

— MONTENGARDE —

MINOTAUR MONITOR

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BARONY OF MONTENGARDE

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This is the April 2026, issue of the Minotaur Monitor, the official newsletter of the Barony of Montengarde. Montengarde is with the Kingdom of Avacal and is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, inc., and the Minotaur Monitor is published as a service the SCA's membership. This newsletter is available online at <https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/montengarde-newsletter/> All Changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office by email membership@sca.org or phone at 800-789-7486 or 408-263-9305 (Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm PT) ext.203. You may also mail in membership to Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., at https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/*membership. For more information or to purchase memberships online, please visit https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/*membership



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IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE BARONY

Castelain
Master Bjar the Blue
castelain@montengarde.org

Knight Marshal:
Lordship Allert Pierson
branchmarshall@montengarde.org

Captain of Armored Combat:
Vladimir of Montengarde

Captain of Archers:
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archery@montengarde.org

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Events Deputy:
Mistress Kathryn inghean Ui Mhaonaigh
deputy-events@montengarde.org

Webminister:
Master Mordecai Salzer
webmaster@montengarde.org



The Sign Post

Facebook Links

Unofficial Barony of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17RdqSpoig/>

Fighters of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BvAtVzwsS/>

Archers of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Ckux4v9yq/>

Bard Hard with Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BHK7jGzgP/>

Avacal-Group

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17fNN7Rxfc/>

The Kingdom of Avacal Page

<https://www.facebook.com/KingdomofAvacalSCA>

Avacal Buy/Sell, Trade/Barter

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/14GTzeqrsAb/>

While these are the key Facebook groups, there are many more that can be found by searching keywords such as Montengarde, SCA and Avacal

Website Links

Barony of Montengarde

<https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/>

Kingdom of Avacal

<https://avacal.org/>

Society for Creative Anachronisms

<https://www.sca.org/>

Addresses

The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary

7 11 St NE Calgary, AB T2E 4Z2

Archery World

106 - 3420 12th ST NE Calgary



Monthly Festivities

Tavern Night

April 7th at The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary from 7pm-10pm

A social evening with friends featuring a mix of dancing, medieval gaming, and arts & sciences Beverages and sometimes food are provided for a nominal cost. Tavern is a “in garb” event but if you are without garb then have no fear! There is often loaner clothes curtesy of the Gold Key!

Montengarde Council

April 15 via Discord from roughly 7pm - 8pm

Open to any interested in the business side of the Barony! Here you will hear reports from all the officers and will include updates on upcoming events.

Martial Practice

Every Thursday at The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary from 6:30pm-9pm

Our warriors participate in tournaments for individuals and teams, tactical melees involving dozens of combatants, and even large-scale wars with thousands of participants! Thus, these practices allow our fighters to keep their skills sharp. There is a \$6 fee for fighters and by donation for non-combat attendees.

Bard Hard

April 12th via zoom from roughly 5pm - 10pm

A great way to meet with your fellow bards, perform, and listen to all that our talented barony has to offer.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85062066750>

Meeting ID:

850-6206-6750

Passcode: 1

Archery Practice

Every Friday at Archery World Calgary from 7pm-9pm

As of right now, Montengarde has negotiated a \$17 fee to practice at Archery World (cash). When you get there, just inform the staff that you are with the SCA, and loaner equipment is available for those interested!

A&S Round Table and Social

April 7th and 21st via Discord from 7pm-10pm

These nights are a great way to connect with the talented members of the barony and discuss projects or just work through various ideas with other people. Occasionally, these nights will be hosted in person, and information regarding this will be posted on Facebook or directly on the website.



NOTES FROM THE CHRONICLER

This edition marks a small but exciting milestone for us at the
Chroniclers desk...

The Minotaur Monitor has officially turned one!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the newsletter over the past year. Whether you've read an issue, shared it with others, or taken the time to submit an article, you've helped make the Minotaur Monitor what it is today. A special thank-you goes out to all of our contributors whose writing, projects, and ideas keep this newsletter lively and interesting.

