

30 PATTERNS

Fantasy and Medieval Mosaics

FOR THE
SCROLL SAW

Frank
Droege



CASTLES, DRAGONS, KNIGHTS,
UNICORNS & MORE

Fantasy & Medieval Mosaics

For the Scroll Saw

by Frank Droege



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Creating a Scroll Saw Mosaic

Scroll saw mosaics are a variation on scroll saw segmentation techniques. To create a scroll saw mosaic, the pattern is cut apart, each piece is sanded and colored, and then the pieces are reassembled. The technique is similar to the mosaics of ancient Rome, in which elaborate scenes were created from broken pieces of colored tile.

Basic Cutting Techniques

Mosaics are simple and fun to create. Simply saw the pattern pieces, round the edges and glue the

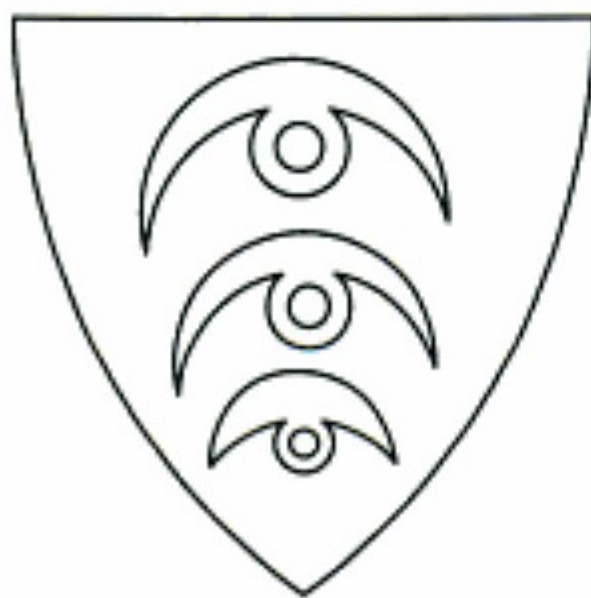
pieces back together on a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. backing. The rounded corners give the finished artwork the illusion of ceramic tile mosaics.

Because the wood will be colored, I recommend using softwoods, such as white pine or white cedar. A #2 scroll saw blade, reverse tooth, is ideal for cutting. The reverse tooth eliminates tear-out and reduces the number of burrs that will need to be sanded off the bottom of the piece.

To round the corners of the cut pieces, I use a hand-held grinder or micro-motor tool fitted with a

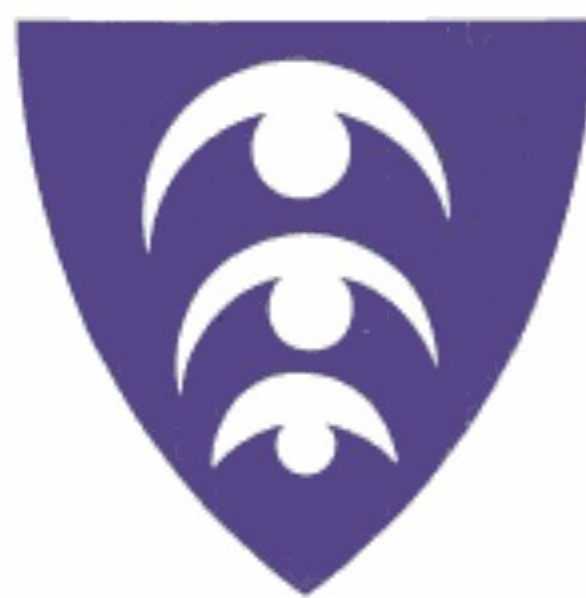
Segmentation at a Glance

Illustration 1



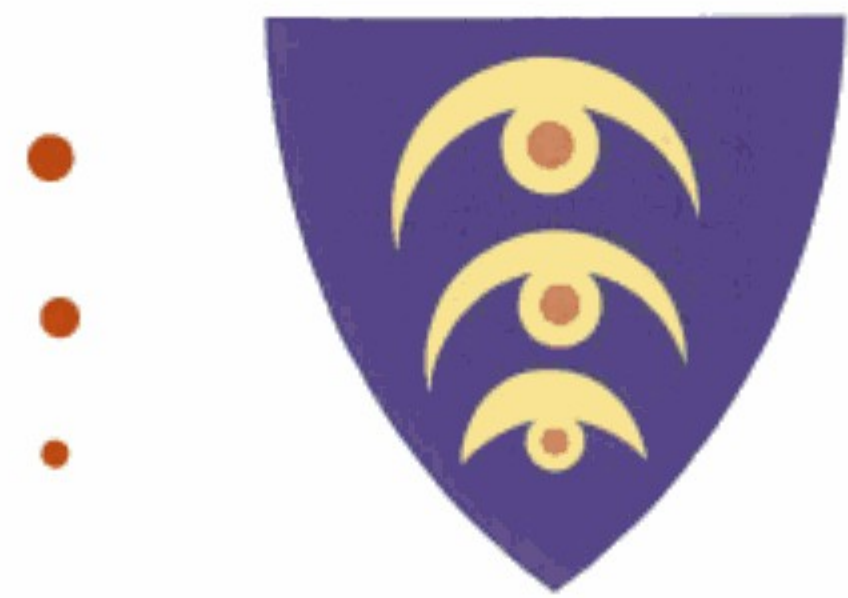
The scene or figure is cut from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. wood according to the pattern.

Illustration 2



The edges of each piece are rounded, and the pieces are colored.

Illustration 3



The rounded, colored pieces are assembled and glued to a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. backing.

¼ in. sanding band. You may also choose to use a hand sander. Round the corners of each piece to a uniform ⅛–⅙ in. radius.

When the pieces are rounded to your satisfaction, stain or paint each piece according to the suggested color scheme or with colors of your choosing. For the patterns in this book, I used a variety of commonly available wood-toned stains to give the pine or cedar the look of exotic woods. You could also either use brightly colored acrylic paints on all the pieces to duplicate the look of a tile mosaic, or paint only selected pieces to form an interesting final piece.

Allow the pieces to dry; then glue the pieces to the backing with yellow wood glue. Create any additional fine details, such as stonework, feathers and dragon scales, with paint or a woodburner; then finish the entire piece with acrylic varnish. Hang the piece for display with saw-tooth hooks or wire-and-eye hooks.

Remember, you can simplify any piece by removing lines and decreasing the number of pieces in any pattern.

- **Step One:** Cut two pieces of wood a little larger than the pattern you wish to scroll: a ½ in.-thick piece for the backer and a ⅛ in.-thick piece for the pattern.
- **Step Two:** Glue the pattern to the ½ in. board with rubber cement. Number each part of the pattern for easier assembly later.
- **Step Three:** Saw the frame first; then saw the remaining pieces.
- **Step Four:** Remove all the burrs from the backs of the pieces with sandpaper.
- **Step Five:** Transfer the numbers you wrote on the pattern to the bottom of each piece; then carefully pull the paper pattern off the wood.
- **Step Six:** Assemble—but don't glue—the pieces inside the frame; then sand the top of the entire project with 220-grit sandpaper.

- **Step Seven:** Remove the pieces from the frame and round the edges of each piece, including the frame, to about a ⅛ in.–⅙ in. radius. Leave the outer edge of the frame square. (Tip: Writing the numbers on the backing will make the final assembly much easier.)
- **Step Eight:** Use a tack cloth to remove any saw dust from the pieces; then paint the sides and edges of each piece according to the color plan.
- **Step Nine:** Glue the frame to the backing. Starting with a corner piece, carefully assemble and glue the pieces in the frame. Add any fine details.
- **Step Ten:** When the glue has dried according to the manufacturer's directions, apply a satin varnish to the entire piece.

Staining Mosaic Pieces

Staining is a great way to add the look of exotic hardwoods to your finished mosaic. Medieval mosaics, featuring knights, castles and coats of arms, are a perfect subject on which to experiment with stains.

I suggest that you use water-based stains. Water-based stains, such as Minwax™ and Zip Guard™, penetrate the wood quickly and are easy to clean up. Most stains are named according to their natural wood counterpart.

Choose your colors; then cut the pattern according to the directions, stopping after Step Six (trial assembly). Pull the pieces from the pattern, arranging them in piles according to color. I usually start to pull pieces from the design beginning with those to which I want to apply light-colored stains. I then move on to the middle tones, and finally to the darker tones. I always stack each color in front of a can of stain so that I don't mix up the colors. Round each piece as instructed in Step Seven, being sure to put the pieces back in the correct piles. You are now ready to stain.

Stain each piece according to the manufacturer's directions. Pay careful attention to the manufacturer's recommendations for ventilation and disposal. When applying stains, make sure you color not only

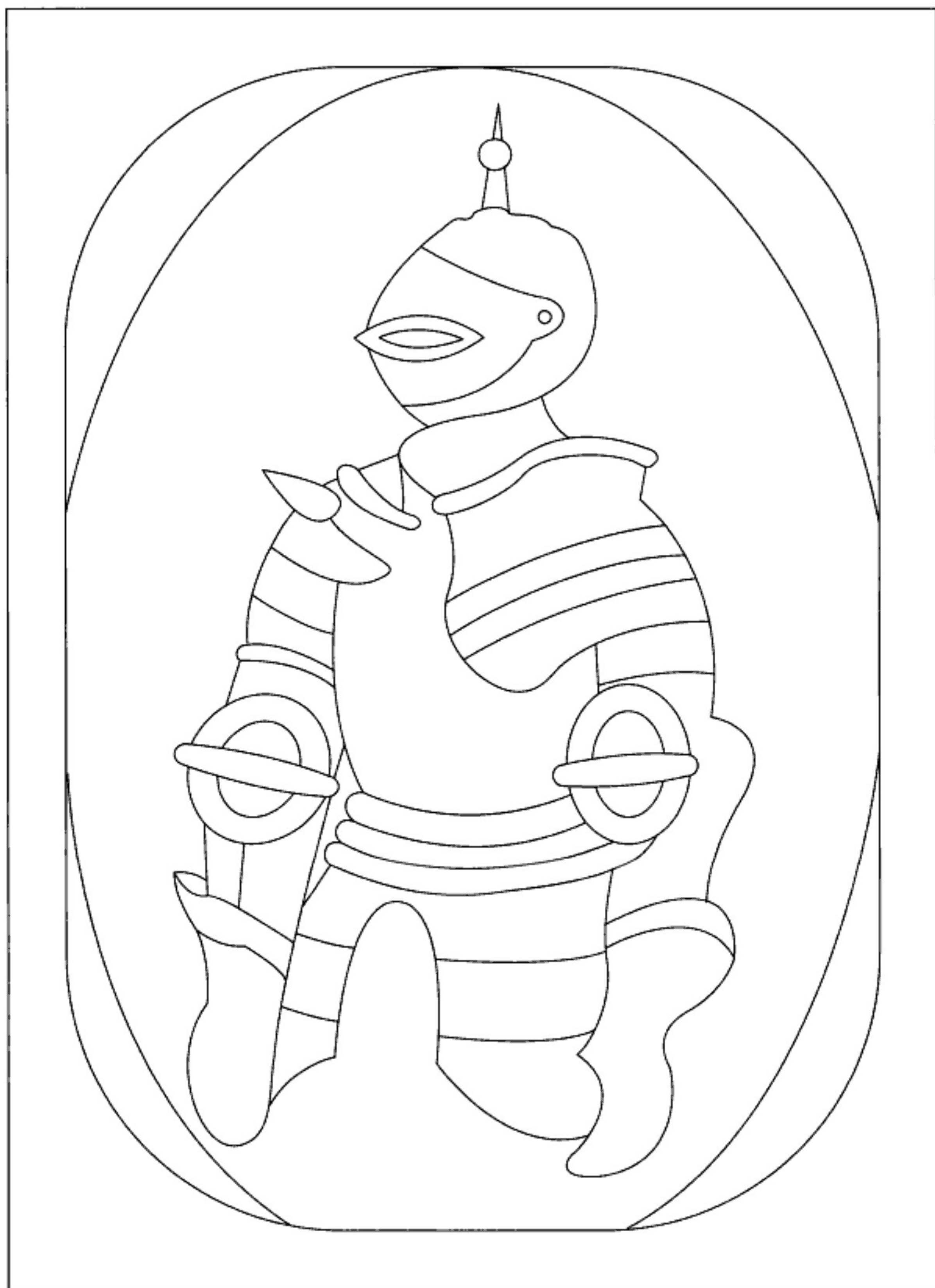
the tops and rounded edges of the piece, but also a little bit of the sides. If you neglect to do this, chances are that some of the natural wood will show on your finished project. Do not stain the bottoms of the pieces.

The staining chart provided on the can by the manufacturer will show the different intensities of color. Remember that the color of the stain also depends on the wood you use. All of the projects in this book began as white cedar or white pine. To get a white stain, dilute some white acrylic paint, apply it to the piece, then rub it off with a cloth.

Allow the pieces to dry completely before finishing the mosaic as instructed on the previous page.



