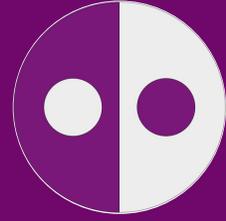


FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE 1

PENFEATHERS

The official Youth Newsletter of
The Kingdom of Meridies



COURAGE AND JUSTICE

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S
INSIDE:

**An Interview with THL
Drogo in Keiliselgr**

**Puzzles, Coloring, Comics
and Games**

**Articles written for kids
and teens by kids and
teens.**



THE DROGO INN KEILSELGR

Q/A with the children

First off, thank you to every one of you that wrote in questions, some of these were funny, some serious, and some were tough questions that I thought would be easy to answer but took longer for me to answer as to why I feel the way I do about them. It never ceases to amaze me of the wonderous minds you all have, and how much you all make the society a better place! Now before we get to the questions, I'd like to start with what Webster's' dictionary says about Courage and Justice just so we have a common baseline to then discover how these meanings vary in respect to your questions!

Definition of courage: mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

Definition of justice^{1a}: the maintenance or administration of what is just especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments meting out justice social justice: JUDGE especially a judge of an appellate court or court of last resort (as a supreme court) a supreme court justice—used as a title Justice Marshallc: the administration of law a fugitive from justice especially the establishment or determination of rights according to the rules of law or equity a system of justice^{2a}: the quality of being just, impartial, or fair questioned the justice of their decision^b (1): the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action(2): conformity to this principle or ideal: RIGHTEOUSNESS the justice of their causec: the quality of conforming to law³: conformity to truth, fact, or reason: CORRECTNESS admitted that there was much justice in these observations— T. L. Peacock



1. What if you knew something was wrong but fighting against it went against justice, should you still do it?

I would argue that to fight against something that you know to be wrong would actually BE the definition of Justice. (See definition 2B) but more realistically this would actually be a superb definition for courage! Because you are doing something that's uncomfortable and not easy in order to do the right thing. My word of caution here is to check what your actions are about to be to ensure that justice is what you are actually about to serve up and not revenge. These are two that can very easily be confused in action, granted sometimes when justice is served it can feel like vengeance, but most times they are separate. A great way to tell which one is which is will the act of justice is go against any of my morals? If you feel that you need to sacrifice a part of your moral compass in order to complete a task you deem just, I would say to stop and try to look at it from some other angle. Ask a friend to help you navigate through this tough spot, because most likely there is a way to achieve a task that is truly just with having to sacrifice your morals. It will just be tougher and usually take longer but you will be a better person for it in the long run. The quicker easier way usually is not the best way.

2. Is there any time where you should go against the common conception of justice?

Again, I would weigh whatever the current common conception is against my moral compass, if it doesn't even up then yes, I think you should speak up against it. However, having said that I feel that in order to truly understand something you need to research and learn about it first. Listen to both sides of an issue and find where the truth of it lies. If you do all this and still find the current "justice" to be wrong then definitely make your voice heard. But don't just blindly take up the first, easiest, explanation because if there is anything I have learned in life it's that there are at least two sides to every story and THEN there is the truth usually somewhere in the middle.

3. Do you believe that the only real difference between a savior and a villain can be who's telling the story?

Because there are times when people do bad things because they want to protect someone, feed them, take care of them, etc. at times like that what is justice? What would be the right choice to make? As far as a story that's being told, I would definitely agree with you. People will highlight or diminish things within a story in order to paint a person either in a good or bad light depending on what point the storyteller is trying to make and it's up to you to listen to it, weigh it against any other information you can find on that story and then decide if the person is truly a savior or villain. For the second part of the questions, I still say that you have to weigh your options against your moral compass, and not sacrifice it for the easy way out. Ultimately, every choice in life we make is our own decision and the outcomes of those decisions fall squarely on our own shoulders. So, the "right choice" is a choice we have to make for ourselves. I have made many decisions I thought were the right one at the time, but wished I had made a different one later, that's life. You learn and grow and make better decisions as you go.

4. What are some of your reason for being courageous?

Being such a big guy people notice me very easily - shocking I know - and, because of that, when I fail, I usually end up failing spectacularly because well... you can't miss me. On the flip side of that, if I can do even the smallest thing to help someone, those small things get noticed just as visibly. And sometimes that gives courage to someone else that may have needed a little boost. So, go out there, make decisions, and fail spectacularly because you'll find you actually succeed more than you fail and that could start an awesome trend!



5. What is it like being chased by all of us kids at court?

Mostly terrifying, but immensely joyful! All joking aside, I really enjoy it. Just in measured doses.

6. How can a person have courage?

Simply put, courage is the ability to do something that frightens you. So, if you find yourself in a situation that scares you, simply finding it within yourself to push through you are using the courage that is inside you! Life will be tough and often scary, but inside you is the courage needed to keep pushing forward. You got this!

7. When have you shown courage?

When I was in middle school I used to get bullied by another kid in my grade. And it bothered me, but I let it go until he started in on one of my friends who were much smaller than him. My friend begged him to stop but the bully didn't until I stepped in. I made a decision and hit the bully, which was not the right decision because I went against my compass and did what I felt was right even though I knew fighting was wrong. Later when the principal asked me what happened I told her the truth and suffered my consequences. But that bully never bullied anyone again.

8. What is the best thing about the SCA?

The People! I love how the SCA brings people from all different walks of life together and gives us a common ideal to bond around.

9. Do you think we have a just king and queen?

Definitely, Being King and Queen is not an easy job, and Their Majesties have shown grace, courage and justice as best as is possible during this time of quarantine.

10. Why do we need to have justice?

If there was no justice, there would be no need for people to pay attention to rules. Justice is the way that the system tries to right itself.

11. What is your favorite animal?

Ravens and Bears!! That's why my heraldry has Ravens on it!

12. What would be your perfect event?

Any event that I get to see my friends and spend time around a campfire telling stories and enjoying each other's company!

13. What does it feel like when you see justice being served?

Again, when it is justice and not just vengeance, it feels like a breath of fresh air.

