As they rode to the [joust] Sir Kay suddenly missed his sword, which he had left at his father's lodging, and he begged young Arthur to ride and fetch it.

"I will gladly," said Arthur, and he hastened off home. But the lady and all the household were out to see the jousting, and he found nobody at home to deliver him the sword. Then was Arthur troubled, and said to himself, "I will ride to the churchyard and take the sword that stick(s) in the stone, for my brother Sir Kay shall not be without a sword this day."

So when he came to the great stone Arthur alighted, and tied his horse to the [steps]. He then went straight to the tent of the guards, but found no knights there, for they were at the jousting. So he took the sword by the handles, and lightly and fiercely pulled it out of the [heavy stone block]; then he mounted his horse and rode...till he came to his brother Sir Kay, and delivered him the sword.

As soon as Sir Kay saw the sword, he knew well it was that one of the stone, and so he rode away to his father, Sir Ector, and said: "Sir, lo here is the sword of the stone; [and so] I must be king of this land."

When Sir Ector [saw] the sword, all three returned to the church and entered it. [Soon] Sir Ector made Sir Kay to swear upon a book how he came by that sword. And Sir Kay answered that Arthur had brought it to him. "And how [did you get] the sword?" said he to Arthur; and when Sir Ector heard how it had been pulled from the [stone], he said to Arthur: "Now I understand [that you] must be king of this land."

"[Why] I?" said Arthur, "and for what cause?"

"Sir," said Ector..."there should never man have drawn out this sword but he that shall be [the true] king. Now let me see whether [you] can put the sword there as it was, and pull it out again."

"That is no [trouble]," said Arthur, and so he put it into the stone. Therewith Sir
Ector [tried] to pull out the sword, and failed. Then Sir Kay pulled at it with all his might, but it would not yield.


"I will well," said Arthur, and pulled it out easily a second time.