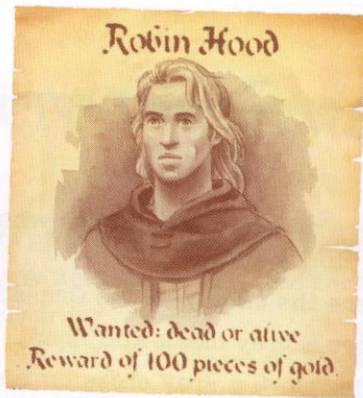
4. hood : 风帽。



8. goats :



9. sanitary : 卫生的。



Wanted: dead or alive!



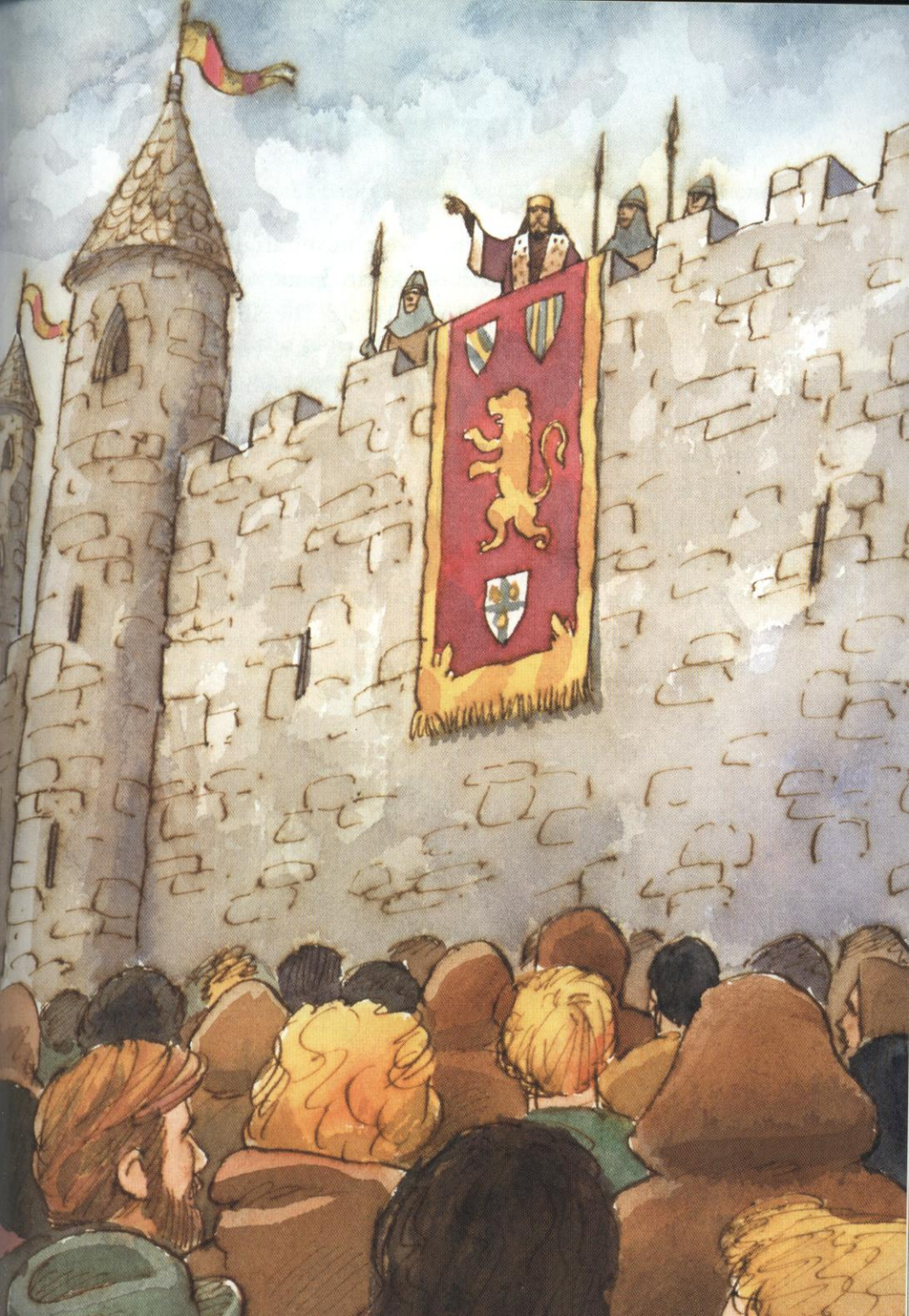
Some years passed, and there were more than 200 outlaws living in Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood was the hero of the poor. He continued robbing the rich to give to the poor. Robin Hood called this 'The Sherwood Tax'¹. All the rich travellers who passed through Sherwood Forest paid 'The Sherwood Tax'.

The Sheriff of Nottingham sent an army of soldiers to Sherwood Forest to capture² Robin Hood. But Robin and his outlaws were in the trees. They killed all the soldiers except one.

Robin and his men were the best archers of the region. They

1. Tax: 税。

2. capture: 捕获。



Robin Hood



knew the forest perfectly¹. They were never afraid of fighting the soldiers of the wicked² Sheriff of Nottingham.

It was impossible to stop Robin Hood. The Sheriff was furious because the people laughed at him. He was never able to capture Robin Hood. King John was furious too. His subjects³ loved King Richard and hated him.

One day, King John stood on the castle walls. He spoke to all his people. He said, 'We must capture Robin Hood and his outlaws. They are our enemy. I can pay a hundred pieces of gold for Robin Hood, dead or alive! Bring me that outlaw!'

From that day on, Robin's life was in great danger.



1. **perfectly** : 非常。
2. **wicked** : 邪恶的。
3. **subjects** : 臣民。