14. What's the true meaning of courage to you?

Being able to show myself that I can stand to do something that is scary, uncomfortable or that may not be the popular thing to do, but it is the right thing to be done.

15. What is the true meaning of justice to you?

A corrective action in response to a person, or group of people, who have been found doing something wrong.

16. What's your favorite color?

Blue and Green are my favorite colors.



17. What's your favorite food?

Pizza

18. How tall are you?

1,955.8mm

19. What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like making things with wood, or Chase and Repousse pieces of metal, which is where you use special chisels to push metal from the front and behind in order to raise or lower the metal to make designs!

20. Are there times when it's hard to be courageous?

If so, what do you turn to? Basically, if something requires being courageous it is not easy. That is why it's called being courageous. For me, I have to turn to the fact that I know what I'm doing is the right thing, not being self-righteous, but standing up for what I believe to be right.

21. What's something that you think might help everyone be courageous?

When you find yourself in a situation where you are looking around for someone to stand, or raise their hand or speak out... That's your heart telling you something is not right, and you should speak out. If you hit that point stop thinking and start acting. Most likely you will find that many others felt the same but were just needing someone else to lead the charge.

22. I heard you also like art. What kind of art do you like and do you do art in the SCA?

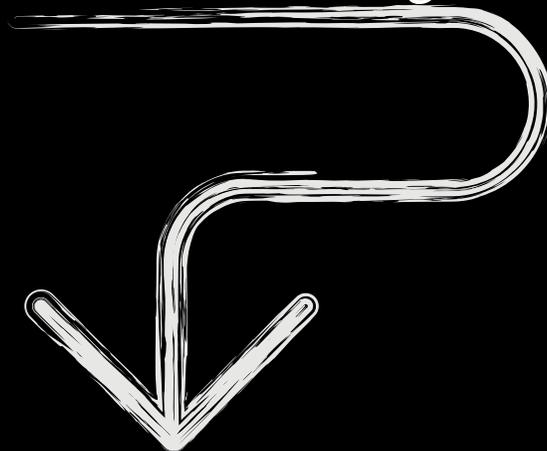
I do love Art! Probably my most favorite artist is Pablo Picasso, his sculptures are very interesting and although his paintings got kind of strange as he moved into impressionism and cubism, I really loved the emotion and feeling he expressed in his earlier paintings. I would definitely recommend checking them out! And yes, I do art in the SCA, I've only ever competed in one A&S open and I won the SCA life category with a woodworking entry. Also, I am into metalworking like I mentioned earlier!





Mercy & Generosity

The Next issue of Penfeathers will be on the Knightly virtues of Mercy and Generosity. See below who we will be interviewing!





INTERVIEW



*TH Lady Justina
Di Silvestri*



IMPORTANT DATES

Interview Questions	Due by April 1st
Articles from the youth	April 1st
Art & Science pictures from the youth	April 1st

Salve and Hello! I'm Justina, and I love learning what life was like in the 1400 and 1500s! I have been in the SCA since I was a kid, and I have always been fascinated with the day to day lives of people in history. My persona is from Renaissance Venice, in Italy. I have so much fun dressing up in over the top elegant garb, going to balls, feasts, and court, hosting salons, and meeting new people. I like to teach too! I teach classes on historical hairstyling and cosmetics, and even some spooky subjects in history! At events, you will usually find me escorting Royals, serving luncheon, or attending classes.

YOUTH
ARTICLE ON THE

Chivalric Values of Justice & Courage

BY LADY MAIRGHREAD WILSON



As the Kingdom Youth Marshal, I could teach our youth how to build a sword, drone on about the importance of pell work, and getting/keeping your kit in working order for the day when we are able to play once again. However, I wish to speak to something far more important than crafting swords and armor, and that is building the content of their character. Justice and courage are two of the knightly virtues that we aspire to in the SCA. What are these virtues and how do they apply to us?

Justice requires impartiality and fairness; it is not always easy. Unlike a spirit of vengefulness, which is far more common and counters to our knightly virtues of justice and mercy. Revenge is NOT justice. The administration of justice requires a level head, void of strong emotions. One must look at multiple perspectives to gain understanding, even perspectives contrary to your own beliefs. There is always more than one side to every story. Learn to listen without placing judgment, because it is hard to be truly just when you have a narrow one-sided view with only part of the facts. Justice goes hand-in-hand with courage.

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." ~ Nelson Mandela. Courage is shown by an ordinary person who overcomes their fear; sometimes at great personal cost to do something extraordinary in unusual circumstances. It takes great courage to go against the crowd, and sometimes our own personal feelings and desires to do what is right, and what is best for the greater good. Integrity is akin to courage; it is doing what is right, even when no one else is looking.

Continued on Next Page

Integrity dates back to ancient Rome, where soldiers would line up for inspection. They would beat their breastplate with their fist and shout "integritas", showing that it was in good repair, solid, able to withstand the stress of battle. Courage is one such virtue that allows us to stand strong in the face of adversity. Learn to be brave in your endeavors, but also remember to be just and merciful in your actions. May the strength of your armor and weapons be as strong as the character of the person wielding it.

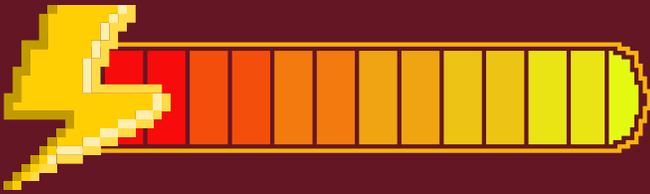


*Photo Credit: Mistress Ellen
DeLacey*

player one

VS







Find The Modern Objects



13 items should not be in this famous painting by artist Pieter Bruegel Titled "Children's Games" .

TACO STAND, FREE WIFI SIGN,
A STORE OPEN SIGN,
BALLOON, TOY CAR, TOY
BOAT, LAPTOP, PHONE BOOTH,
BATHROOM SIGN, STOP SIGN,
TACO GRAFFITI, BBQ GRILL,
AND A BICYCLE.

