

Medieval Weaponry

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Entertainment

Midnight Facts for Insomniacs

Podcast Transcript

(Note: transcript consists of episode outline)

Duncan, I'm thinking we should start this episode with just a quick 20-minute update on the state of artificial intelligence. No, that's not going to happen. I learned my lesson...the Discord community gave me a lot of grief about my intro to the Japanese mythology episode—well deserved, I should say— it wasn't 20 minutes but it was a significant chunk, it might have been excessive in retrospect, so...oops? I guess?but also, I do fully plan to revisit that subject in the future, for the same reasons that I plan to continue referring to Elon musk as elongated muskrat...because it's fun. for me, at least, which as we've established is what matters. But we'll switch gears for at least a few episodes, give you all a robot vacation... not a vacation for or with robots but rather from robots. A robot vacation wouldn't be fun. I don't know where they'd go. Not to the beach, that's a pile of rust waiting to happen So no detours into artificial intelligence today; we ARE however going to take a quick second to

answer a listener question. This is from Abby, it turns out that you can now post comments on individual episodes in the Spotify app, and Abby commented on our recent After Midnight episode:



ABBIE • 8 hours ago

Hello, where is the rest of the podcast?

😂 I listen to you guys to relax in bed and fall asleep giggling. What am I supposed to do with 14min of content you guys?!

⬆ Publish ...

Question mark, exclamation point. An interrobang, as its known, which is not having sex during the inquisition but rather is an indicator of consternation and in this case frustration.

And it is a fair question. We would not intentionally release a teaser just to torture the insomniacs, so I do have a solution for you, every week we release a sample of an after midnight episode to our regular feed but the full episode is available for a limited time in Discord, that is our free online community for the insomniacs that anyone can join, doesn't cost a cent, and the latest full episode of After Midnight is always posted in there. Right now you could listen to my

craziest first date story, with the girl who asked me for a knife from our top five first date deal breakers episode with Michael Booth. The Discord community is called MFFI, you can reach it through our Instagram or via any of the show notes. And discord is also where you can suggest new topics and vote on topics in the weekly or bi weekly polls, and you can talk smack with other insomniacs. You can mock me for my 12 minute intros. Or not, you can also be a creepy lurker, that's what I do like 90% of the time and then I jump in with a funny cat meme that is probably only funny to me. I'm kind of an Internet weirdo, what can I say I'm old. OK, so Abby I hope that answers your question...now of course if you become a patron for as little as three dollars a month you can access all of the After Midnight episodes and live streams and bonus episodes, but even if you're not feeling the Patreon vibe, you can still always have easy access to the most recent after Midnight episode for free. The full version is usually about an hour long.

Ok, on to today's episode. This topic is right in your wheelhouse: honestly, this episode probably should have been a host swap. You know more about this subject than I do, since you are kind of a dungeons and dragons "sword and sorcery" type of guy. A giant dork.

The topic this week is medieval weaponry. And I'm excited to give you

the opportunity to neck beard out, you can “well actually” to your pedantic little heart’s content, I won’t stop you, I will just judge you silently.

So medieval weapons, at least according to a history channel article, can be categorized and judged based on three criteria:

Effectiveness

Cost

And Status, or the amount of street cred that the weapon afforded the owner.

There’s a reason that so many new weapons appeared—or at least evolved and rose to prominence—in the middle ages: advances in the design and production of body Armor meant that new equipment and combat techniques were required to get through the defenses of a suddenly well-protected enemy. Tossing rocks and clods of dirt wasn’t an effective strategy any more...or whatever primitive weapons had been used previously. Now to be fair, obviously if we’re talking about medieval weapons this is after the end of the Roman era, so weaponry was way beyond sticks and stones, but the production of metal armor toward the beginning of the Middle Ages marked a huge step forward in the never-ending human quest to not get made dead. The first chain mail shows up in Europe around 300 BC, credited to the Celts. Small plates of metal would