This edition also includes some important housekeeping updates for the community, as well as a wonderful craft feature waiting for you near the end. I hope you enjoy exploring everything this issue has to offer.

As spring slowly begins to approach, I hope everyone is finding time for their projects, inspiration, and a bit of fresh energy after the long winter. Wishing you all the best in the weeks ahead!

Odilia Mae-Winter

UPDATE ON BARONY

Montengarde is currently in transition.

Their Excellencies Refr and Adis have stepped down, and the process of finding a new Baron and Baroness is currently in progress! For now, we have a Master Bjar the Blue as Castelain!

A Castelain is chosen by the crown for the barony when the position of Baron and Baroness becomes temporarily vacant. They act as liaison to the crown, and they support the seneschal as another officer where there would normally be Baron and Baroness. Our Castelain also aids in the process to find candidates and organize a poll for the next Baron and Baroness. However, they do not act as the baronial couple, hold court, or give out awards / accept fealty.

Are you interested in becoming the next Baron and Baroness or do you know someone who would be a good baronial candidate?

Contact master blue for more information!

castelain@montengarde.org

To recommend someone for a Montengarde award, please use the online recommendation form!

<https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/montengarde-award-recommendation/>

UPDATE ON BARONY- THE DATES

Curious about how this will look over the next few months? Is the tentative timeline

April 3: Deadline for Candidates to contact the Crown

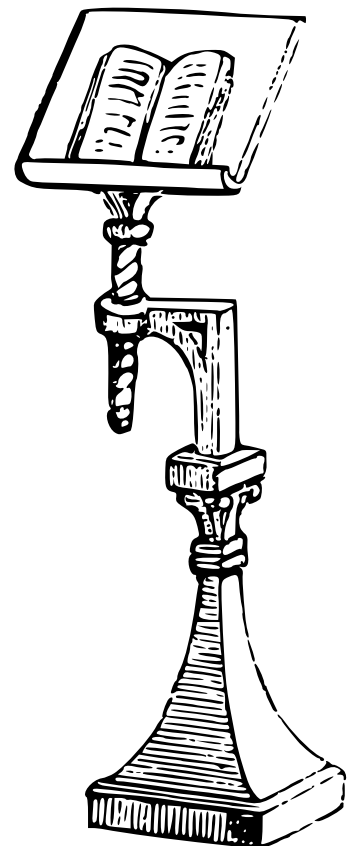
April 14-16: In-Person Meet & Greet / Polling

April 14-24: Online Polling

May 30th Official Announcement

July 18: Dragonslayer and Baronial Step up

While Montengarde will not have courts of its own until the elevation of the next Baronials, Their Majesties are still looking for recommendations for members of our populace, particularly Award of Arms! If there is someone who is part of your community, be it general or a specific one like archery, fencing, arts or armoured combat, yet to be recognized for such, then please write some recommendations!



CASTELAIN FAQ

Does this mean Bjar is the Baron again?

No, this is strictly an Administrative position

What is the job?

The duties include acting as a liaison to the Crown, to support the Seneschal as another officer, where there would normally be Baron or Baroness, and to ensure the process to find candidates and organize a poll for the next Baron and Baroness

But that sounds like being Baron again...so will Bjar be sitting in court and handing out awards?

No, a Castelain does not act as the Baronial couple. They do not accept fealty, give out awards, or sit in court.

How long will Bjar be doing this?

Until the next Baron/Baroness/Couple steps up.

How can I help?

If you know of someone who would be a good candidate, be it a single person or a couple, please talk to them and encourage them to speak to Bjar, in person or online messageing. I'm here to help answer questions, as are many of those who have sat the Minotaur Thrones before.

We are all in this together, and we are going to be called upon to step up as leaders in our community. Thank you for being here to see this through. Feel free to drop me a message or talk to Bjar in person if you have other questions or concerns.