LEVEL UP

With the Gaming Guild of Meridies

Word Search

G H H R S A I A G P U J H Z K
G C E O H E D P P H V A E I T
B H H J H C H I V A L R O U S
R Q W H D I L X F I Z V F K C
A E F J O F Z L U L H I B N R
V I Y A J U O C Z B O R A I S
E A N Z I U B R Z P N T L G C
E B L T K R S A T W E U A H A
L M U I E O N T P I S E N T L
C O U R A G E E I I T J C U E
H V E G X N R Y S C Y U E V S
E H Z E G U T I J S E R D N D
A V E S B G Q U T D V R L E Q
R Z E Q U A L I T Y H A X K B
T E H F A B B T F D S U H P P

Chivalrous

Equality

Justice

Virtue

Fortitude

Courage

Valiant

Brave

Integrity

Honesty

Scales

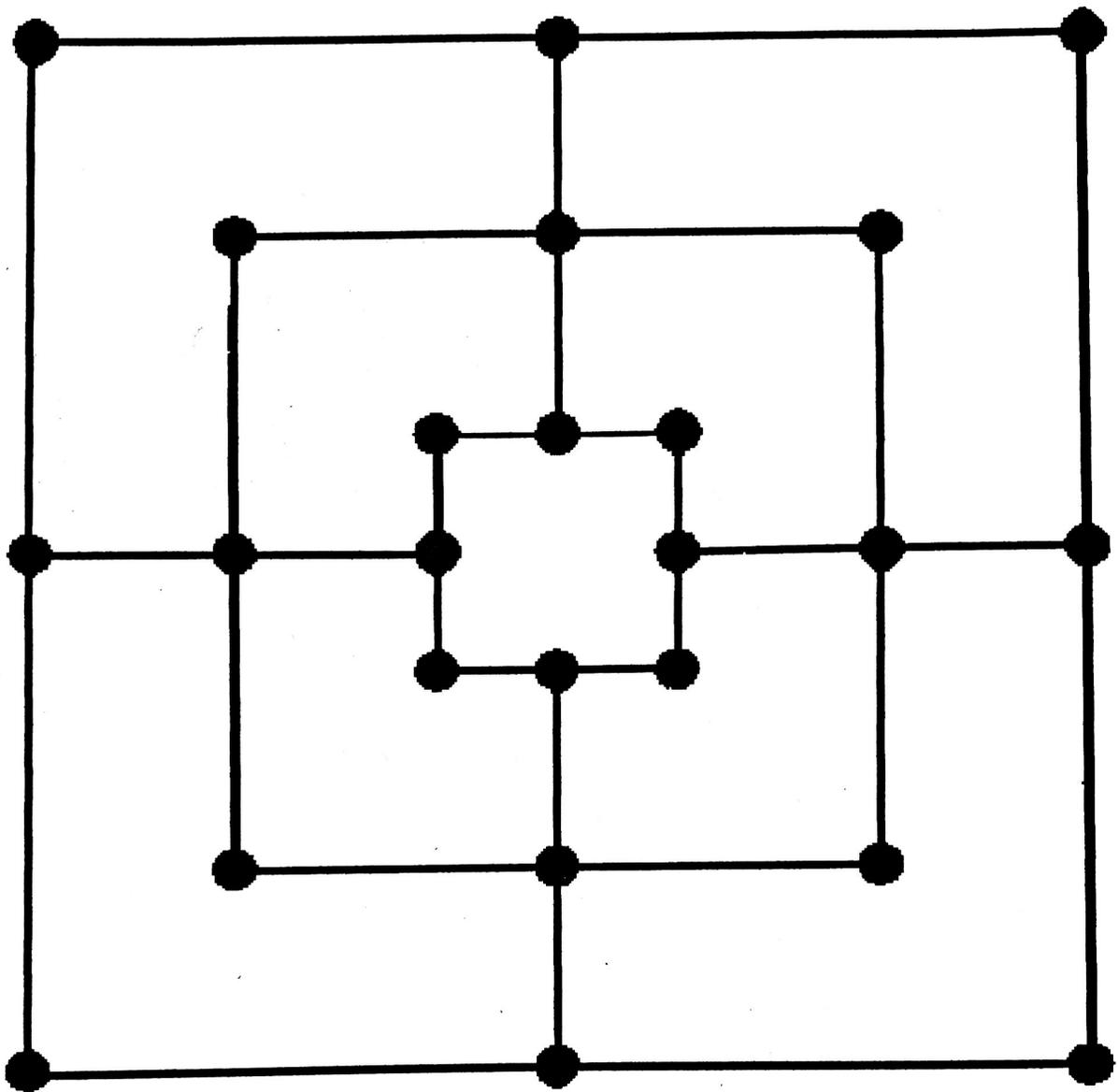
Heart

Fairness

Balance

Knight

NINE MEN'S MORRIS



The Game of Merels (also spelt Merreles), or Nine Men's Morris is a simple board game for two players. It was popular in the 14th century, but earlier versions with fewer than nine pieces have been found dating back to 1400 B.C.

HOW TO PLAY: Nine Man Morris, or Merels is played on a board by two players who take turns. The players start with nine different colored tokens each. As with other medieval games, many different rules have evolved over the years. Players are advised to agree on the rules by which they will play before starting.

To start the game, the players place their tokens on any of the available spaces on the board. When all tokens are placed, the game enters the second part. Players now move their tokens. A token can be moved from one circle to another along the lines. Tokens can never be placed or moved to a slot that is already occupied.

Each player attempts to form a mill (three tokens in a row). Whenever a player succeeds in making a mill, they may capture (or pound) an opponent's piece that doesn't belong to a mill. If all of the opponent's tokens are inside some mill then an exception is made and the player can take any token in the opening, it's possible to form two mills by placing a single token. The player still gets to take only one of the opponent's tokens. Once captured, pieces cannot be brought back into play.

Players must move if they can (even if it would be to their disadvantage). A player who cannot move loses the game.

Rules vary as to how mills may be broken and re-formed. Most allow a piece to move out of a mill, then move back the following go. This provides a clear advantage to the first player who can make a mill. A variation is to require that a minimum number of other moves (not necessarily with the same piece) must be played before a piece may be moved back into the same mill. This could be one, two or three moves. No such restriction applies if a mill is being formed along a different line, or using different pieces.

