

MEDIEVAL FATES

1. You are a wealthy merchant, but you come in contact with an unproclaimed leper and contract leprosy. Now your skin flakes off constantly, your entire body is covered in bandages, and you are forced to live outside the city walls and wear a bell around your neck so that the “clean” know you are near.
2. Every day you walk through the city streets that are filled with trash and human excrement. Sometimes chamberpots are emptied from above, and you must artfully dodge to avoid being drenched with waste. You don't think that there is anything wrong with this system, but one day you get sick for an unexplained reason and soon after die of disease.
3. You are a deformed baby, and your parents do not want you, so they leave you in the wooden stalls outside the church. One of the church deacons takes pity on you and adopts you before you starve to death there. Now you live in the town cathedral and serve the church deacon.
4. You keep from starving by being a petty thief. Then one day you are caught. You are beaten and placed in the stocks for a week. Then you are branded with the symbol of the church upon your cheek. Now no one will have anything to do with you, and you are penniless.
5. You are a cleric in the church, but you speculate that perhaps the earth is not the center of the universe as the medieval church teaches. You are accused of blasphemy. To punish you, your tongue is pinched in iron tongs, and you are dragged around the city by the tongue to show others the penalty of challenging the church.
6. You find that your wife is having an affair with a servant boy, and you murder them both. The courts try you swiftly. They tie you to the end of a horse and drag you around the city. After you think you can bear no more, they take you to the gallows and hang you.
7. You are a mother, and your son has been very sick for a long time. You saved up enough money for him to see a doctor, but the doctor is useless. You consult your mother for some type of herbal cure, and you try this on your son. It works, and he recovers, but a spiteful neighbor hears word of this and accuses you of witchcraft. A month later you are burned in the public square.

8. You are a young mother, and your healthy baby is stolen by the Devil and traded out in the night for a changeling devil-child, who appears sick. Since the child is no longer yours, you place it in front of the church in hopes that your real baby will be returned to you.
9. You are a very nervous person. You do not want to die with any unconfessed sin on your soul as this will keep you from going directly to heaven. To protect yourself from a sudden death, you have items depicting St. Christopher underneath your clothes in various places.
10. You are very excited. Your father has just slaughtered a hog, and he's going to let you blow up the bladder.
11. You are nine years old, and you were sent to the market one day. A dark man grabbed you and now you are being sold into slavery.
12. You are a young mother, and you awake to find that your baby has suffocated from the presence of the six other people in the bed. But you know in your heart that this was caused by the elderly neighbor woman, who lives next door. You suspect her of being a witch, and you know that she has caused your baby to die.
13. You are a wealthy doctor. You know absolutely nothing about the inside of the human body. When people come to you for help, you take their pulse, swirl their urine in front of a light thoughtfully, and then charge them an exorbitant amount of money. You wear the nicest of cloaks.
14. You lead an uprising against the rulership of your city. You are thwarted, and as punishment your hands are burned off, you are torn into four pieces, and each piece is placed at each entrance of the city.
15. You are arrested for being a witch and accused of brewing up a storm that recently struck the city. The storm was only deterred by the holy ringing of the church bells. For your crimes you are hanged in the public square.
16. You are a wealthy merchant, and it is your duty to travel to see the holy places of your land. You travel afar to see the Shroud of Turin, a cloth that was laid over Jesus Christ as he lay in the tomb. Along the road, you are attacked by bandits and killed. You should have traveled in a larger group.
17. You are builder and were working on the overhang of a shop. You fall off the roof and fracture your arm. From this point on, you are crippled and can no longer work. Your family is driven into the street to starve.

18. You are a monk and enjoy a pretty good life. You own slaves and serfs and live a moderately wealthy existence.
19. You are serf on a plantation in the countryside. You were forced to give up your own tiny farm because the danger of having it stolen away from you became too great. You work three days for your master and three for yourself. You raise barely enough to get by, while your landlord gets fat off the profits. You die an early death, worked into the grave.
20. You are a landlord and have many serf farmers working under you. Many serfs pledge their lands to you because they are no longer safe. You decide to attack a neighboring landlord and try to take his land. Unfortunately, his troops prove stronger than yours, and you are killed.
21. You are a powerful church leader. One of your rivals accuses you of being the Antichrist. Charges are trumped up, and one thing leads to another. You are burned at the stake for your supposed working for the Devil.
22. You are healthy young man, but the Black Death comes along and wipes you out. Sorry.
23. You are born and you start to live, but because of poor nutrition brought on by harsh living conditions, you do not make it to five years of age.
24. You are a poor farmer in the countryside, and you *will not* give your land away to the wealthy landowners. Unfortunately, the landowner next door decides to take it by force. You cannot defend yourself and die trying to save your property.
25. One day, you are driving your cart, but the cart gets away from you. You drop the reins, and there is no way to stop your cart from driving over a nearby cliff. Suddenly, Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travelers, swoops down from the heavens and stops your horse. You try to tell others what you saw, but no one believes you.
26. You are almost thirteen years of age. Your father decides that it's time that you started pulling your own weight, and he apprentices you to the local blacksmith. Now, you live at the blacksmith's house and rarely see your family.
27. You are a rich landowner who lives in the country. One day you decide to go for a hunt. Your hounds have cornered a wild boar, but your horse throws you, and the wild boar gores you to death.

28. You are a sick person, and a quack doctor tells you that your “humours” are not in balance. You need more black bile in your body. They prescribe that you be bled, and a number of leeches are attached to your body. Unfortunately, they bleed you too much, and you die.
29. You are a poor man who lives in the forest. You have to kill deer in the forest just to feed your family. One day you are caught killing a deer. Since all the deer in the forest belong to the wealthy nobles who own the land, you are convicted of stealing. As a punishment, your hand is cut off and your face is mutilated.
30. You are doctor, but you are dissatisfied with the amount of knowledge there is available about the human body. In secret you decide to dissect a corpse, so you can know what the insides of a human look like. Unfortunately, you are caught and tried by the authorities for desecrating a human body. You are hanged.