Master Bjar the Blue

AVACAL GRAND TUA

April 17th to April 18th

Mámawéyatitán Centre - 3355 6th Avenue Regina, SK, Canada S4T 4L8

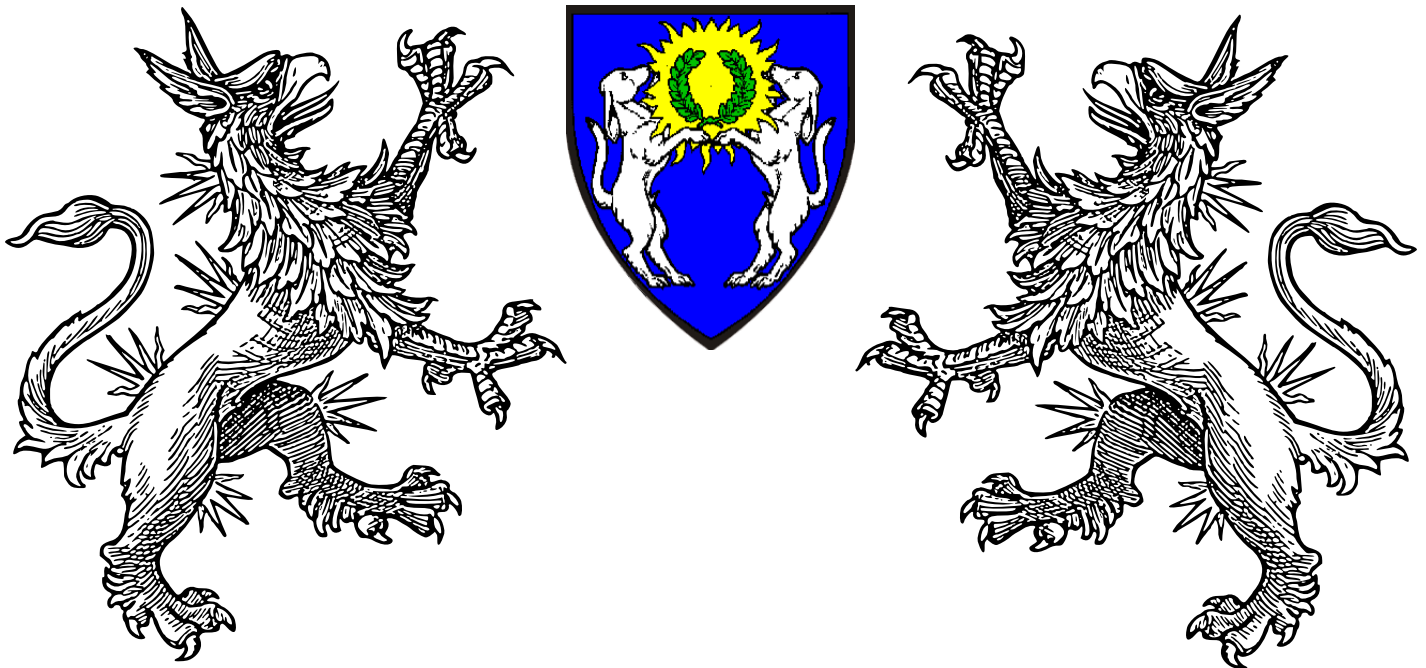
Join us at TUA in Sigelhundas! This event offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the tournaments to decide the NEWEST Kingdom Arts and Sciences AND Bardic Champions as well as all the classes you can handle! Whether you are a seasoned member of the SCA or a curious newcomer, we look forward to seeing you there!

Adult Registration - \$40
Adult Member Registration - \$30
Youth Registration (Ages 0-17) -
Free!

Check out the event Facebook page for up-to-date information! Details on classes and feast are to come shortly.

The Event Stewards

Mistress Gwen MacFergus and His Lordship Trahaearn Kvigrrson



FERRET'S FEAST - VALLEY WOLD

Saturday, April 11th

Moose Jaw Mason Hall - 1755 Main St. N., Moose Jaw.