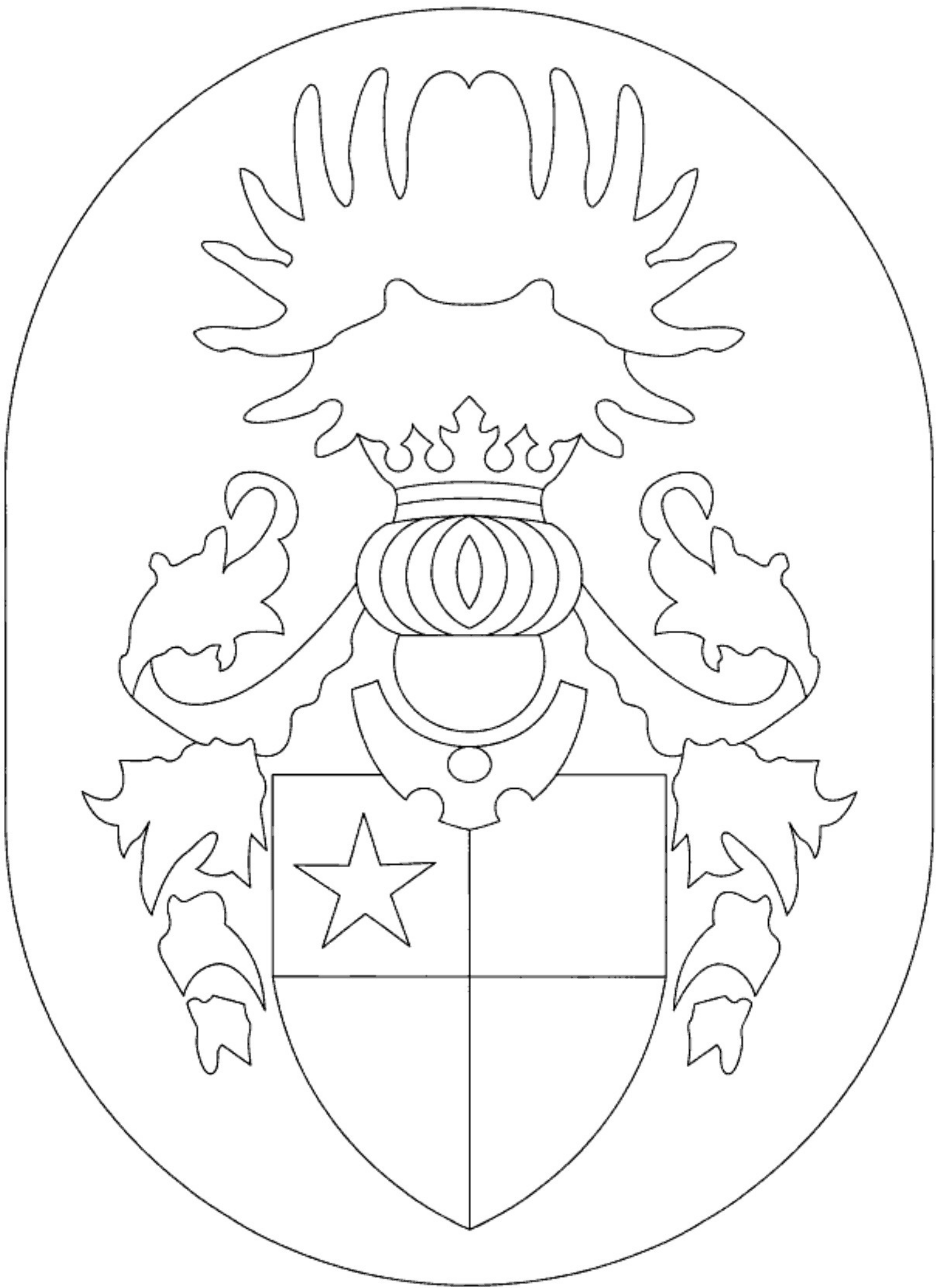
A variety of stains applied to the segmented pieces of the pattern creates the illusion of more expensive hardwoods. This piece was cut from $\frac{1}{8}$ " pine.



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King's Champion

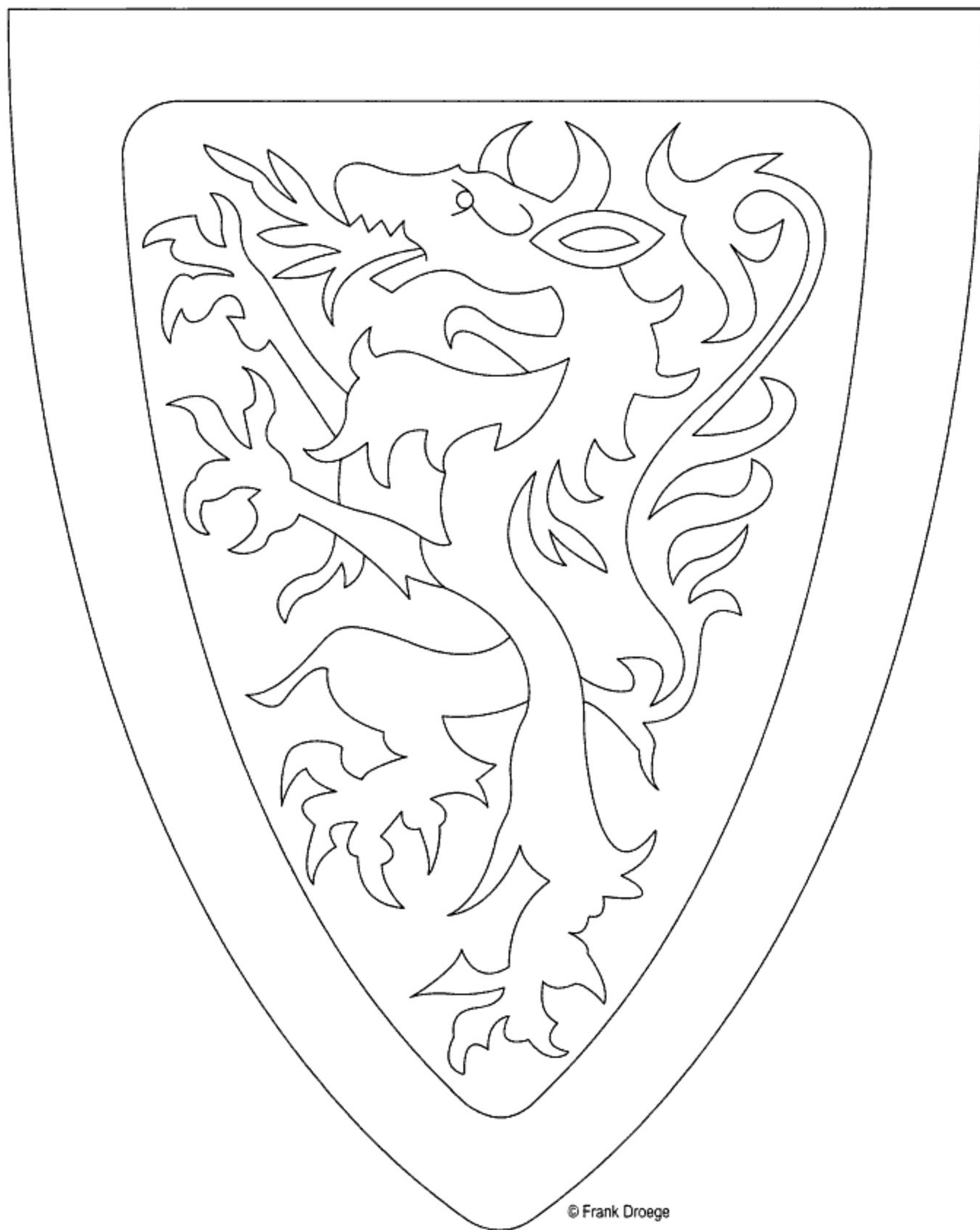




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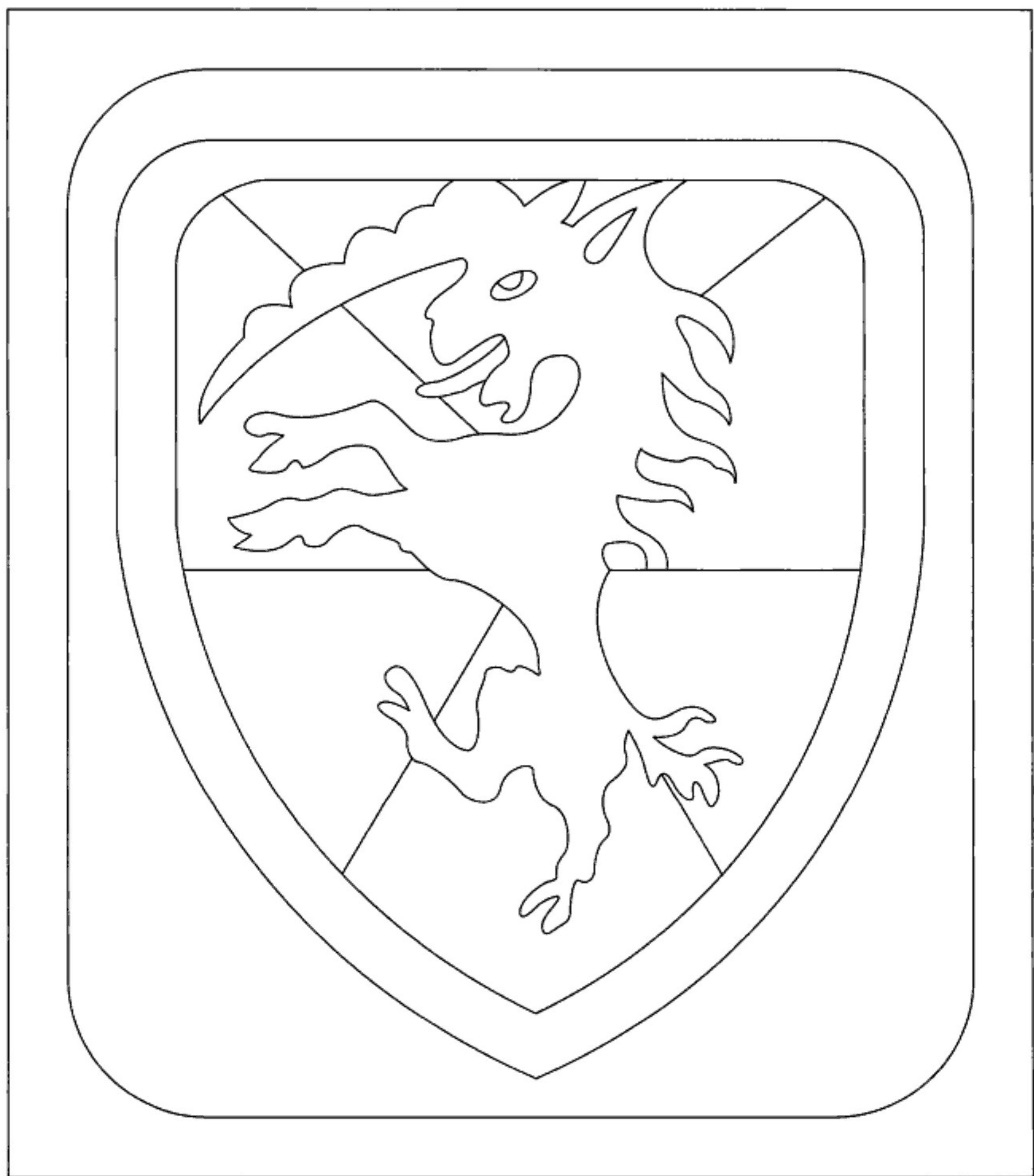