often be attached and sewn into the chain mail, and those plates increasingly grew larger; The production of actual full sets of plate metal armor was made possible by the invention of the water powered triphammer, which was much more powerful and efficient than a single blacksmith beating on a metal sheet. It also created armor at a faster pace, which lowered the cost, and eventually plate armor became the go-to choice for armies, with chain mail selectively worn just to protect joints and any weak spots. So within a couple generations of the triphammer's invention you had guys lumbering around like human tanks, and battle tactics changed; a slingshot wasn't going to take down a guy with an exoskeleton. When you're clothed in chain mail covered with metal plates, you're not exactly nimble but you also don't really *have* to be, because not a lot is going to get through your man-shell. However, even clothed head to toe in body armor you're not by any stretch impervious to damage. Because as attackers quickly figured out, you don't necessarily need to pierce the metal to damage the occupant; blunt trauma is very effective, and wearing armor can be a hazard unto itself: just think about the danger posed by taking a hard fall and braining yourself on your own helmet. There was no foam insulation back then, these weren't football uniforms. Hollywood forgets about this. In movies, dueling knights will bash each other into oblivion, and just end up

with some scratches, my favorite is the first Iron Man movie, great flick, but I love when he creates that first suit, the one that looks basically like a suit of armor and it flies into the air he goes like 400 feet up in the sky, and then comes crashing down and thumps into a sand dune at terminal velocity. And Tony Stark is fine, because the suit broke his fall. Good thing there was a layer of sheet metal between him and the ground.

Some other effects of armor: horses had to be bred larger and stronger to carry cavalry, which created the need for barding, or the armoring of the horses themselves. War horses became intimidating armored beasts. Known as the full bard, a complete suit of horse armor included a Chanfron, or metal horse helmet; the segmented plates that cascaded down from the head to protect its neck and shoulders was known as the **criniere**. A **Peytral shielded the chest**, flanchards guarded the flanks, and caparisons protected the balls and shaft. No, those were kind of like weighted blankets that could cover the entire horse, sort of Ku Klux Klan style, it wasn't a good look, kind of a ghost horse in a tablecloth, but apparently effective. Horse armoring became an extremely specialized craft. In the 1400s, the Helmschmied family of armorers crafted the most high-tech and complete sets of full bards, "The Helmschmid workshop...produced spectacular bards that all but completely enclosed the horse's body including the underside of the girth

and abdomen, as well as the legs. Complete to the extreme, and of such technical complexity and considerable expense that they were most likely intended solely for ceremonial purposes and as diplomatic gifts." Why bring wine when you can bring horse pants? So the full bard was mostly just ceremonial, It's one of those gifts that's so nice you never actually use it for its intended purpose, like fine China. You don't want to scratch up the full bard. You save it for special occasions like parades and trampling peasants. Only the softest of peasants; don't want to risk scuffing the bard.

We'll return to defensive armaments eventually, but let's get to the fun stuff, some of the weapons that were created to counteract the invention of plate armor.

According to Loyola University medieval warfare expert Kelly DeVries, medieval weapons rarely penetrated armor but brute force—as we established—could be plenty effective. "...blunt force trauma, the smashing of the bones, that's going to incapacitate somebody." Thanks Kelly. In other news, water: wet. But her point is that there wasn't a lot of subtlety in Middle Ages warfare technology. And sometimes not a lot of skill involved. Since the first prerequisite for becoming a great warrior was to be able to lift the weapons, in the early days of weaponry the greatest warriors tended to be the biggest and strongest rather than the most skillful.

But of all the stabby-bashy murder options, the weapon that finally leveled the playing field a teensy bit was of course the most iconic of the era. Kelly DeVries confirms, "The single most important weapon in the Middle Ages was the sword." The sword is versatile, it came in a variety of forms and weights, it could be relatively light and quick and nimble or broad and heavy, it could slash and hack or slice and stab. It was a weapon that inspired an entire martial art, the discipline of sword fighting. "As military historian Mike Loades says, the sword "gives hope that skill can triumph over brute force." we talked about status, effectiveness, and cost, well the sword fulfilled two of those criteria: it was very effective, though difficult to craft, which meant that the the cost was high, and so owning one conferred status. Two out of three.

True swords first appear during the Bronze Age and evolved, as you might guess, from daggers and knives...this wasn't a huge leap of inspiration.