Welcome to Ferrets Feast, where Valley Wold celebrates spring and chooses its Champions in Armour, Rapier, and Arts and Sciences. In case none of that interests you, stick around for a fabulous feast and enjoy the various foods presented by our Feast Steward, HL Mora of Lincolnshire. The doors will open at 10 am and close at 10 pm with activities starting as early as 10:30 am! Excitely, there will also be a Mocktail bar with Acaval-inspired drinks



Adult Registration - \$30
Adult Member Registration - \$20
Youth Registration (Ages 0-17) - Free!

Adult Feast - \$25
Youth Feast (Ages 12-17) - \$15
Child Feast (Ages 0-11) - Free!

The Arts and Sciences Derfendership is open to all of Avacal! Any project is welcome, finished or not. The documentation will need the following format.

Who - main developer/user of the item

What is it?

Where is it from?

When is it from?

Why do you like it?

Don't forget to put your name on it (on the back of the documentation, preferably)

JAPANESE ARMOUR LACING MADE WITH KUTEUCHI LOOP BRAID

Curious about taking classes at events? The following was from a handout from a class taught by the talented Albrecht of Borealis (Albert Andersen), who showed Avacal how to do the Kuteuchi Loop Braid!

A little History

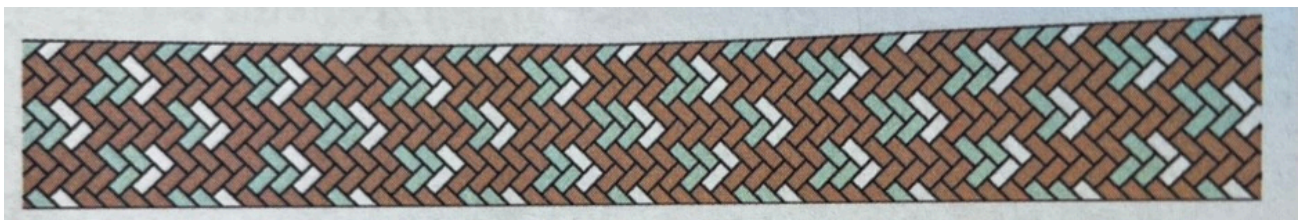
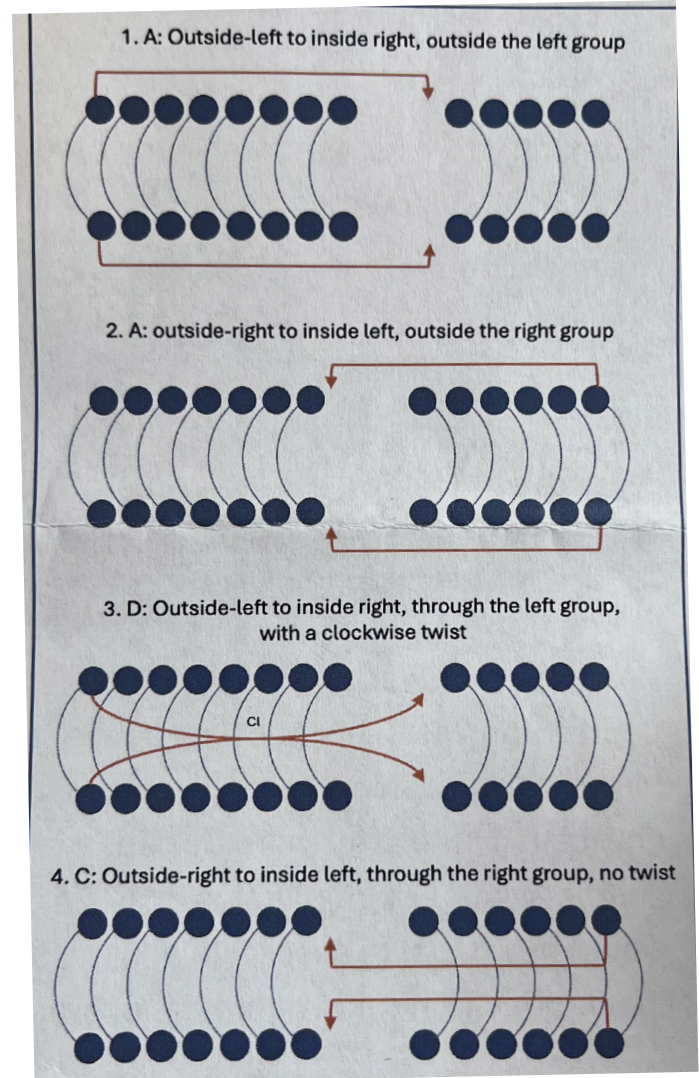
Japan has an ancient tradition of decorative and functional braided cord. Many samples of decorative treasure wrapping and scroll ties from the 9th century CE remain from the Imperial Treasure Repository Shoso-in and the treasure of Horyu-ji in Nara. From the late Heian era (10-12th C CE) on, long lengths of braid laced together lame armour plates protecting samurai warriors. In the modern era, Obijime is a contrasting over-belt for traditional women's kimonos, and a smaller haori-himo tie for men's kimono overcoat closed.