In one common variation, once a player is reduced to three pieces, his pieces may "fly", "hop" or "jump" to any empty intersections, not only adjacent ones. Once a player has been reduced to two pieces, they are unable to capture any more of their opponent's pieces, and therefore that player loses the game. The game is won by bringing the opponent to a position where they cannot move, or by reducing them to only two tokens.

YOUTHFUL EXPRESSION

17 AND UNDER

My SCA Heros

Author: Brandulfr Lodinsson

I have a lot of heroes in the SCA. My first is Sir Luu. He's my hero because he's a knight. When I grow up I want to be a knight like Sir Luu. He's funny, smart, strong, kind, caring, awesome, and cool! That's my first hero.

My second hero is THL Lođinn, he's my stepdad. One day I want to be a member of the Order of the Bear like him. Here are some qualities you may or may not know he has: he's nice, kind, caring, helpful, strong, super smart, courageous, honorable, awesome, and cool. He's really funny and fun to do stuff with.

My next hero is my mom, THL Pixie, and I'm sure everyone knows who she is. She is in the order of the bough and I want to be in the order of the bough because I want to be helpful and stuff too. And I think all the kids reading this know who she is because she teaches MOC a lot and is the Dean of Page School. Here are some qualities that my mom Pixie has: nice, kind, helpful, and caring (I know that because we have 16 animals and two 10 gallons tanks of fish). She's cool and awesome, playful, encouraging, smart, courageous, and has a love for animals.



Continued on Next
Page

My 4th hero is THL Drogo, he's also a member of the Order of the Bear that I want to be in. Drogo also likes woodworking and metalworking. He is smart and helpful, kind, very funny, nice, encouraging, and courageous. He holds people accountable and he is cool and awesome!

My next hero is Lord Torbin of Osprey. He's a talented blacksmith. He makes knives for people in the SCA. He's like family. He's nice to everyone, he's smart, and cares about others. I like spending time with him and he comes over to do stuff for us. When Loðinn and mom go to the hospital he would even come to the house and take care of the animals and me if we asked. He's also fun to play with.

Sir Erik Martel, the Knight of Kittens, is another hero of mine. He's also Captain America to the SCA. He loves cats and does a fundraiser to help cats every year. He's kind, caring, and encouraging, all the qualities a knight should be, just like Captain America.

I have a lot more heroes in the SCA, too many to list. Everybody in the SCA has great qualities and everybody in the SCA helps each other. I'm happy that everyone is nice and kind to each other.

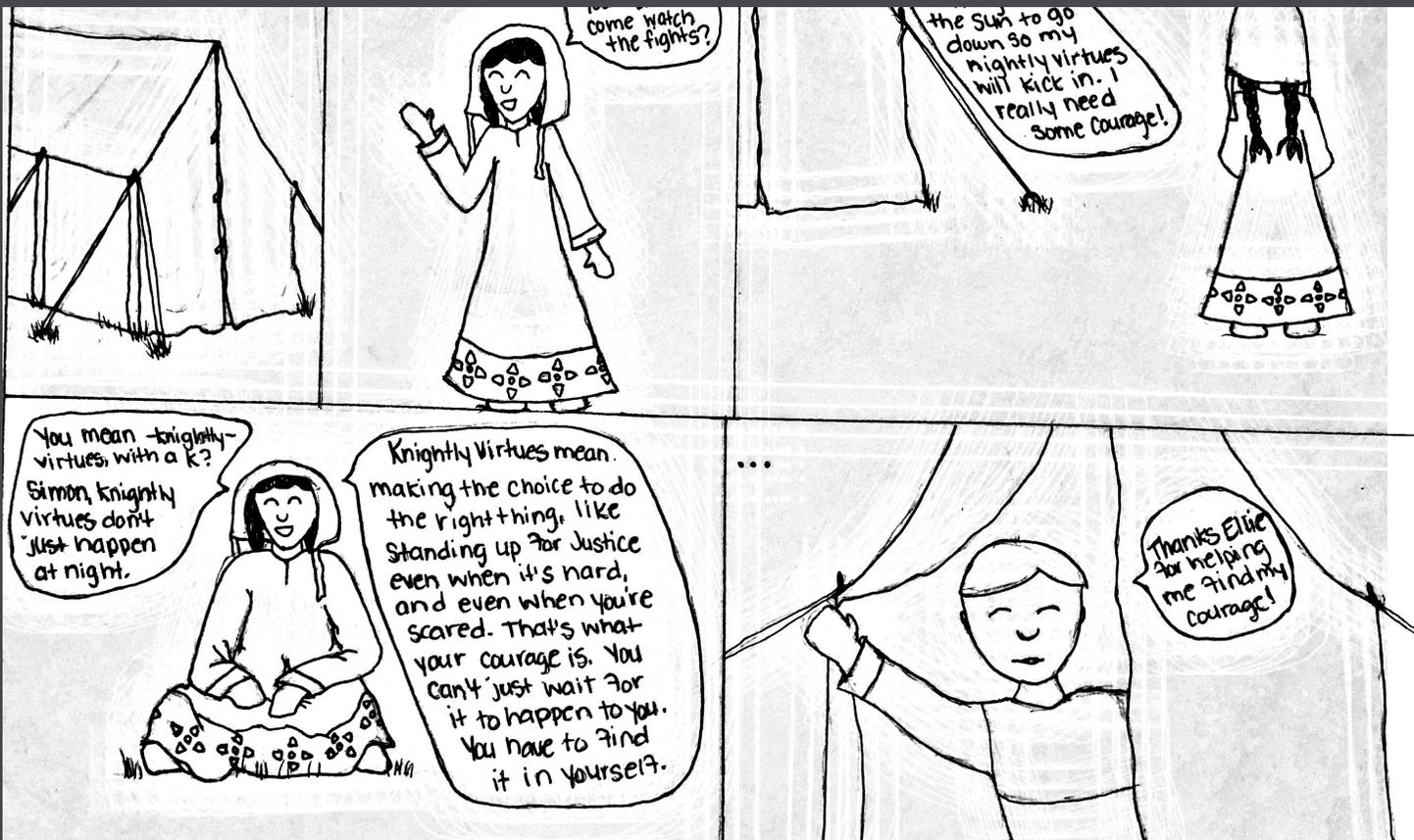


BAM!