"Hear me out. So we take a dagger, right? And we add more dagger." And by the way daggers were still useful in the Middle Ages, carried by knights and used to punch through gaps in armor, frequently to finish off downed enemies. If you knocked someone down but couldn't get through their armor, you could produce a dagger and slip it through the face plate, and ouch. Hard to fight without eyes, and a bifurcated brain. Bronze and iron age swords typically didn't have a cross

guard. The kind of sword we're familiar with, the "and sorcery" variety of sword from the middle ages, also known as the knightly sword, evolved from the spatha, a Roman blade that replaced the Gladius which we talked about in our gladiator episode; those had typically featured a small "stop" or bulge at the base of the blade for hand-protection rather than full cross-guards; and the knightly version also added "fullers," which are the grooves that are pinched into the center of a sword to widen and strengthen the blade, not, as many people believe, to channel blood. The word "fuller" is also the name of the tool that is used to create these grooves, it's basically a clamp that pinches the blade and squeezes down in a concentrated area to displace some of the metal, causing the blade to widen. I always assumed that fullers existed because a groove had been cut into the metal but it seems like that's typically not the case, you instead end up with the same amount of metal but an altered, widened shape. A blade with a properly crafted fuller will supposedly be up to 35% lighter yet even stiffer than before due to the reinforcing ridges on either side of the groove. I attempted to say that with authority but I honestly don't understand how this works from a physics perspective, that seems completely counterintuitive that you can squeeze the middle of a blade and somehow make it lighter despite not removing any actual material, but I'm sure one of the insomniacs will give us an explanation

in the discord that makes us go “oh of course” and feel like idiots. But I really am confused, because if you take a piece of metal and flatten it, that piece of metal is still the same weight, the weight is just re-distributed. So I’m not sure how it’s lighter. Anyway, the sword that we most commonly think of in medieval battles would be the long sword, which was often wielded with two hands on the hilt. The long sword is definitely the one that I picture if you say the word sword, if you’re picturing Excalibur, you’re probably picturing a long sword. Which wouldn’t actually make sense, but it’s not your fault. The Arthurian legends are set just a few hundred years after the fall of Rome, so the most likely sword that would have been available to Arthur and his knights would’ve been more similar to the *gladius* or *spatha*, with a short blade and lacking a full cross guard. But those aren’t as cool as the long sword so artistic liberties were taken.

The anatomy of a sword (so to speak) is relatively simple compared to some of the other weapons we’re going to explore; every sword typically has a blade, also known as the business end, and a cross guard (the metal piece set at a 90° angle to the blade that protects the hands), a hilt (or handle), and a pommel, which is a word that translates to “little apple” and refers to the very end of the handle or hilt. Standard pommel designs could be Brazil nut shaped, disc shaped, even square or “fish-tail shaped.” That was apparently popular

enough to warrant mention in one of the linked articles. the hilt/handle usually was wrapped with some type of leather or even shark skin for grip. The first true cross guards show up in the 11th century and would become more elaborate in the renaissance, especially when swords dwindled down to slim rapiers, and the handles developed all kinds of whirls and curves and branches and bars like tiny bird cages around your hand.

Sticking with close range smashy bashy weapons,

Axes

I found out something fun: when you Google the word axe, what do you think you get? Not pictures of the rebuttal, which I guess we decided was a hatchet, but instead a much more versatile and useful tool...

Also significantly more aromatic. Axe body spray, the most popular modern version of the axe. It slices through BO, and it's a real ladykiller.

Anyway, I had no idea that researching axes would lead down a crazy rabbit hole of trivia. I learned a stupid amount about axes. I'm almost embarrassed by the sheer amount of pointless knowledge I now have about axes, and now I'm going to extend the burden of this random brain-clutter to you and the insomniacs. Did you know that axes have bodies? The axe head is obviously the cutting part, but each side of the head is referred to as a cheek, and then there's the toe of the ax which is the top tip of the blade and the bottom tip of the blade which is

the heel; the eye of the axe is the portion directly above the handle, the butt of the ax is the back of the axe head, and the beard of the axe is the portion of the front of the blade that extends down below the butt of the ax. I will never look at an ax again without picturing the weirdest mash up of body parts with a toe right next to an eye in front of a butt. It's kind of disturbing.