While the Marudai (round stand) and Takadai (tall stand) may be more familiar to modern braid enthusiasts, historical evidence for them only goes back to the mid-17th century. Medieval and earlier braids were more likely created with a loop-manipulation technique now called Kuteuchi. Not only does the structure of extent samples better match the characteristics of loop braids, but the faster pace of manufacture would also be crucial to assemble and maintain suits of armour that require hundreds of meters of braided lacing.

Check out his Instagram @Albert.yeg

JAPANESE ARMOUR LACING MADE WITH KUTEUCHI LOOP BRAID

1. Hold the stack of tabs together with one hand and attach the start of the braid to a table leg or post
2. Separate the stack of tabs into the left-handed group and the right-hand group. For this pattern, the left-hand group will have 8 loops, and the right-hand group will have 5
3. follow the sequence of four moves AADC, sliding the outer loop of one group either around or through the others to land as the inner loop of the opposite group. (move D also includes a 180-degree clockwise rotation of the tab)
4. After each move, spread your arms wide to pull the loops tight to the end of the braid
5. Repeat AADC until you run out of loops!



WATCH OUT FOR....

AVACAL SPRING CORONATION

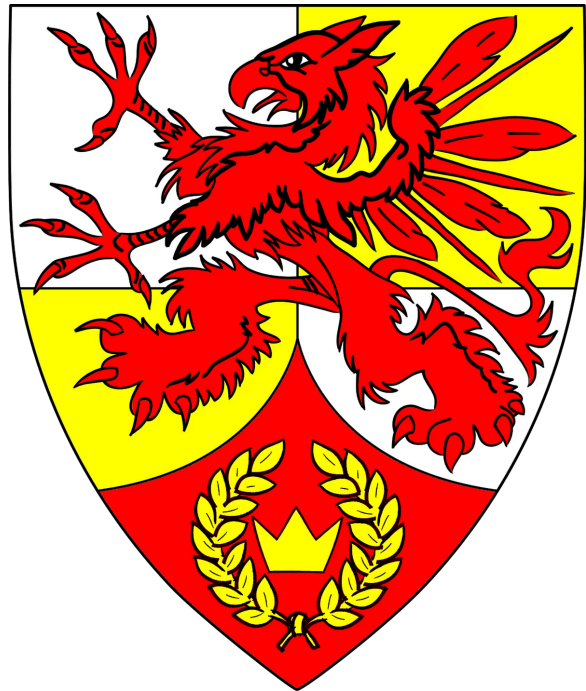
May 15th to May 18th At the Quad War Site

Please join us for Avacal's Spring Coronation where we will celebrate with grandeur and tradition, marking the ascension of the new King and Queen to the Griffin thrones! With elaborate garb, courtly ceremonies, and chivalric displays, you can expect a weekend filled with feasting, tournaments, arts and sciences displays, and opportunities to engage in all that Avacal has to offer.

Adult Registration - \$40
Adult Member Registration - \$30
Youth Registration (Ages 0-17) - Free!

TE Alfheim & Adeline (Stew & Gail Hiar) privately own this amazing land location. All of the buildings and structures have been developed and are privately owned by the owners or the many individuals within our fair kingdom. Walk around and enjoy all there is to see. Please be mindful and leave things just as nice as or better than you found it.