COMICS



Adventures in Society





Punny Pages

What did one hat say to the other?

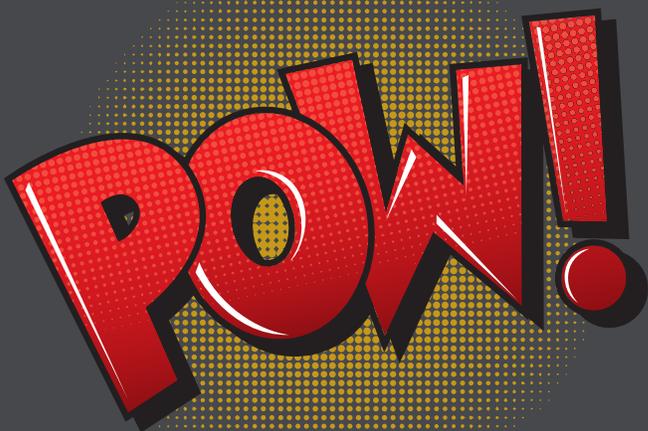


"Stay here, I'm going on ahead!"

A gat is a traditional nobleman's hat from Korea. It is made of horsehair!

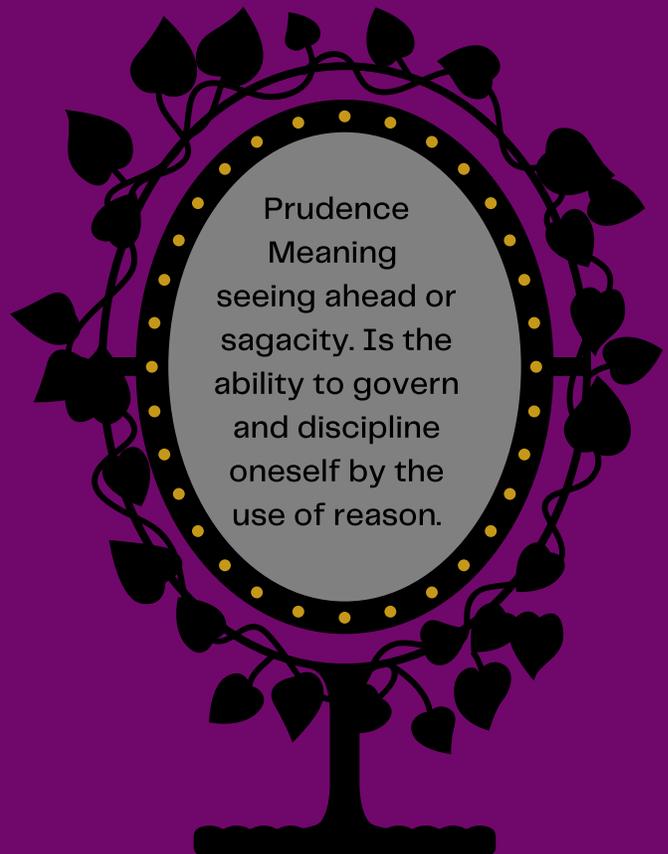
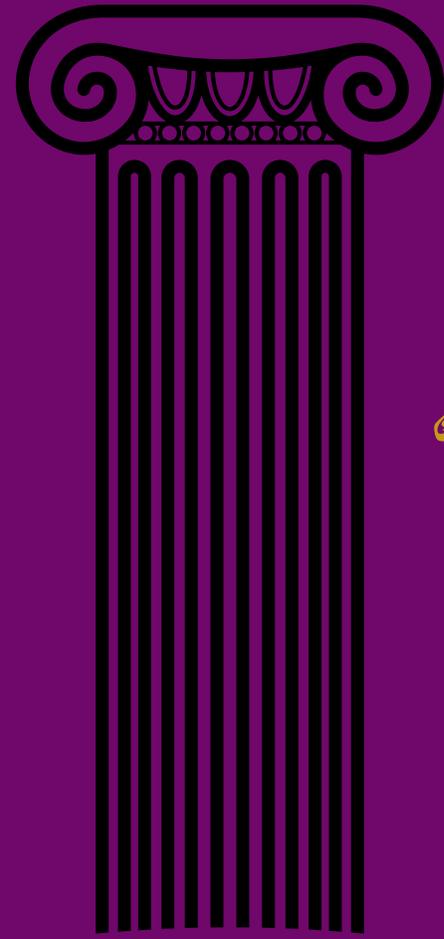
This is how to write gat:

갓



The origin of Lady Justice was Justitia, the goddess of Justice within Roman mythology. Justice was one of the virtues celebrated by emperor Augustus in his clipeus virtutis, and a temple of Iustitia was established in Rome on 8 January 13 BC by emperor Tiberius.

Her attributes are a blindfold, a beam balance, and a sword. She often appears as a pair with Prudentia (Prudence), who holds a mirror and a snake. Many emperors used her image to proclaim themselves as protectors of justice.





I'll sing you a song it's the song of the sea
Row....

I'll sing you a song if you sing it with me
Row...

[chorus]

We sailed away in the roughest of water
Row...

And now we return to the most royal quarters
Row...

[chorus]

The first mate is playing the captain aboard
Row...

He looks like a peacock with pistol and sword
Row...

[chorus]

See how we feast on pheasants by the flock
Row...

It's a long long way from the gruel and the stocks
Row...

[chorus]x3

[chorus]

Row me bully boys,
we're in a hurry boys,
we've got a long way
to go.

We'll sing and we'll
dance and bid
farewell to France
And it's row me bully
boys row.