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Fighting Dragon Shield

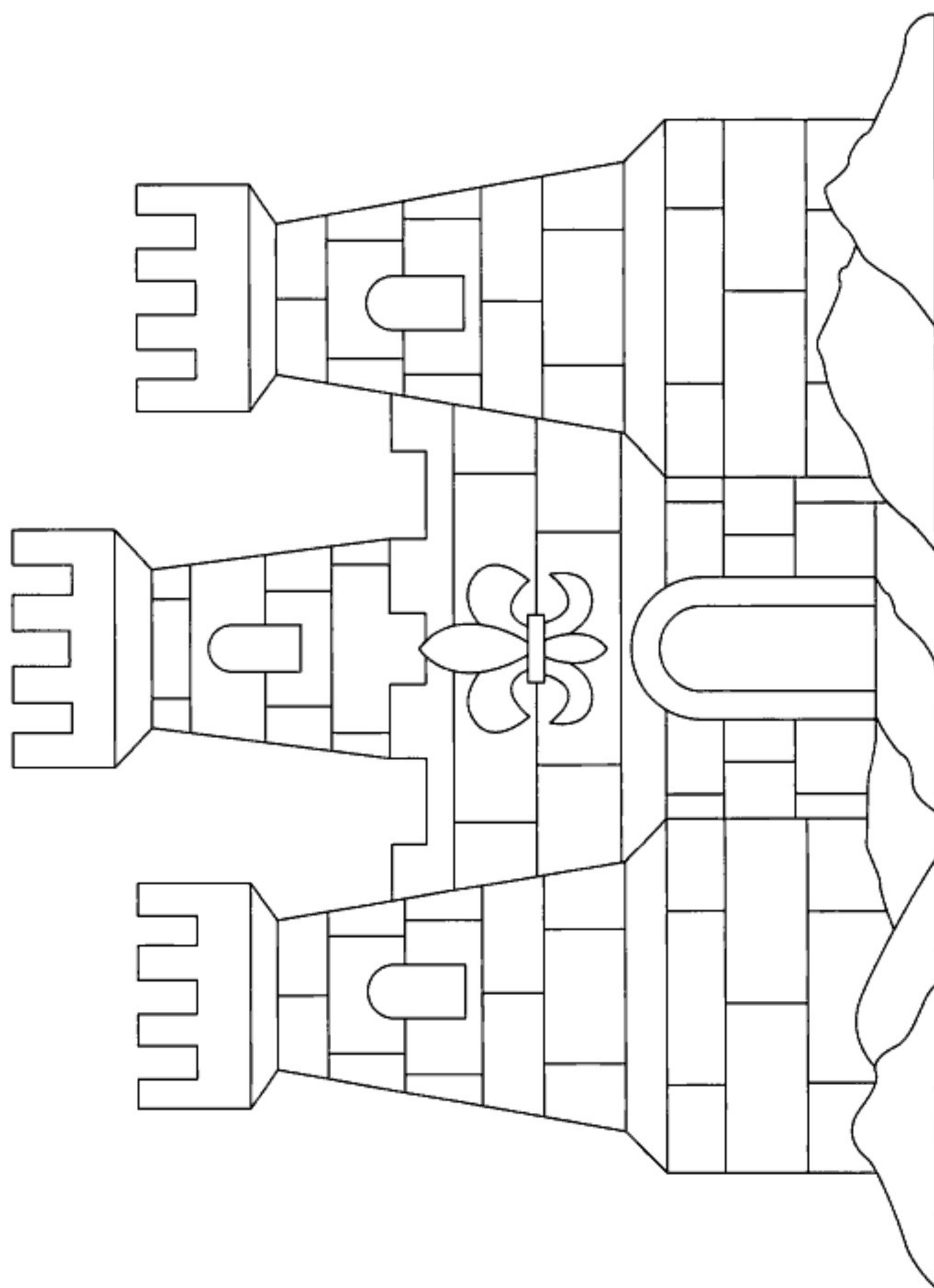




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Knight's Shield

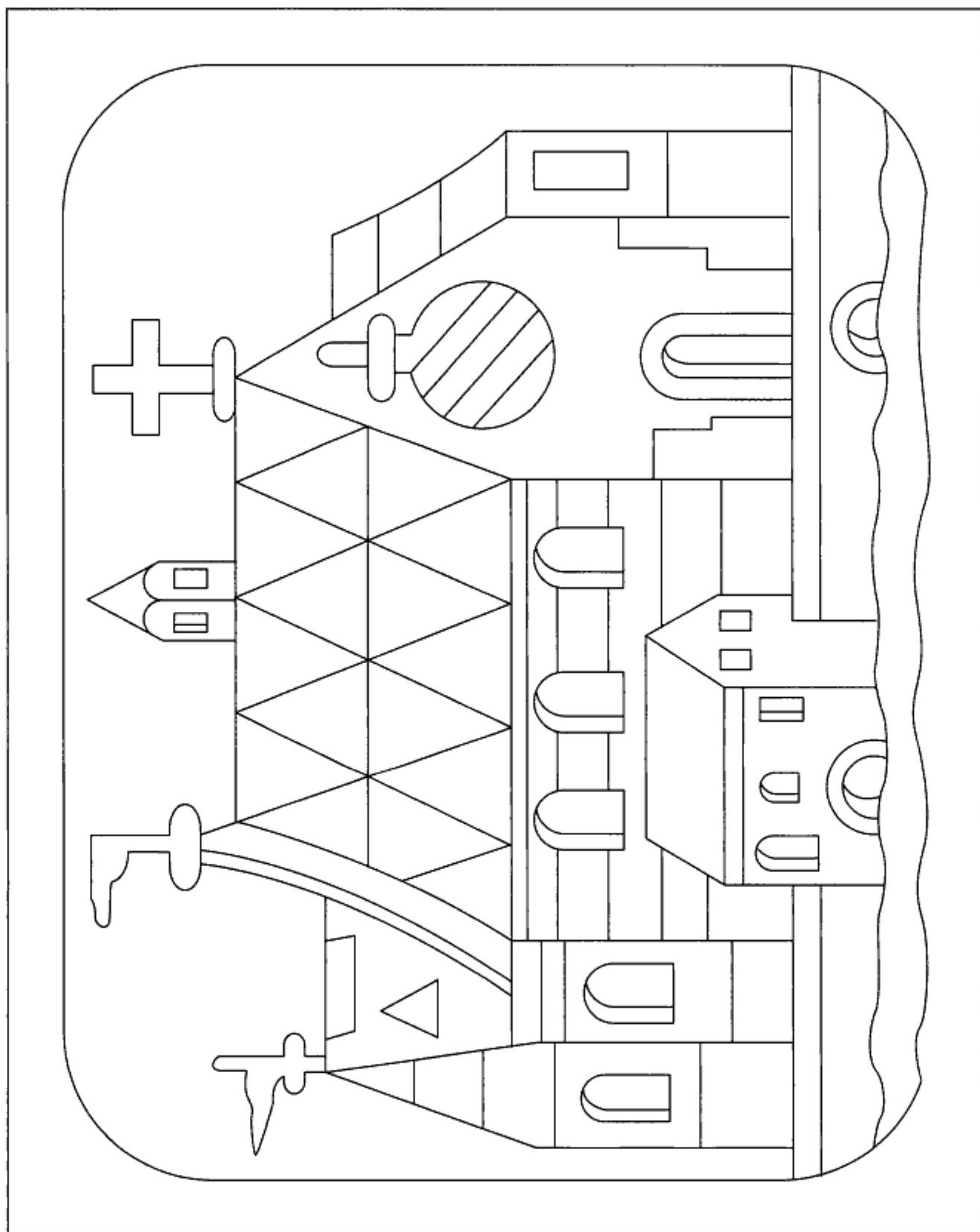




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Castle Fleur de lis

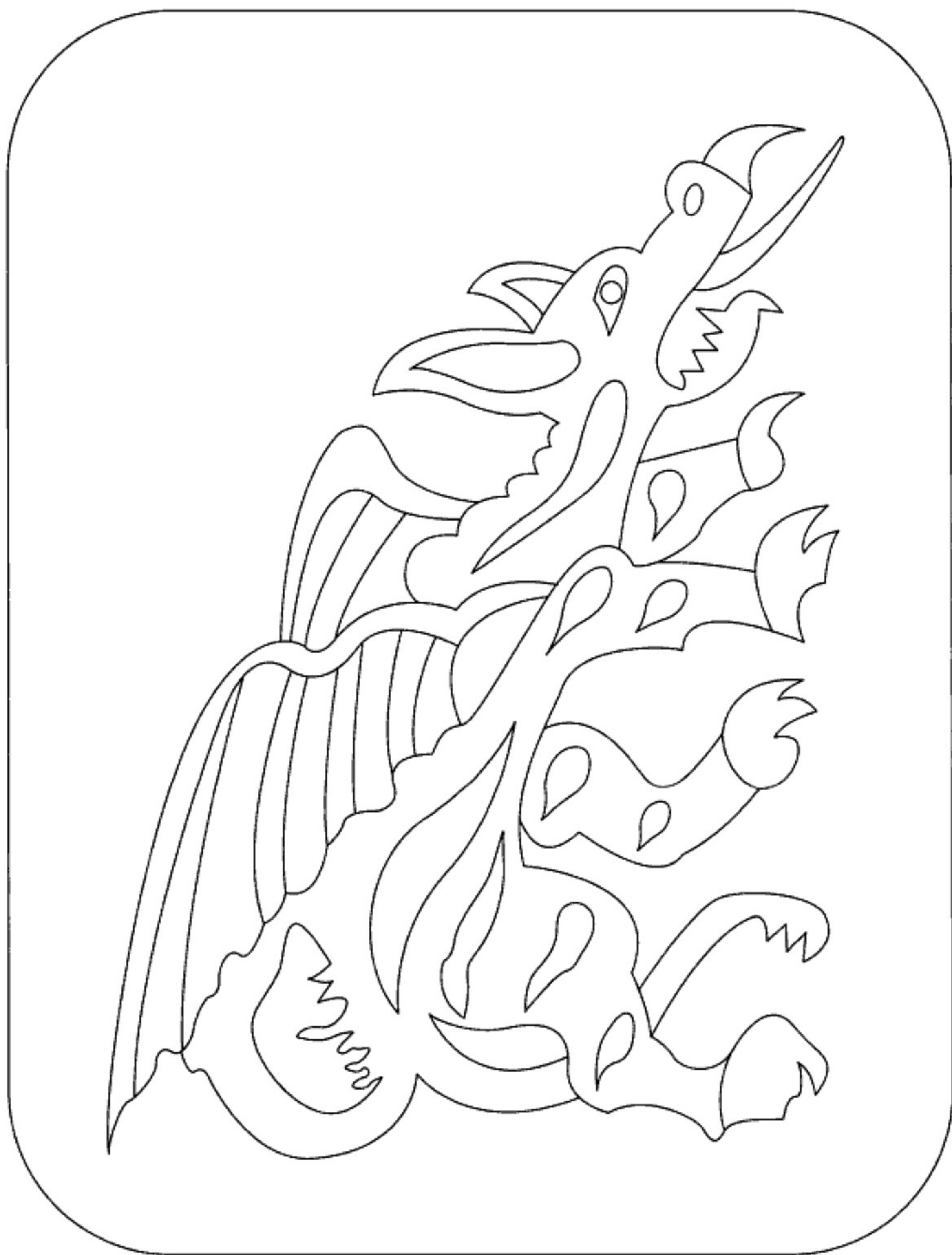