The castle is in need of some repairs. Any individuals under 18 must be accompanied by adults.



When Driving:

- From the West – Wainright, Alberta: Travel East on Highway 14 AB, this becomes Highway 40 SK at the border. Proceed 8km past the border and turn North (left) on Artlan Road (this is opposite of Suffern Lake turn off #680). Travel 4.6km north and turn West (left) on to field road.
- From the East – Battleford, Saskatchewan: Travel West on Highway 40 SK to Marsden, SK. Continue 5km past Marsden and turn North (right) on Artlan Road (this is opposite of Suffern Lake turn off #680). Travel 4.6km north and turn West (left) on to field road.

ARTS AND SCIENCE CHECK IN

Passionate about arts and crafts? Want to share your knowledge with the masses? It sounds like you might belong in Montengarde's Arts & Sciences community!

Our ever-talented HL Drifa at Lækjamoti, Minister of Arts and Sciences, is currently seeking a deputy to help support the A&S community. This could include helping organize classes at Tavern, assisting with in-person A&S practices and meetings, or even lending a hand on the Discord server.

Curious about the role? Email arts-sciences@montengarde.org or find Drifa at the next Tavern night to learn more!



In Case You Missed It!

On the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00–9:00 PM, our Arts & Sciences community gathers in person to work on individual or group projects. Sewing machines and tables are available, so bring along whatever you're working on. Feel free to bring your own drink or snack if you'd like.

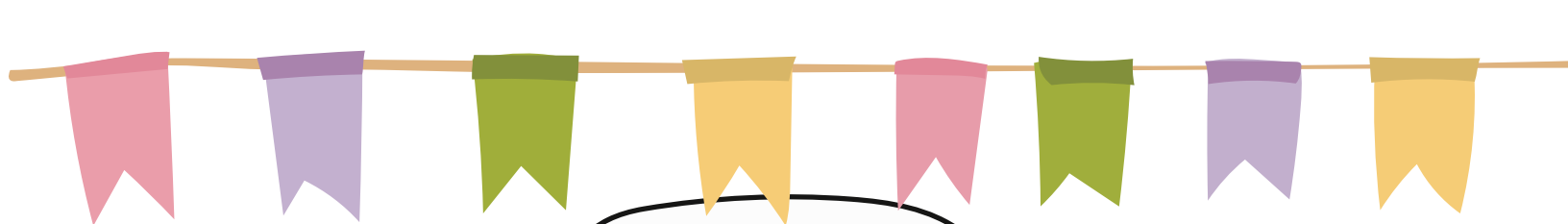
Location: Li Xia's home in SW Calgary (about a 15-minute bus ride from Westbrook Train Station). Please email brimmy_san@yahoo.com for the address if you don't already have it, and do so at least two days in advance. Everyone is welcome, including well-supervised youth! The house is smoke- and pet-free, located close to bus routes, and across the street from a small parking lot. (Beginning March 2026)

What Can I Do at These Events?


Arts & Sciences encompasses the many crafts, skills, and technologies practiced during the time periods and cultures studied in the SCA. Participants research, study, and recreate these skills, then share them with others in the community. You'll see the results throughout our events: the garb we wear, the armor used in combat, the scrolls presented in Court, and even the recipes served at feasts, just to name a few. Whatever your passion may be, there's likely a place for it within our vibrant Arts & Sciences community.

Bardic arts are also part of this tradition and include all forms of performance such as singing, playing instruments, juggling, sleight of hand, storytelling, and more. Alongside period-inspired performances, you may also encounter filks (songs set to familiar tunes with new lyrics inspired by SCA culture) and stories drawn from personal SCA adventures—often beginning with the classic line, “No really, there I was”

At a Montengarde bardic circle, a stick is passed around, and each person may choose to perform, pass, or offer a prompt (such as requesting a song or topic). Audience members are always welcome and encouraged to join in the fun.



What type of weapon
does a vegetable
knight use?



A vegetable knight?

A-Spear-Iguess

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(Thank you for reading)