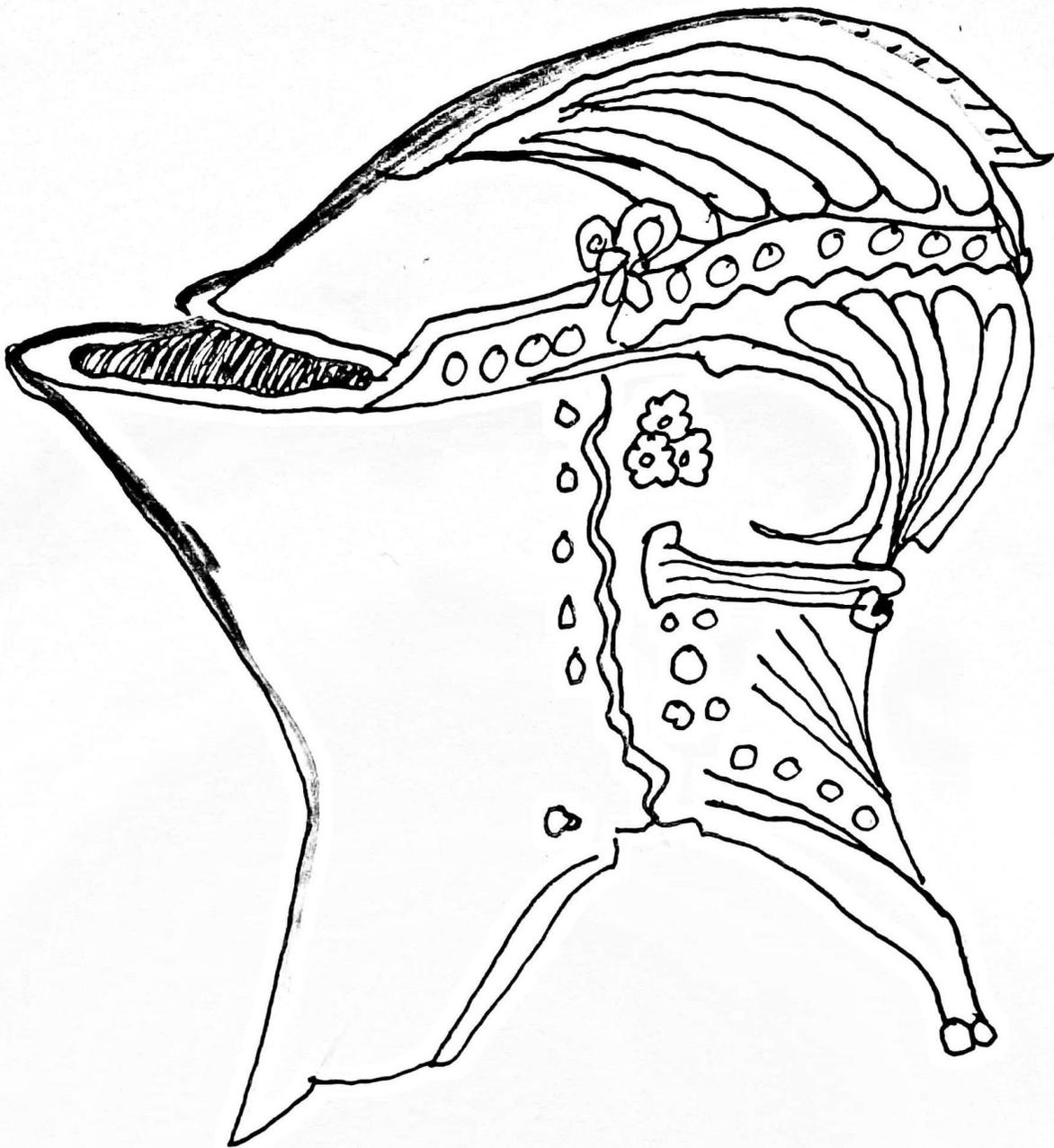
Arts & Science!

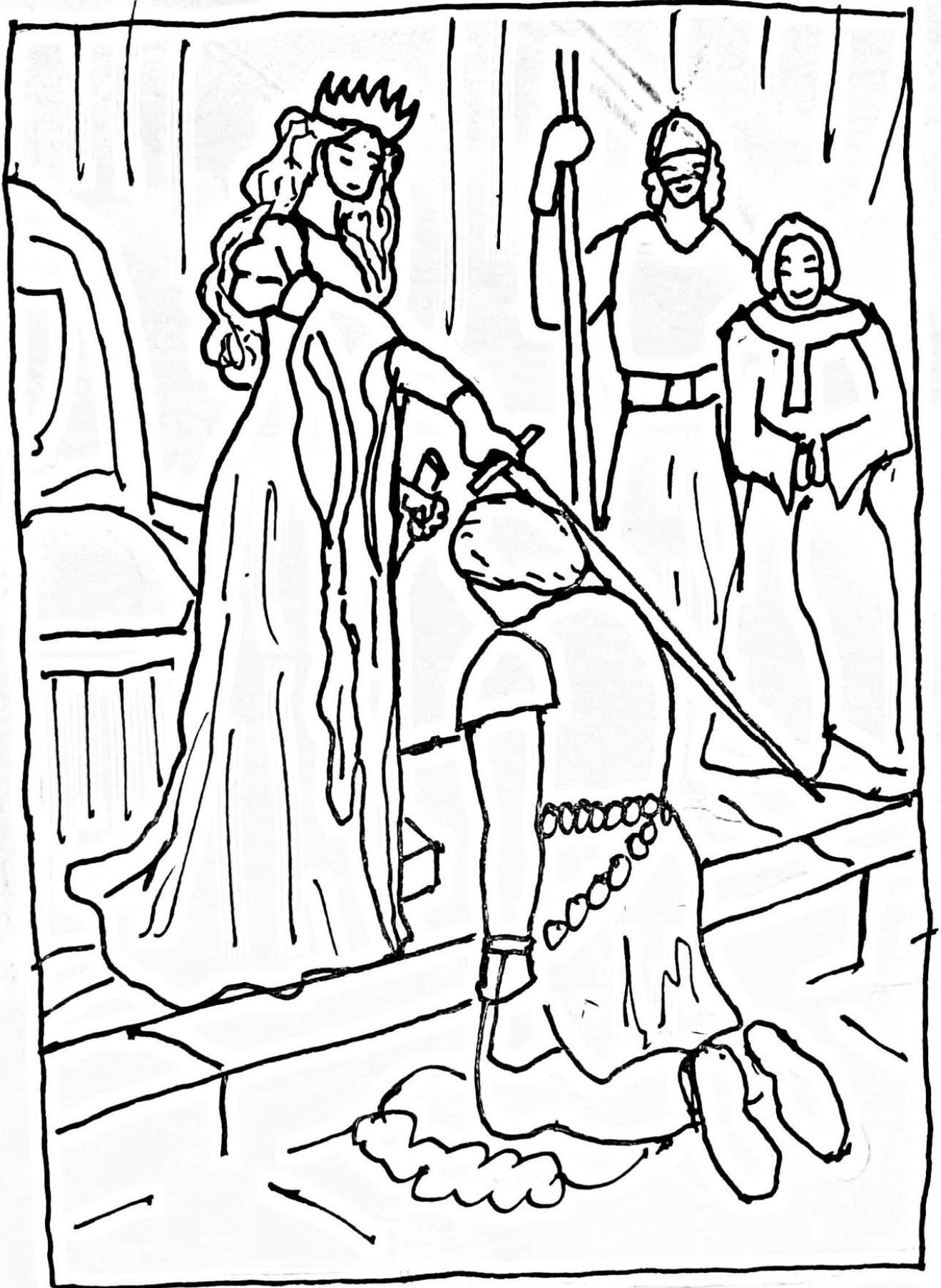
Let's work on those skills!