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Cathedral Fortress





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Dragon Protector

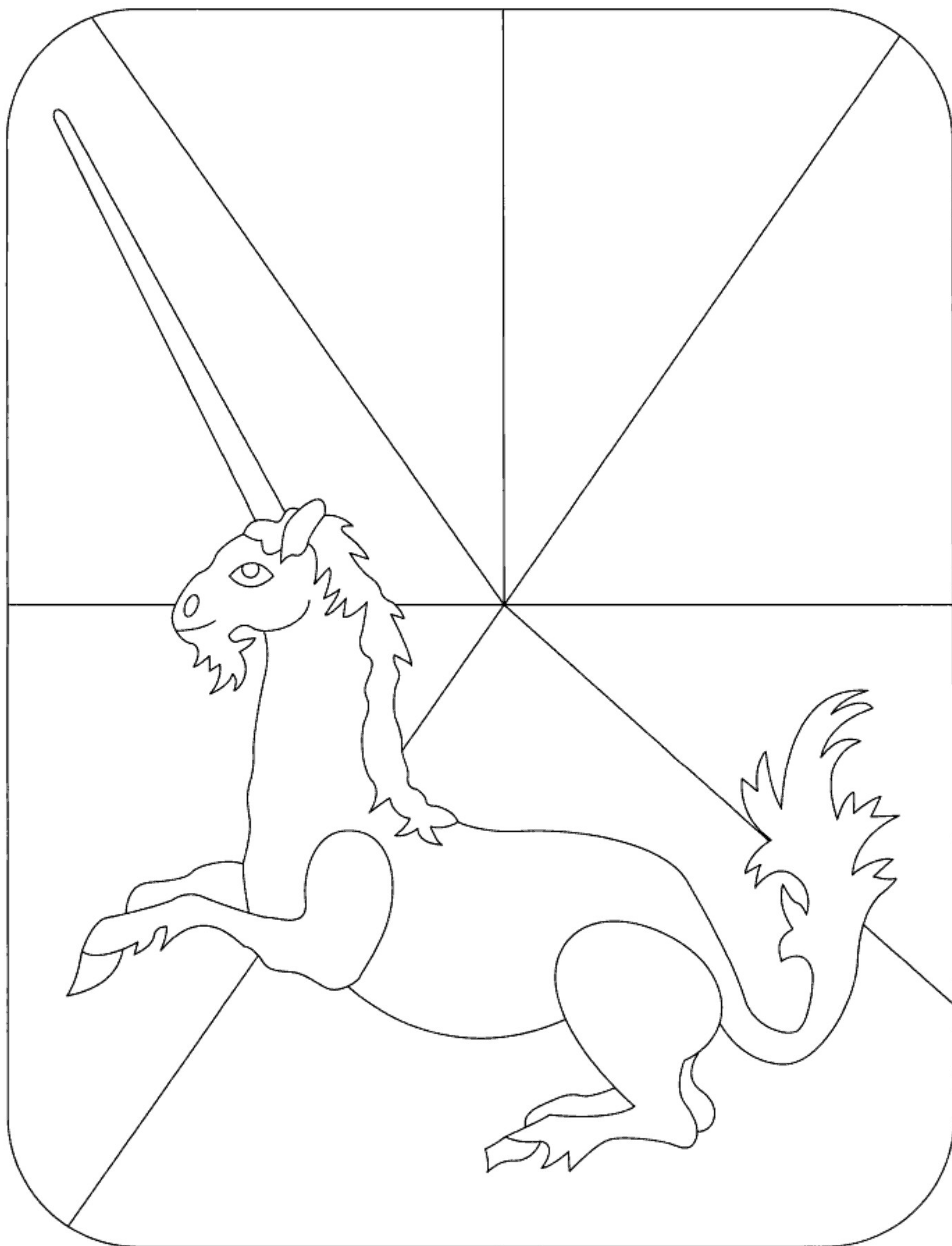




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Winged Guardian

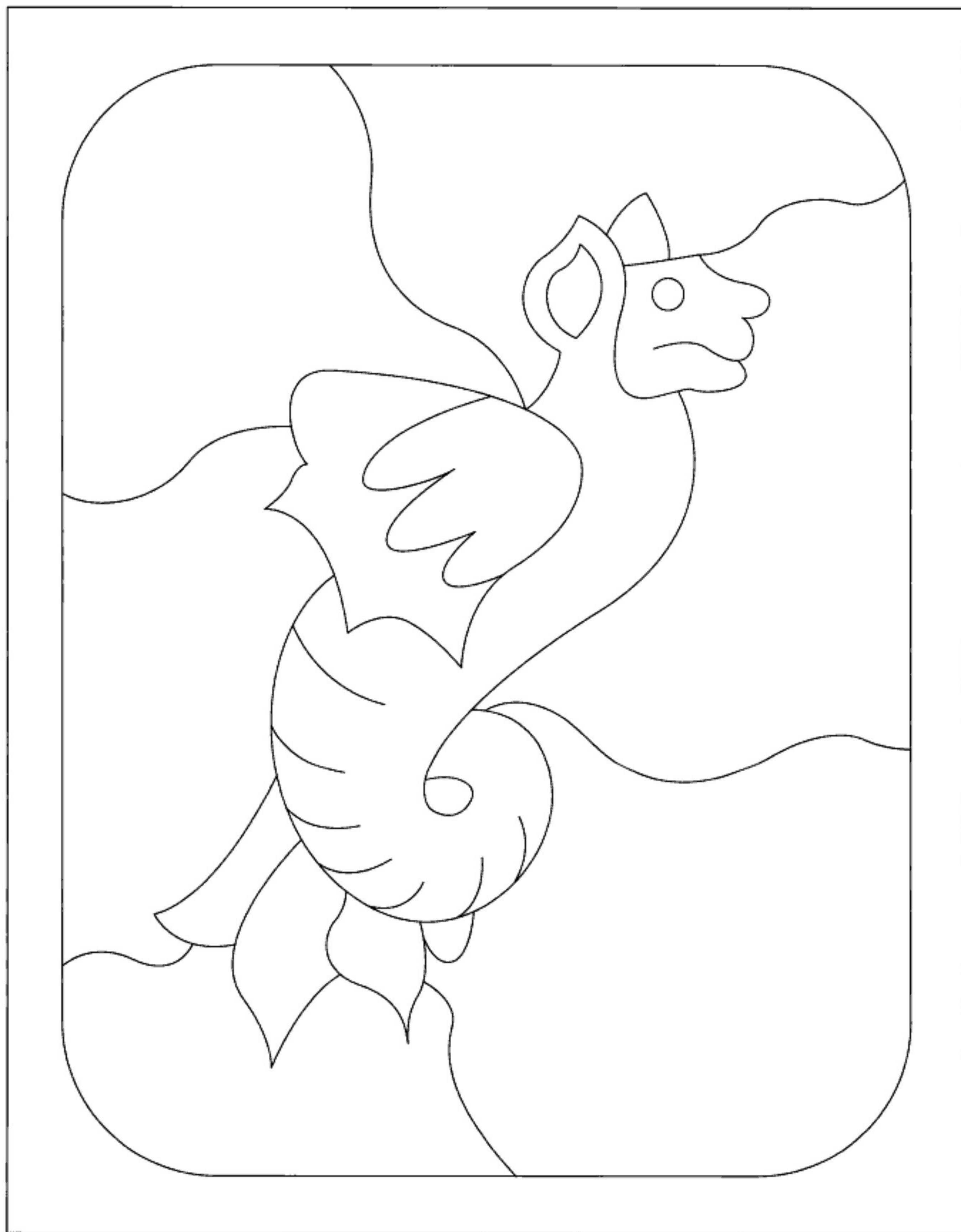




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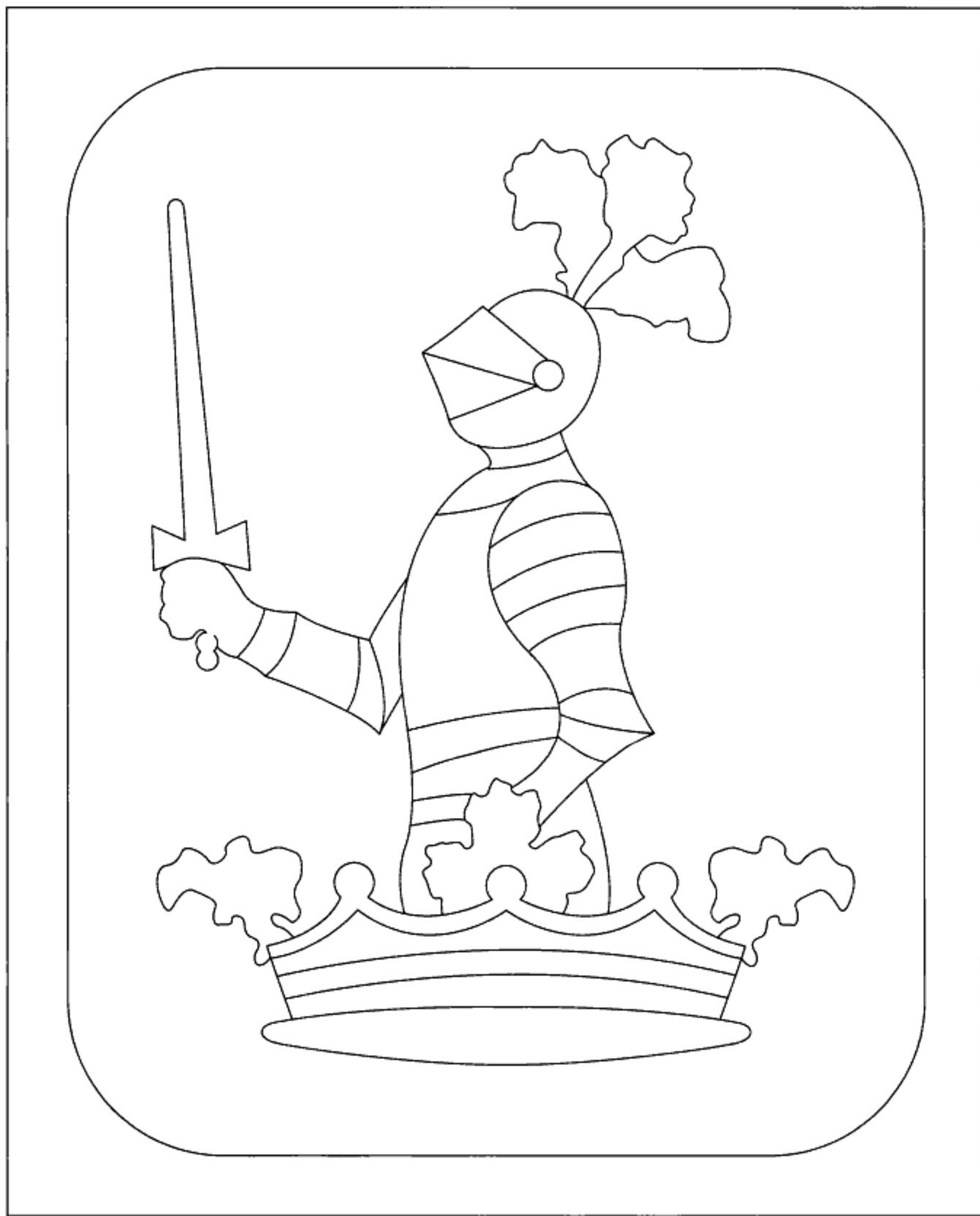




