

In Europe you know at about the same time  
People scratch by just trying to survive

After Rome fell apart in the west don't you know  
Nobody had enough power to show

That they deserved to wear on their head **a crown**  
and rule all the people in every little town

So the people they fought a lot among themselves  
But every individual who got some power fell

Because there were no really strong kings  
Local lords took the power over all the small things

They started manors where they grew the crops in the fields  
Everything on the manor was meant to yield

Something that they needed to survive the day  
A blacksmith, a weaver, a farmer making hay

To feed the cows that the serf also had  
The lord didn't work but he sure was glad

That the serfs on his manor did all that for him  
He held the power over all of them

Sometimes a lord with a manor to his name  
Would lead his serfs to fight another just the same

Soon that one lord who had started out so small  
Ruled a whole lot of land and was ready to call

It his little kingdom, but he wanted some more  
So he called on the lords he conquered before

He made a deal with them all 'cause you know without a doubt  
He couldn't rule it all, He needed some to help out

The deal it was easy it was simple you see  
He said we will fight together to protect all you see

If you agree to do that, I'll check in with you  
You'll be my advisors on all that I do

You run the land and pay taxes to me  
I'll protect you for just that small fee

These are your feudal duties it's all you have to do  
I'll grant a fief of land and everything is cool

One man got better at this than all the other lords  
Charlemagne conquered many at the point of a sword

He reunited most of Europe under only one crown  
Declared the Holy Roman Emperor and ruled from his town

In the middle of Germany was the leader of the Franks  
For about fifty years, his sons did give thanks

For the kingdom he provided to pass it on down  
But they couldn't get along and fought like they were clowns

That kingdom fell apart but rising in its place  
Was the Holy Catholic Church to fill the empty space

The church it was the center of everybody's day  
A priest was involved in every little way

A birth, a death, a sickness if it happened  
The church had a service if you wanted to be wed

The church did the things that the state does now  
A school, the roads, protection but how

They levied taxes on the locals and even used the weekly tithe  
They built hospitals to serve the sick of the time

The church owned land and acted as the local lord  
Compared to other owners, the church's land was more

Because the church controlled things, people felt it would be safe  
To travel all around and take part in world trade

Trading towns they soon got larger and cities took in more  
People from the countryside looking for a door

To opportunity, they just wanted it to knock  
So they moved into the towns to trade and open their own shop

A Middle Class of people started to develop  
Because you could make money on your own if you just show up

In the town to work with your very own talents  
And learn the skills from a senior who didn't make you pay rent

So those tradesman realized they had to protect  
Their interests in the town so they had to connect

With the others nearby who did the same job  
And make sure that the others didn't act like slobs

Guilds were the result of these men joining ranks  
They set their work prices and together they were thanked

For making sure that the work was done well  
And everyone knew what they had to sell