Axes have been used since prehistoric times; the Stone Age hand axe was simply a piece of stone chipped and shaped to a sharp edge; around 6000 BC "hafted" axes appear, which are hand axes attached or fitted to a wooden handle for more reach and leverage.

Interestingly, modern axes have steel blades and different types of wooden handles depending on geography: in the United States we typically use Hickory, while in Asia and Europe they use ash. When it comes to axes as tools,

there are standard axes and broad axes, which are like standard axes except more broad. They have wide axe heads. There are way more types of axes than I realized. They are felling axes, for taking trees down, splitting axes for splitting wood, "adzes" which are more like hoes with a flat head, no word as to whether they come before or after bros, Carpenter axes which are slightly larger than a hatchet, hand axes which ditto, pick axes for picking, I guess, and mortising axes which are used for creating mortises. you're welcome. A mortise is a joint that

connects two materials. I don't know why I feel the need to explain every random mortise in these episodes. It's the OCD. Also there are a bunch of axes named after occupations that utilize them, like Shepherd's axes and the Slater's axe for cutting roofing slate, firefighters axe, which was specifically designed to be wielded against fires, you chop the fire up, ice axes for climbing and one I've never heard of, the accountant's axe, which was primarily used for cutting taxes.

Now, more relevant to the theme of this episode, there are quite a few types of battle used in battle as well. For instance, battle axes, which were designed to be effective against armor, and tomahawks—short Native American axes which were also a type of throwing axe—and "Onos" (Japanese axes wielded by Japanese warrior monks), then there were the large Dane axes wielded by Norseman...I think I'm done listing axes.

Since at least the Neolithic era axes have been used ritualistically as well, as sacred implements. The double headed axe would represent the god of thunder and lightning in both Yoruba (African) and Norse mythology. In the middle ages, Robert the Bruce of Scotland famously utilized a battle ax to defeat the opposing English warrior Henry De Bohun on the first day of the battle of Bannockburn, and

Richard the lionhearted is frequently depicted as having wielded an ax. Medieval battle axes typically featured a socketed head, with a hollow portion toward the butt of the axe that connected the axhead to the haft. Axe cheeks often featured decorative carvings or insignia, Gotta get your axe cheeks decorated. Toward the later middle ages, many axes featured all metal construction.

The war hammer

The Warhammer was the ultimate blunt instrument for, to put it bluntly, hammering against armor. Did you catch all the word play? The Warhammer looked just the way you would think it looked. Like a big ass hammer, up to 6 feet long, often featuring a flat head on one side and a spike on the other. it was like the most inelegant can opener for opening a suit of armor. The spike side could be used almost like a grappling hook to yank away shields and weapons and snag your enemy's armor, it was like the "GET OVER HERE" mortal combat of medieval combat. I guess technically the Mortal Kombat of actual mortal combat. The spike was even used to sweep the legs of horses, which I do not appreciate and am going to pretend did not happen. Typically the blunt end would be used to deliver a concussive blow to the head of the enemy, knocking them off the horse or off their feet, and then the weapon would be reversed and punch a hole through the armor. If

wielded by someone with exceptional swinging power, a War hammer could deliver a blow with the equivalent force of a rifle shot. meanwhile there was a variant of the War hammer called a maul, and where the War hammer looked like an inflated version of a household hammer, the maul looked more like a modern sledgehammer. During the French tax-revolt of 1382, Parisian citizens seized over 3,000 mauls from the city armory and started bashing skulls, initially of the wealthy, which I would not say that I support (but I might be thinking it), however, the uprising quickly devolved into an anti Semitic Pogrom in which Parisians used the riot as an opportunity to attack Jewish neighborhoods. The whole thing kind of began with righteous indignation and bizarrely swerved into racism. Rioters were like, "you know what I hate even more than taxes? Historically persecuted religious communities."