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Serpent King





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Knight of the Realm

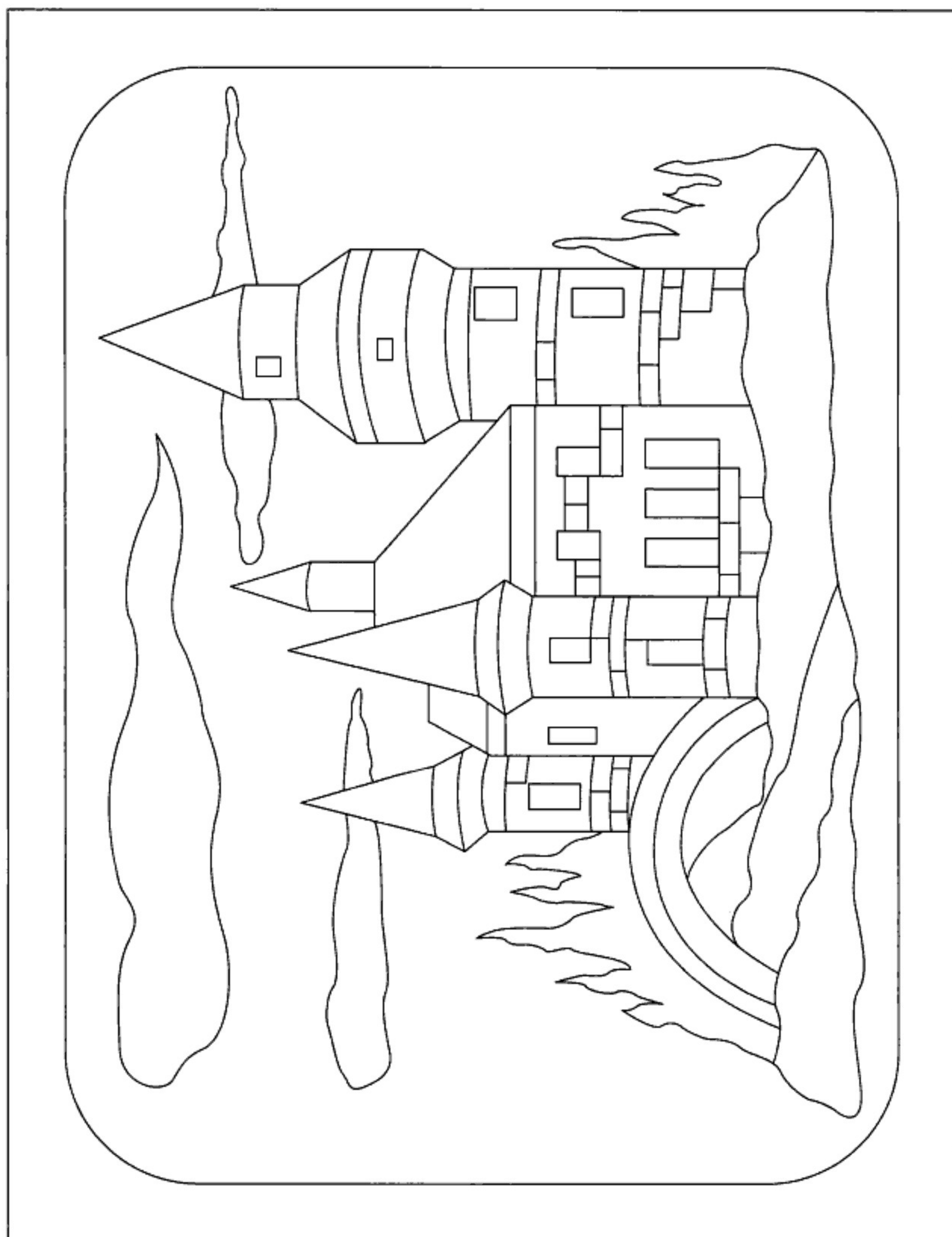




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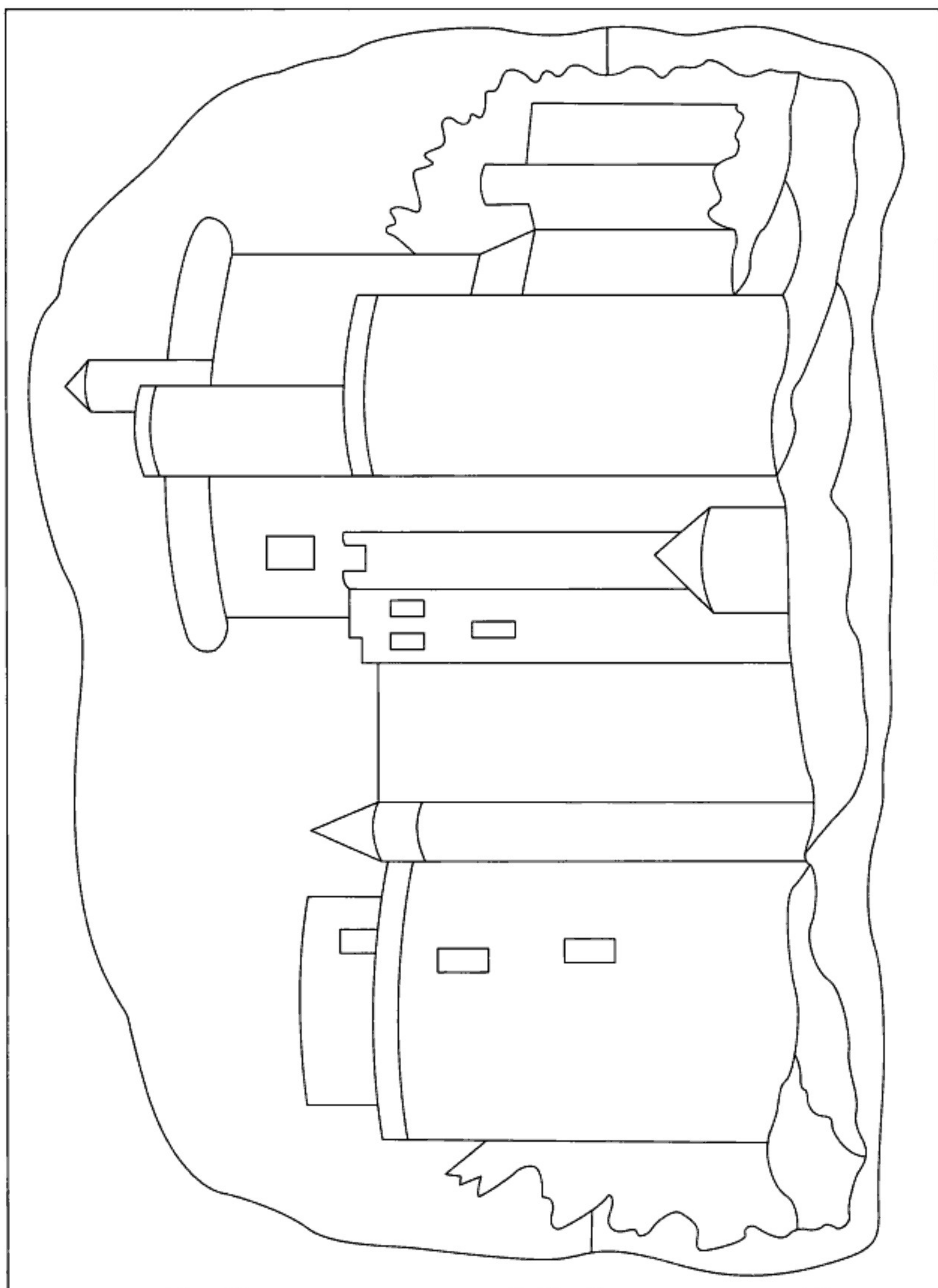




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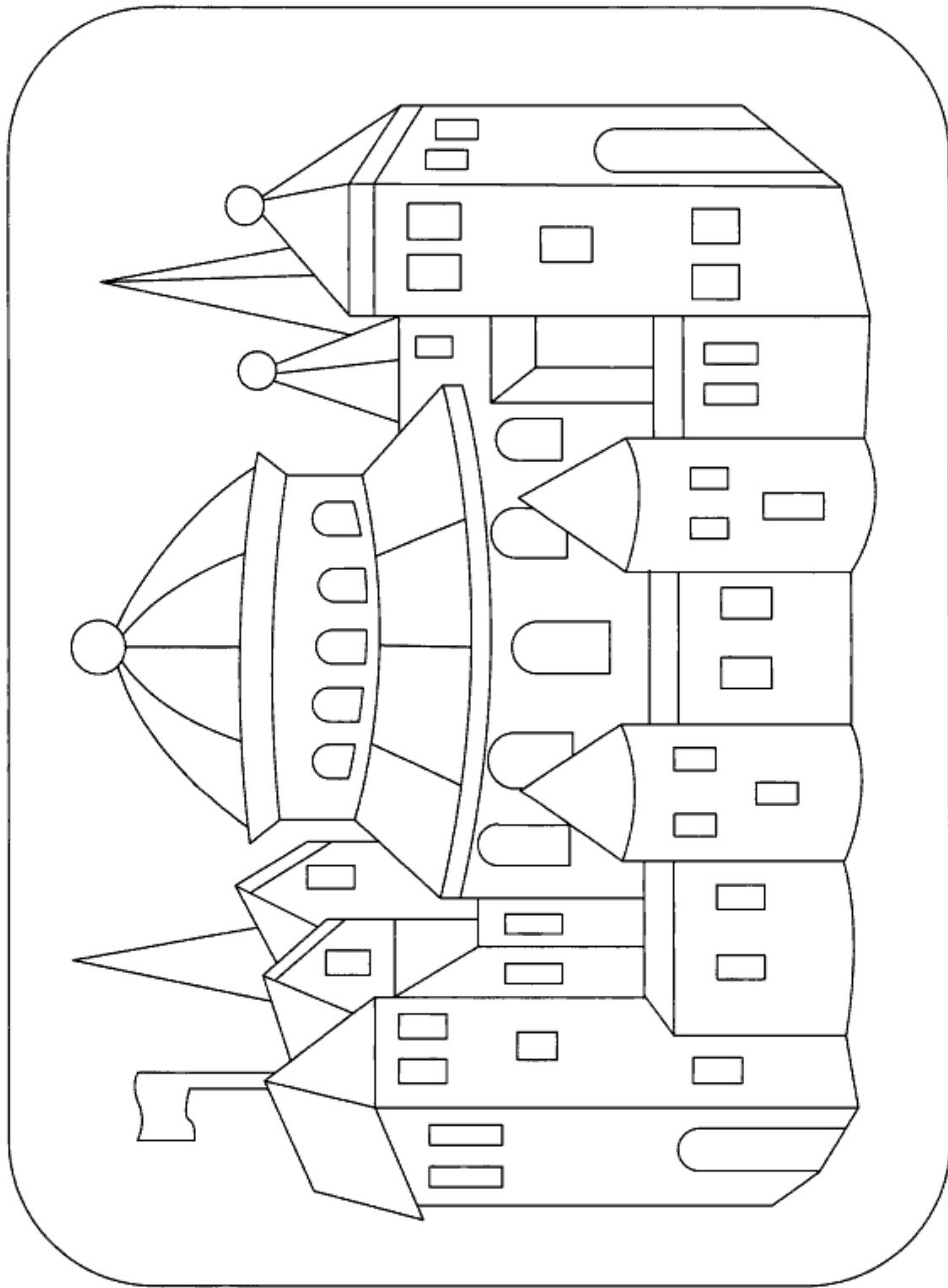




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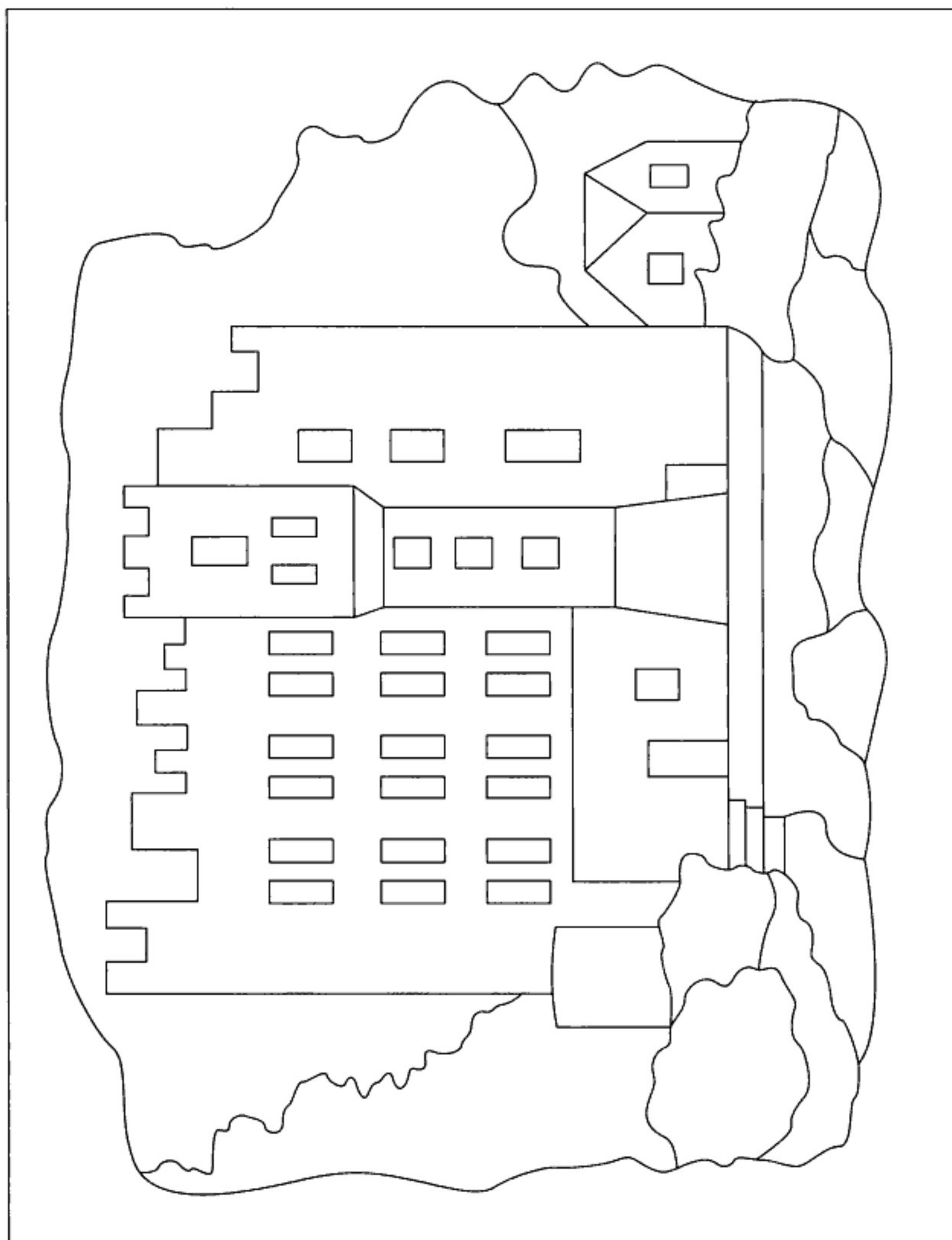




