

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT
TRACK B - HERBERT'S FATHER & NI KNIGHT LEADER -
AUDITION SIDES

Dialogue selections from the key Track B audition scenes

HERBERT'S FATHER - ACT II, SCENE 8

Script pages 78-79 | Father confronts Herbert about marriage

*(PRINCE HERBERT is in his chamber, singing earnestly.
His FATHER enters in haste and stops the orchestra.)*

FATHER

Stop that! Stop all that singing.

(FATHER mounts the stairs at high speed.)

FATHER

Listen, lad, one day all this will be yours!

HERBERT

What, the curtains?

FATHER

No, not the curtains! All that you can see!
Stretched out over the hills and valleys of
this land! This will be your kingdom!

HERBERT

But, Mother...

FATHER

Father.

HERBERT

Father, I don't want any of that. I'd
rather...

FATHER

Rather what?!

HERBERT

I'd rather... just... sing!

(HERBERT begins to sing again. FATHER stops him.)

FATHER

Stop that! You're not going to do a song
while I'm here. In twenty minutes you're
getting married to a girl whose father owns
the biggest tracts of open land in Britain.

HERBERT

But I don't want land.

FATHER

Listen, Alice...

HERBERT

Herbert.

FATHER

Herbert. We live in a bloody swamp. We need land.

HERBERT

But I don't like her.

FATHER

Don't like her?! What's wrong with her? She's beautiful, she's rich, she's got huge... tracts of land.

HERBERT

I know, but I want the person I marry to have... a certain... special... something...

NI KNIGHT LEADER - ACT II, SCENE 2

Script pages 54-56 | The Knights Who Say Ni are introduced

(KING ARTHUR rides in with PATSY. Strange voices call from the forest. The KNIGHTS OF NI appear in furry cloaks and distinctive antlered helmets. The PRINCIPAL KNIGHT OF NI towers above them.)

ARTHUR

Who are you?

NI KNIGHT

We are the Knights Who Say... Ni!

ARTHUR

No! Not the Knights Who Say Ni!

NI KNIGHT

The same! We are the keepers of the sacred words: Ni Peng, and Ni-wom!

VOICE

Ni-wom!

ARTHUR

Those who hear these words seldom live to tell the tale!

PATSY

Oh, great.

NI KNIGHT

The Knights Who Say Ni demand a sacrifice!

ARTHUR

Oh, Knights of Ni, we are but simple travelers lost in these woods.

NI KNIGHT

Ni! Ni! Ni! Ni!

ARTHUR

Oh, ow!

NI KNIGHT

We shall say 'ni' again to you if you do not appease us.

ARTHUR

Well, what is it that you want?

NI KNIGHT

We want... a shrubbery!

NI KNIGHTS

A shrubbery! A shrubbery!

ARTHUR

Where the hell are we going to find a shrubbery?

NI KNIGHT

If you do not find us a shrubbery, you must cut down the mightiest tree in the forest with... a herring.

(The NI KNIGHT produces a large herring from his costume.)

NI KNIGHTS

A Herring! Herring! Herring!

(PATSY and ARTHUR exchange glances.)

ARTHUR

All right. We'll find you a shrubbery.

NI KNIGHT

Good! You must return here with a lovely shrubbery or else you will never pass through this wood alive!

(The KNIGHTS OF NI exit.)