Not all of them attacked Jewish people, presumably. Some of them probably tried to keep eyes on the prize, like hey everybody, remember how Jewish people don't actually impose taxes? There's like a whole ass palace in this direction, full of powdered wigs that we're paying for. The rioters became so associated with their vicious use of mauls that they were nicknamed Maillotins. Not the best thing to earn a nickname for, but you should've thought of that before you started skull bashing. Tough to live that down. it's like look, can we let

it go, I only bashed three heads, maybe four, it's not like that's the only thing I've ever done. I own a cheese shop, can I be the cheddar guy instead of smashy bashy Steven?" But you fuck one goat...

MACE

We're sticking with close range, brutal, head bashing weaponry, and this is one of the most iconic: the mace is also one of the simplest weapon designs possible, basically a stick with a bulb on the end, like a stick with a bonus, stick plus. Extreme stick! The most elaborate type of mace could have a ball and chain attached to the stick, the ball might even feature spikes, as in the case of the morning star; it was like whacking your enemy with a sea urchin. Very effective, low cost in its simplest form, minimal status. Any barbarian could get his hands on a mace.

Moving away from toe to toe combat weapons, we have the

lance,

a type of polearm which is similar to a spear but specifically designed for cavalry use, it is heavier and longer than a traditional spear, usually 12 to 15 feet long versus around 8. The word lance comes from the Roman lancea, which originally referred to a throwing spear or javelin. The main difference between a lance and a javelin or spear is of course the extra part that most of us picture when we think of a lance: the vamplate, the

cone-like hand guard on the not-pointy end. Sometimes medieval suits of armor were built to accommodate specific weaponry, and in this case many breast plates featured a small hook under the armpit called a lance rest, which was where you would rest your codpiece. No, your lance. Which is like an extremely erect codpiece. The lance could be devastating if wielded accurately by a horse-mounted rider and would either end up successfully lodged in the enemy or explode into toothpicks if it hit a shield or the ground, so it was a one-shot device, one expensive shot, because these things were more elaborate than spears and thus only wealthy knights and well-funded armies could equip them. So of the three criteria we mentioned—effectiveness status and cost—a lance had the benefits of providing effectiveness and status, but like the sword, not so much the benefit of cost. The Cavalry of the Byzantine empire was famous for wielding 13 foot lances that could impale two enemies at once. Mounted riders equipped with lances were extremely effective at shattering advancing infantry lines. Now, Lances would end up being the second phase in what amounted to a long-stick arms race. First there was the humble spear, which was just a sharpened piece of wood, and then the longer and more sturdy lance, and eventually the pike, which was just a long ass spear up to 25 feet in length that could be planted in the ground pointed toward the enemy to defend against spear and

lance Calvary charges. Finally there was the specularium, a 75-foot extendable pole that could stretch most of the way across a battlefield. Typically there would be a glove attached to the far end so that you could use it to slap the face of the opposing general.

So once again looking at our three criteria, the lance is very similar to the sword: expensive, so not great in the cost department, and hit or miss in the effectiveness department (literally). But definitely high status. Ain't no peasants wielding lances.

Now I always thought that a jousting lance was basically the same as a battle lance, but there was one key difference: the jousting lance had a blunt kind of mushroom tip, so to speak, which was intended to unseat the other rider without impaling them. Apparently back then you couldn't impale someone with your mushroom tip. Jousting lances were shorter than battle lances, usually slightly under ten feet. They were frequently hollow as well, making them more likely to shatter, again as a safeguard against excess damage. I wonder if the jousters had to agree on lance construction ahead of time the way that boxers decide on the weight of gloves. Like I'm not using a hollow lance if you're using a solid one. "I see your mushroom tip is larger than mine."

SPEARS

We already mentioned them but we

have to talk about the sad little cousin to the lance, the humble spear. It's just a stick with a little less stick. If the mace is a stick plus, the spear is a stick minus. You take a stick and carve off some of the stick and then you have the cheapest weapon imaginable. Zero status, you would definitely not look cool galloping around town with your whittled branch, but very cost-effective and also effective-effective if the effect you're going for is keeping people at a distance. Lines of soldiers bearing spears typically stood in front of archers to keep the enemies away and give them time to do their firing and reloading and speaking of which, let's talk about long-distance weaponry.