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Shadow Castle

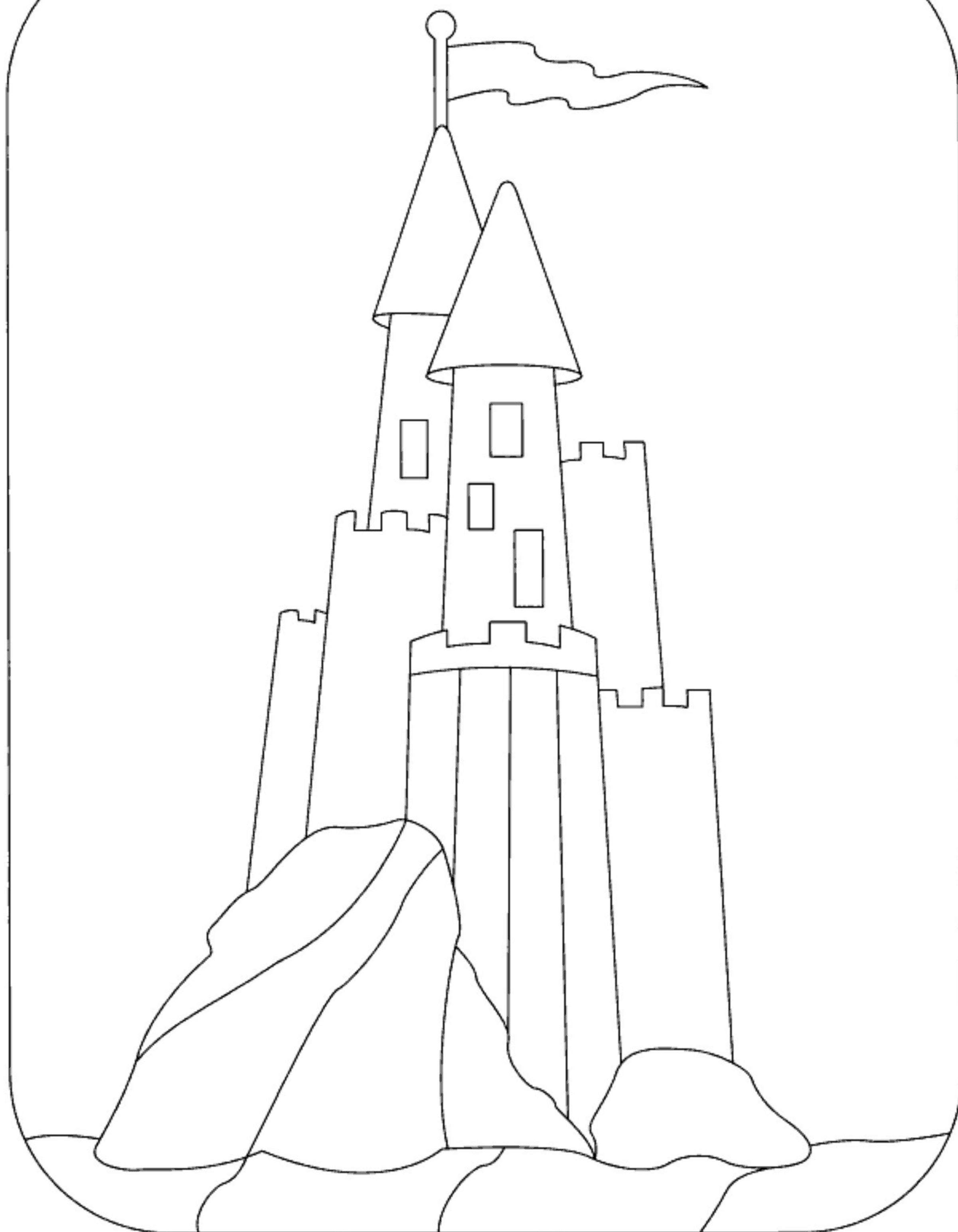




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Fortress of Light





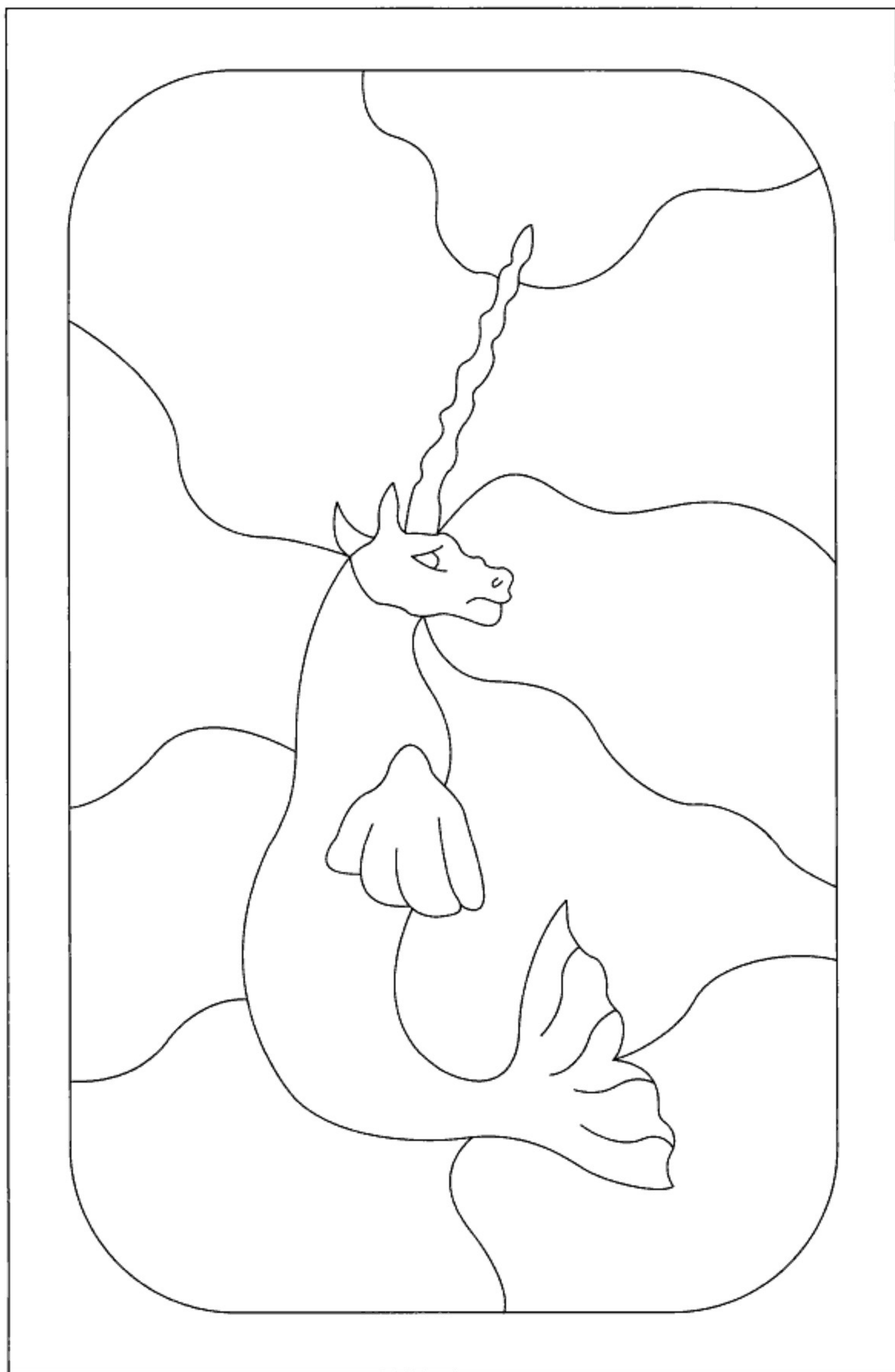
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Castle Guard





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Evening Watch

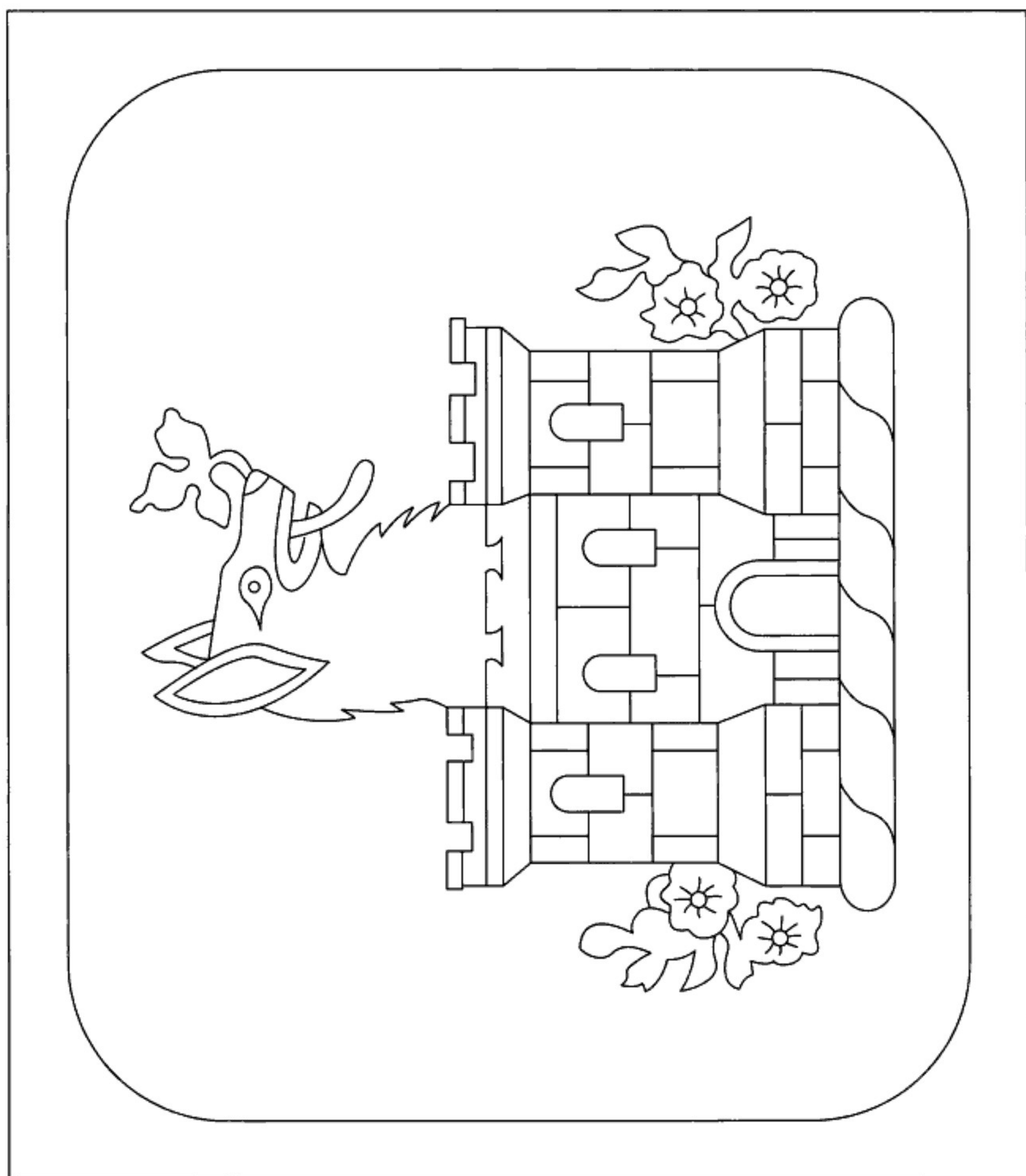




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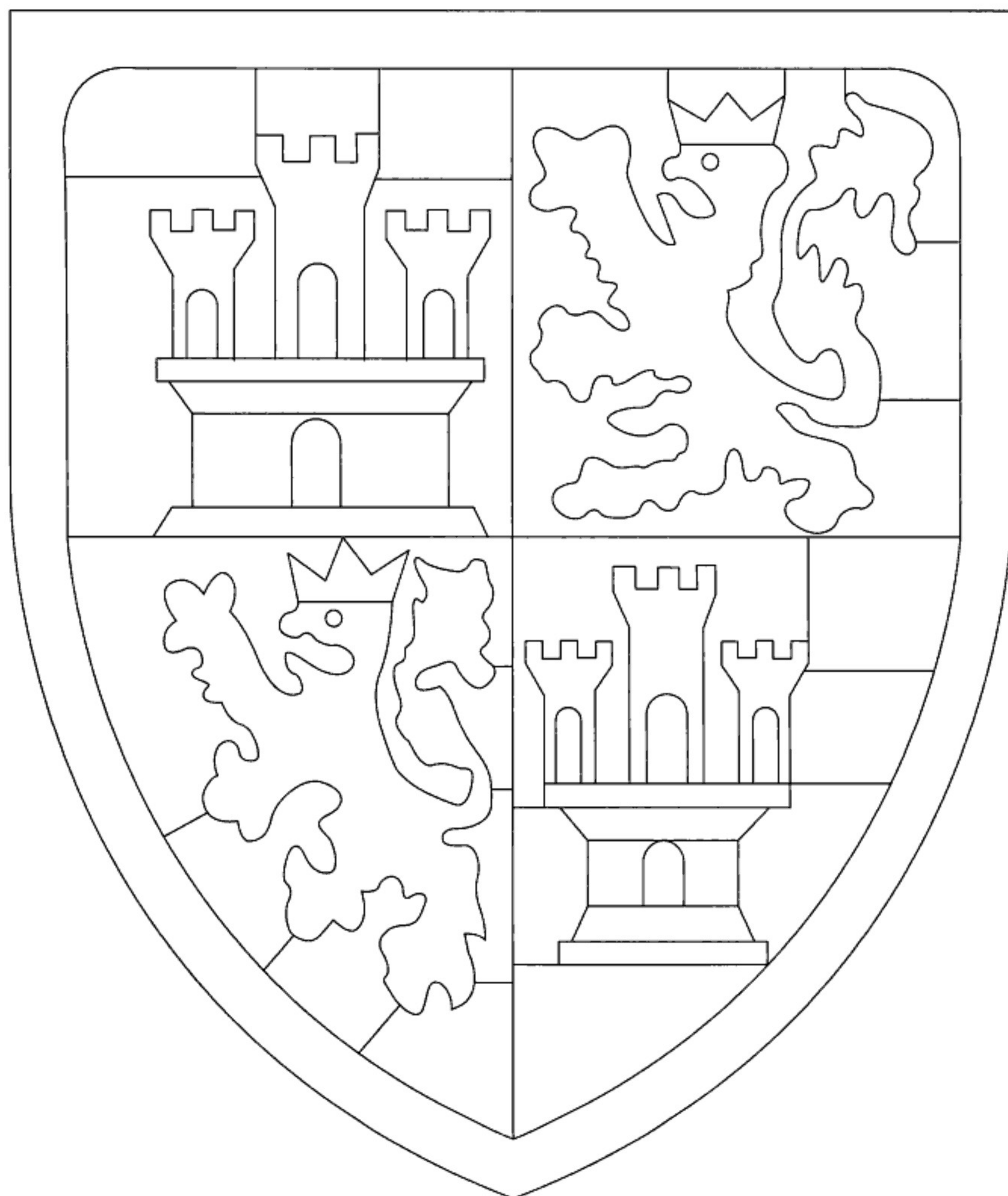