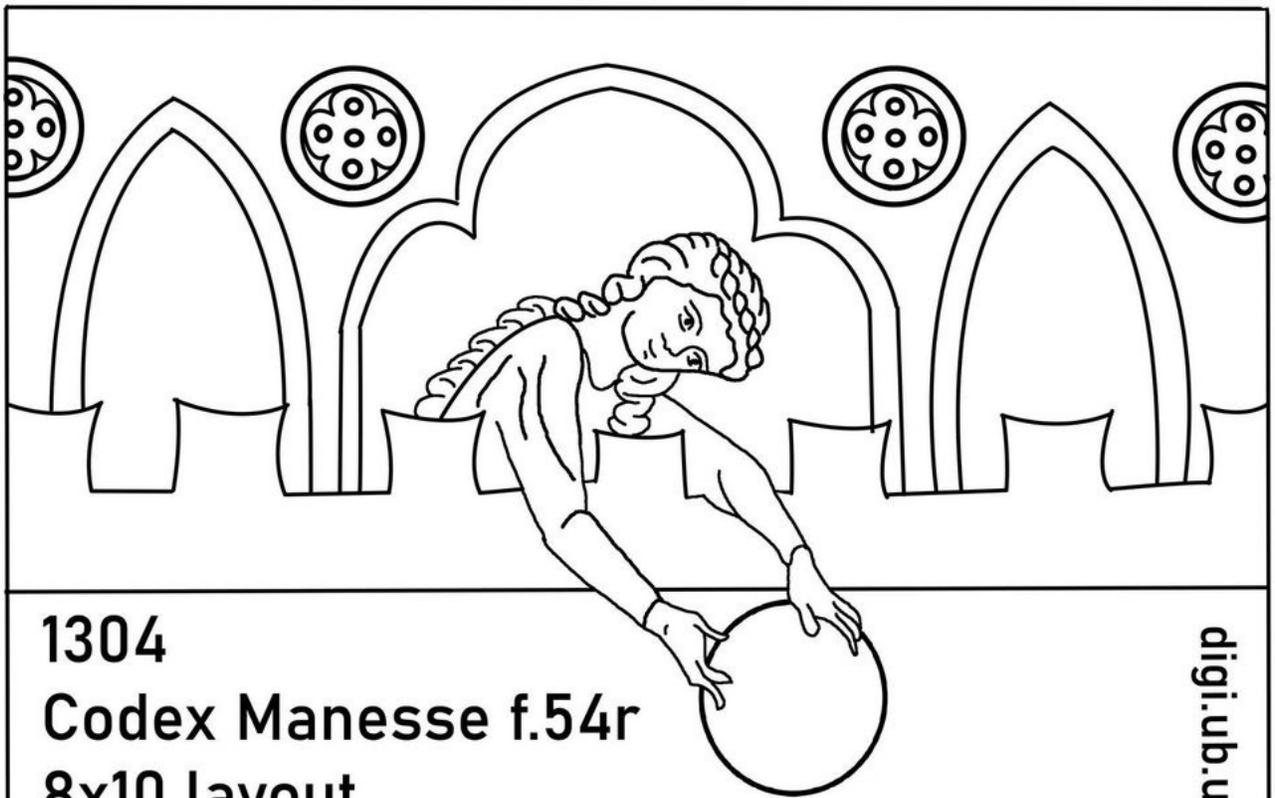
Starting on the next page, Penfeathers is providing you with coloring pages and blank scrolls! Practice your scribal skills and send us a picture of the results. Your art will be posted in the next issue of Penfeathers! We are also providing the steps to a science project. Send photos of you working on it with your parents and you will see your mad scientist skills in the next issue!