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Castle Wolf

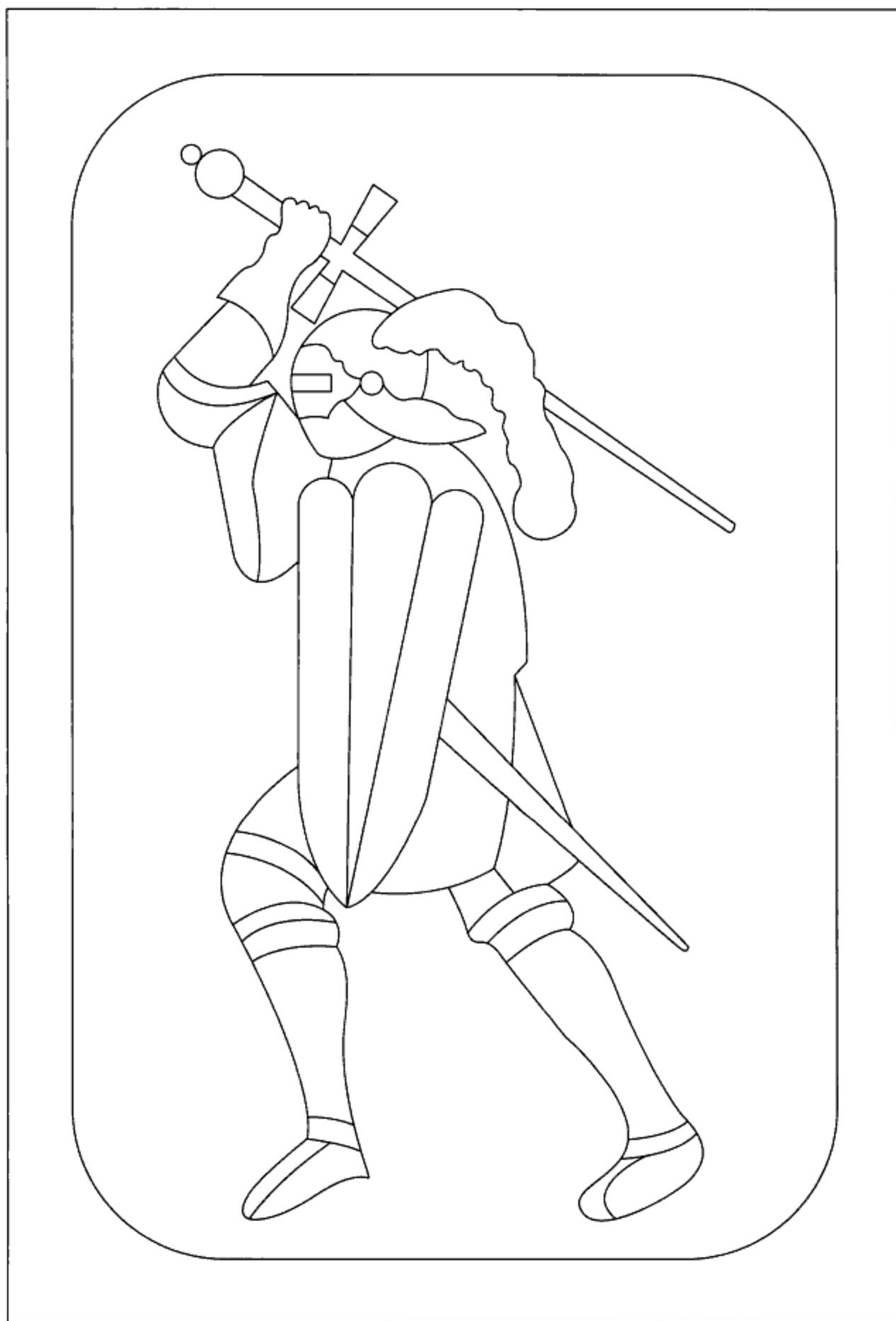




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Castle Shield

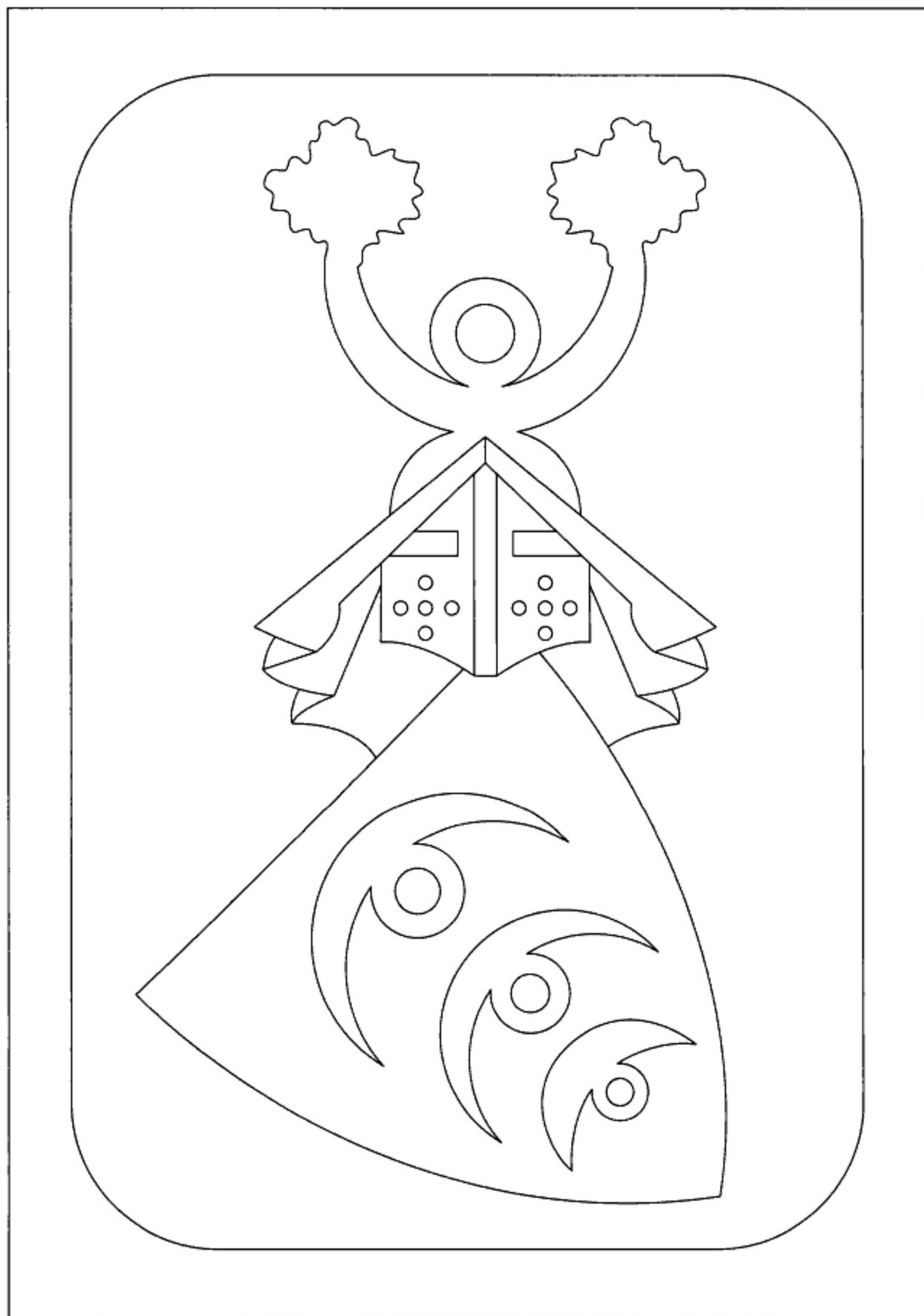




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Valiant Knight

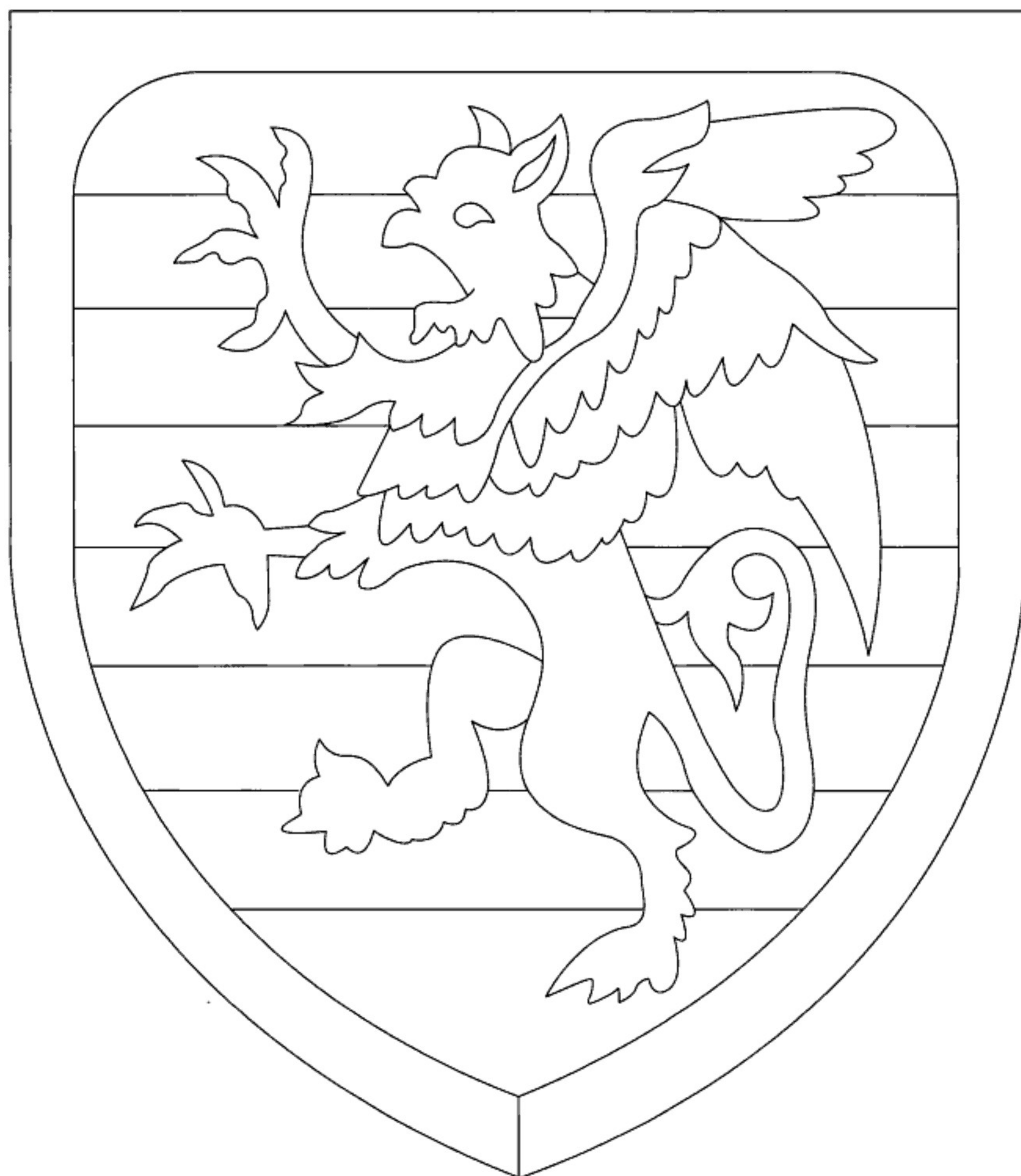




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Hidden Threat

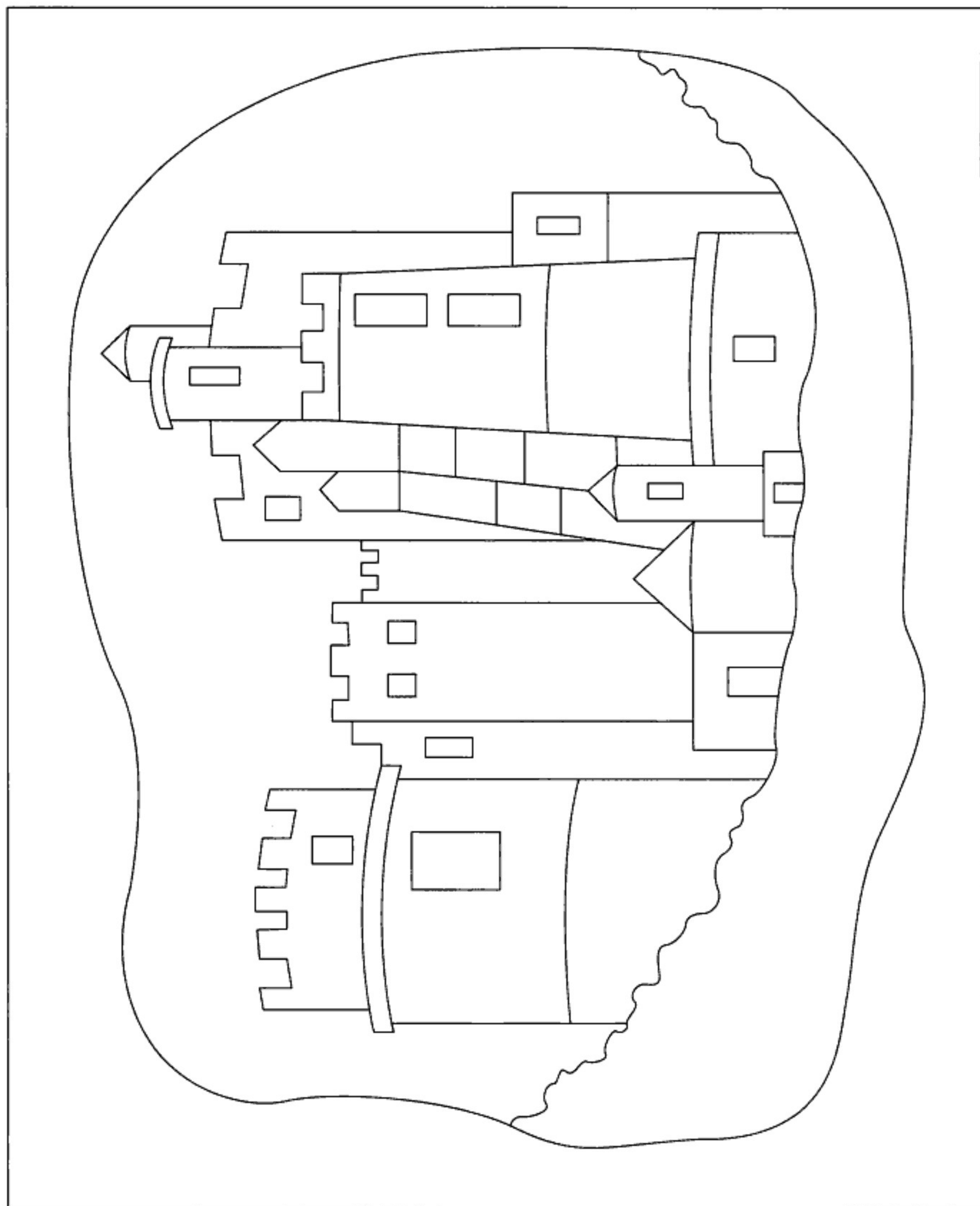




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Defender's Shield

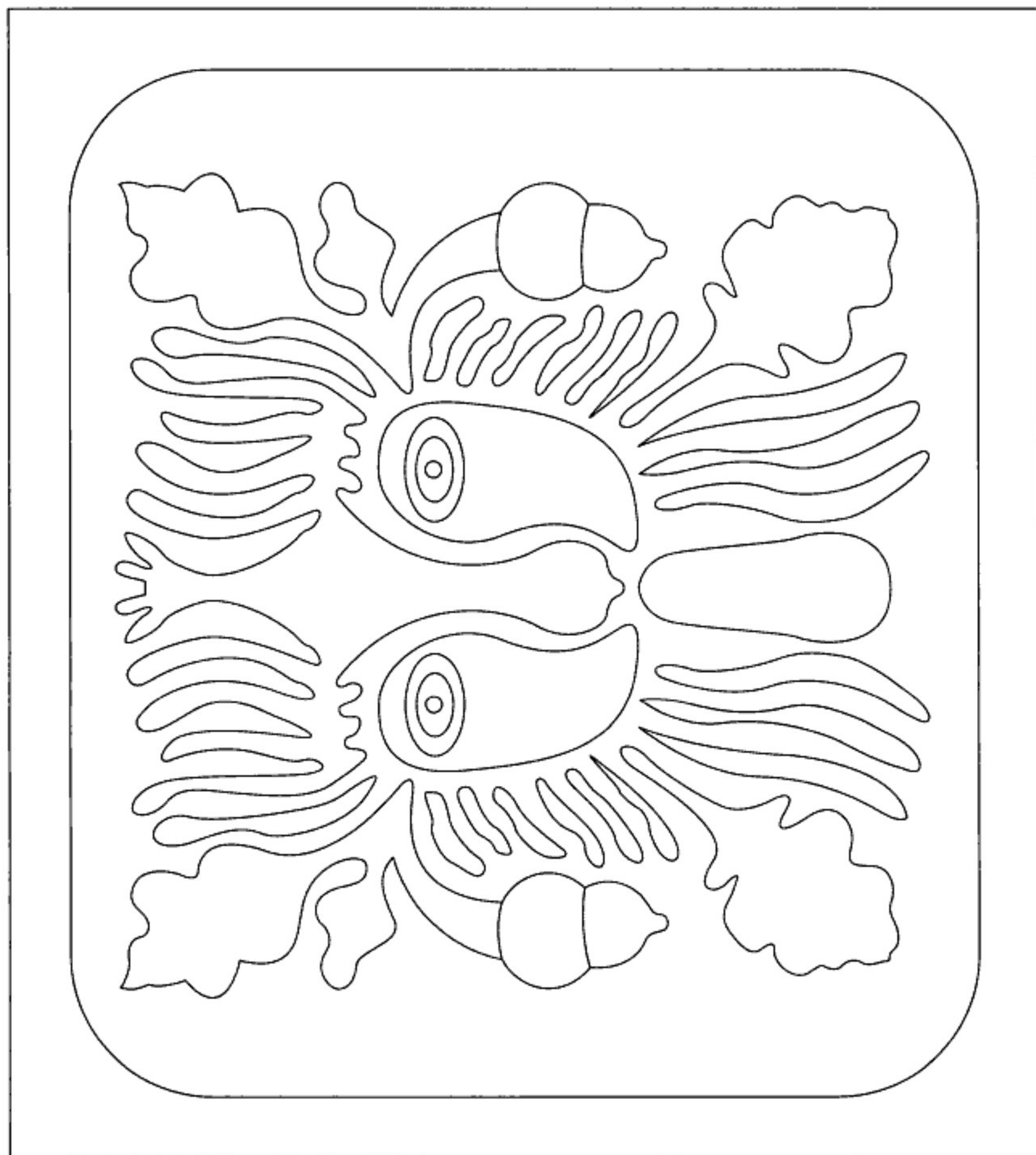




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North Fortress





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Castle Gargoyle



Honor Guard





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Heraldic Champion



Painted Mosaics

Mosaics can also be painted for a completely different effect. Use acrylic paints and paint each piece separately after sanding. Paint the tops of the pieces and half-way down the sides. Do not paint the bottoms of the pieces.