Send to penfeathers@meridies.org

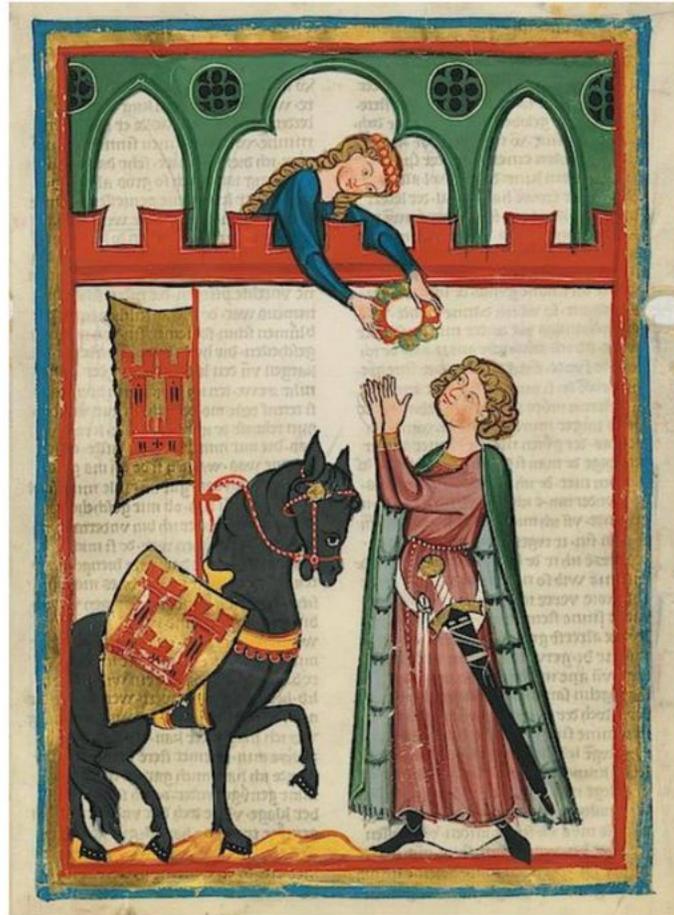
ART







1304
Codex Manesse f.54r
8x10 layout



digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/cpg848/0737/scroll

SCIENCE

HOW TO MAKE BUTTER

Steps

1. Pour heavy whipping cream into a small glass jar with a lid. Only fill the glass jar up to about halfway. Let the heavy cream come to room temperature. (This will help it turn to butter more quickly.)
2. Begin shaking your cream in the jar by hand.
3. Shake shake shake!
4. After a few minutes, you will notice the cream thicken. It has become whipped cream! Keep shaking!
5. Soon you will hear the sound of liquid sloshing inside the jar again. The cream is separating. Keep shaking
6. Once you hear a thunk Stop! Pour out the buttermilk. (You can save it to use in baking later!) What is left in the jar is butter. You can sprinkle some salt in it and try it out on some bread or crackers.



Thyme

For A Chat



With the Herbal Guild

February is a really fun time in the world of plants, especially herbs and veggies that you hope to grow in the spring and summer! February 1 is the date set for the pagan celebration of Imbolc, which, among other things marks a time to begin the work of your Spring gardens to ensure that they're ready for the weather to allow you to begin planting outside! For this article, we're going to look at the things you can do RIGHT NOW to begin your Spring and Summer gardens!

SEEDING:

First, this is the PERFECT time to get your seeds started for the Spring garden! Here in Meridies, we have a very long growing season, and getting started early will allow a few rotations of plantings to keep your garden producing vegetables the whole time! You can't do that without starting early, though! On average, it takes 8 weeks for seedlings to be healthy enough for outside planting. Our Spring usually starts in early to mid-March, so the timing is perfect to get started! Start by thinking about what kinds of plants you want to grow in your garden and gathering seeds. You can get these from just about anywhere, right now, but anywhere with a garden center is a good place to start! There are a ton of ways to start your seeds, from getting the pellet style seed starting kits to simply putting the seeds in the soil, so talk to your adults to discuss which option will work best for you. You'll also need to talk to them about how much space you'll need and locations that would be good for seeds to start.

After you've got this settled, it's time to do some shopping. You will need soil and something to put it and your seeds in and seeds.



In general, herbs and some fruits need to be planted very close to the surface of the soil and vegetables need to be planted a few inches deeper. Fruits that grow on bushes and trees take longer to grow, so make sure you're thinking about that. We'll discuss how to plan for a garden in the next section. Check the seed package for specific directions on how deep to plant your seeds, but this will help you get started!

GARDEN PLANNING:

There are a few things you need to keep in mind when planning your garden. The most important question to ask yourself and your adults is, "What do we want to get out of this garden?" Do you want to eat the vegetables, fruits, and herbs? Do you want a beautiful or lovely smelling garden? Do you want to attract or repel some critters and insects? Are you growing things to be pretty or useful? Maybe both? Consider what you want and how long it takes to get it. Fruit that grows on trees or bushes take years to bear fruit, so if you're starting from seeds, you won't be getting those things year and probably not next. It might be better to wait a bit and look into getting established plants, instead, if you want fruit sooner. I started a lemon tree from a seed 6 years ago and only started getting fruit from it last year! Some vegetables take a very long time to grow and don't grow from seeds. Potatoes grow from other potatoes! They are ready to be harvested 100 days from the day you put them in the dirt! Garlic needs to be planted 3 months ahead of the growing season in order to be ready to harvest during the summer! Even ginger takes a long time to grow more root (which is the part we use for ginger ale!), close to six months, even! You can also consider whether you can double your space by getting things that get planted deep (like those potatoes) and then something that gets planted more shallow (like those herbs!) and stacking them in the ground or in the pot! Yes, both of these can be grown in a container!

Speaking of which, most of the fruits and vegetables you can grow are completely ok to grow in containers! Strawberries? Herbs? Carrots? You betcha! Talk to your adults about whether you want to plan a garden in the ground or in containers! I've even grown potatoes, squash, and herbs in plastic tubs full of soil (just make sure they can drain!).

Check the spacing needed for your seedlings once they're ready to transplant! If you put three seeds in each pot to start and all three of them grow, you might find that there's not enough room for them to grow that close to each other once they get bigger. Once they're healthy, you'll have to separate them and plant them separately in your garden. Last, but definitely not least, do a little digging to see what kind of light and plant food your plants will need in order to grow

healthy and strong. Do they need fertilizer or plant food? Can some of your plants use the same food? Is there anything your plants need to avoid? Can they take the hot sun in the summer or do they need some shade from it? Do they grow better with a lot of attention or mostly ignored (hint: herbs are usually in the ignored category until it's time to trim them!).

I know it doesn't look like much, but trust me, that's a lot to work on and by the time we have another Penfeathers for you, it'll be time to talk about knowing when to move those seedlings outside!

If you have any questions or I can help you, please feel free to reach out!

You can email Penfeathers with any of your questions and I will be happy to answer

Happy seeding and best of luck, Junior Herbalists!

Yours in Service,
THL Laurencia inghean ui Nuillain
Steward of the Herbal Guild



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