Castle Guard, pattern on page 38

Painted Mosaics



Heraldic Champion, pattern on page 62

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Painted Mosaics



Castle Shield, pattern on page 48

Painted Mosaics



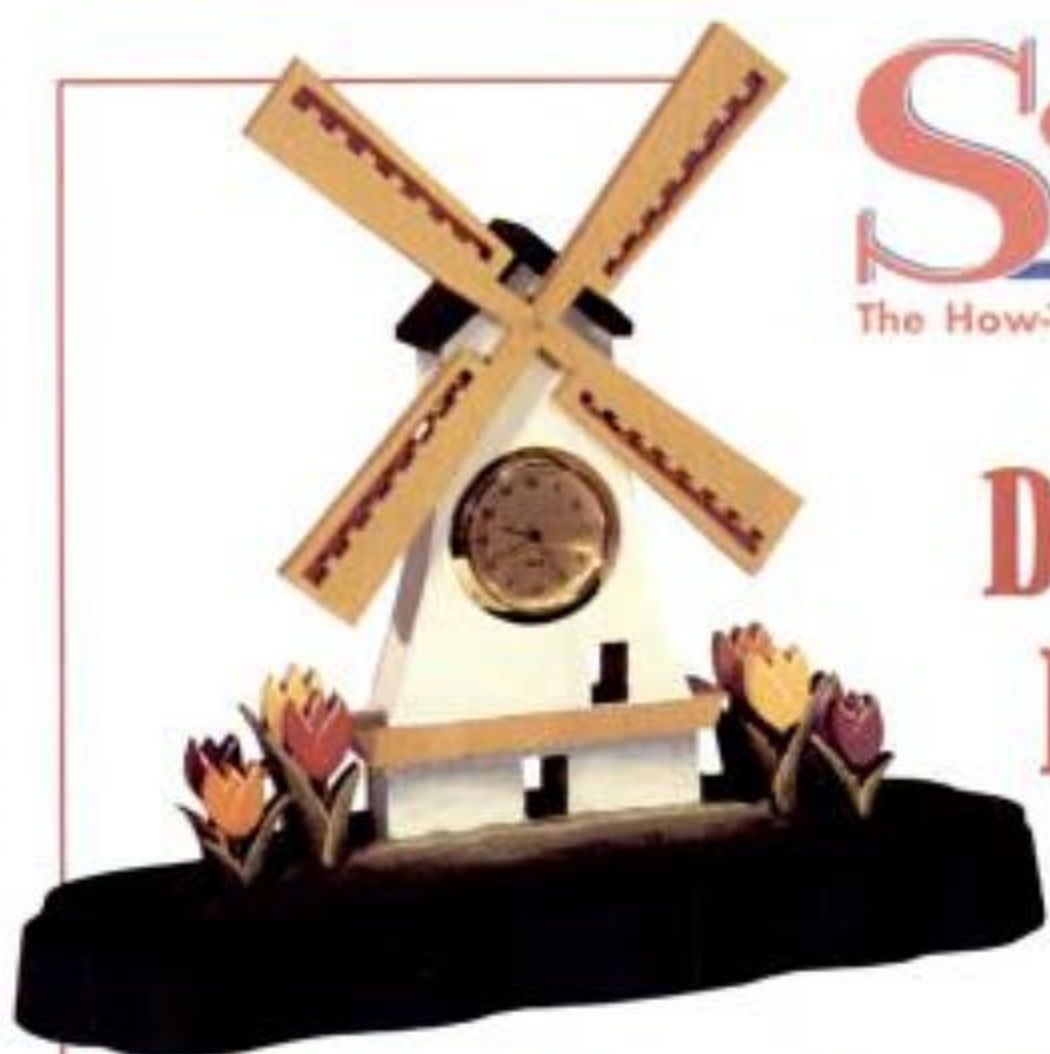
Valiant Knight, pattern on page 50

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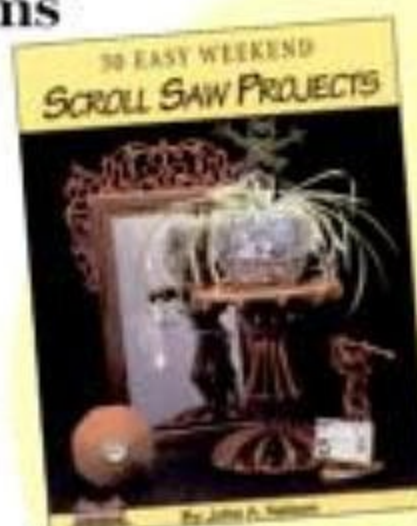
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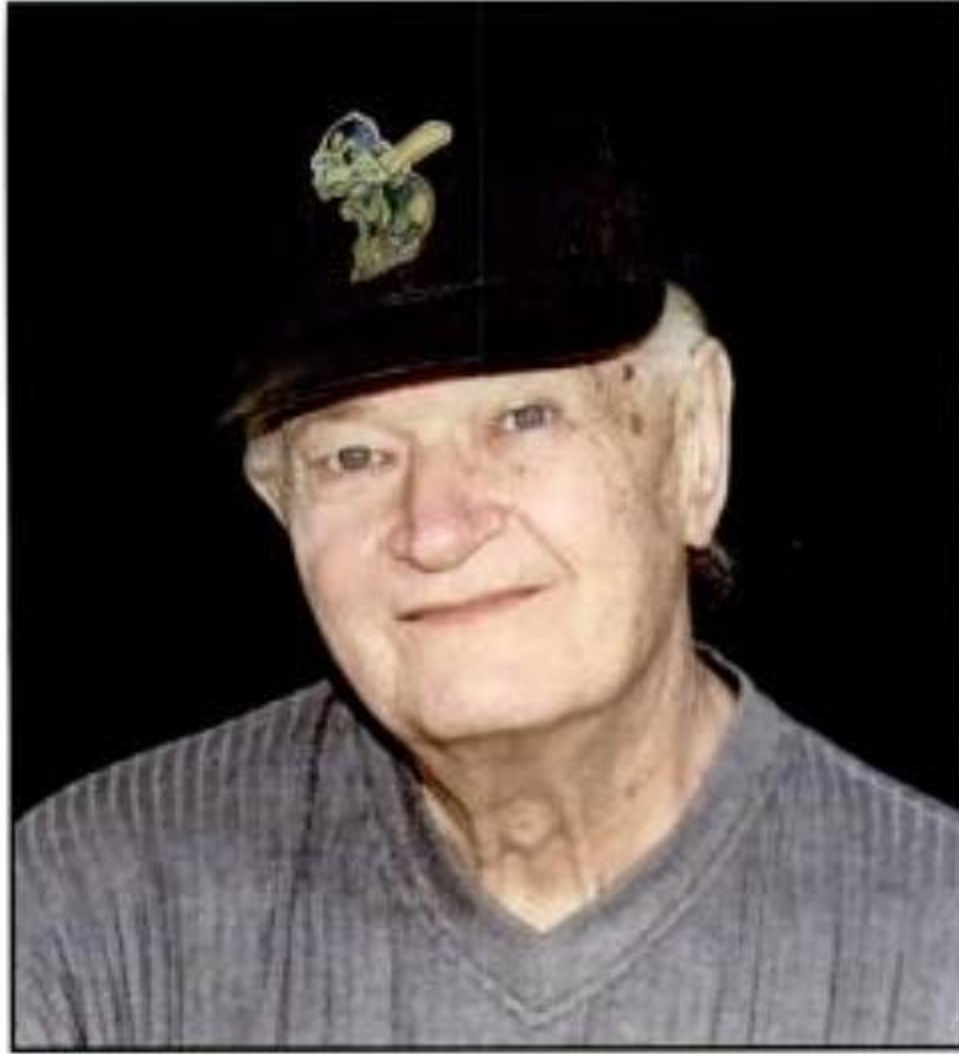
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About the Author



Designing scroll saw mosaic patterns and pieces can be described as a passionate pastime for Frank Droege. His first love is painting, however, and over the years he has won numerous awards as a traditional painter. Frank studied under George Vail from the Haddonfield Art League and Max Gottlieb at the Fleisher Art Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He currently paints miniature art and has recently become an award-winning artist in the field.

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