BOWS

There were three main types of medieval bows: recurve bows, long bows, and crossbows. what they all have in common is that they use elastic energy, the tension from pulling back the bowstring—to fire projectiles, like bolts and arrows. Arrows feature a notch to connect them to the bowstring, and usually fletching—aka stabilizer fins to increase stability. those are the little feathers on the blunt end of the arrow. There are many types of arrows including bob-tailed and breasted. (Archers I believe are the loneliest of soldiers, hanging out all the way in the back of the battle they didn't get the groupies so they started fetishizing their weaponry. "These are my bow's titties.") the bow

is an ancient weapon; we have evidence of bows being used in Africa, specifically south Africa, as far back as 70,000 years ago.

The longbow is the one that we probably most often associate with medieval times. Not the restaurant, I don't think they're slinging arrows around the customers, that would be dangerous. It would be cool, though. Like, "I need a napkin," thunk. Right into your table. No, the long bow is exactly what it sounds like, a long curved piece of wood capable of firing an arrow super far. Not amazingly accurate, mostly good for sending a flock of arrows into a crowd and just crossing your fingers. Now arrows typically couldn't do a ton of damage against armor and of course shields but there is always a chance that you'd find a vulnerable spot, plus you could take out horses and squires and anyone who wasn't strong enough to wear a suit of armor and was running in the opposite direction of the battle, rendering their shield ineffective; if that sounds weirdly specific that's because I'm trying to imagine myself in battle. I would've been one of those weak cowards. I would 100% have taken an arrow in the ass. That's how you know you are a coward. I wouldn't have even made it into the battle, I would've been like oops I tripped, don't wait up for me guys i'm right behind you.

There was another extremely popular bow that pre-dates the middle ages,

the classic recurve bow, which I always thought of as the Cupid bow. It's a bow that curves toward you and then the tips curve back up the other way, this allows for a lot of power in a shorter bow. These were popular in Roman times and were still used extensively in the medieval period.

Defensive weapons

I said that we'd cover some more defensive weapons, even though I think it's a little bit strange to talk about defensive "weaponry," because here's the first definition of weapon from [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com): "a thing designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage." I guess you could technically whack your enemy with a shield but that's not really what it's for. You could whack someone with a goldfish, but that's not what goldfish are for. They're for flushing down toilets and making you feel like a terrible person. They're little balls of shame and guilt. There's a second definition weapon that fits a little better: "a means of gaining an advantage or defending oneself in a conflict or contest." so in that case a defensive weapon could in fact be a weapon.

Shield

Let's start with the most obvious defensive weapon, the shield. I feel a little bit silly defining a shield, but the dictionary says it's a device used to intercept or repel attacks; it can be carried or strapped to the bearer, and

the idea is to provide protection from both close up and ranged attacks. Shields can be huge bulky slabs that are meant for hiding behind, or they can be small and light and maneuverable like the ones used for deflecting blade strikes in armed combat. The first shields in the prehistoric era were made of wood, animal hide, wicker, or even tightly woven reeds. I guess that works for deflecting rocks and the aforementioned clouds of dirt, which is pretty much all that anyone could huck at you in the caveman days. I still don't know if I would trust my life to some bunched up grass, but I guess you make do with what you've got. by the time we reach the early middle ages shields are often carved from wood, reinforced with metal and wrapped with rawhide or leather. There are a plethora of shield shapes to choose from. Round, square, triangular, oval, rectangular, bilabial (which sounds like a a gynecological term). Classic Macedonian shields were often shaped like a trapezoid or a parallelogram. Or they could even be heart shaped, which was a strategic choice designed to maximize adorableness and make the enemy reluctant to attack. Shields could be decorated with a coat of arms or a mascot or some particular design associated with a specific clan or army. Danish Soldiers of the later medieval period would often be encouraged to express themselves artistically and choose their own sigil, which could lead to disastrous results

such as in the first battle of the bulge, when some 30% of soldiers chose to adorn their shields with dicks. Bulge... Get it? I'm lying a lot in this episode. I felt like I hadn't done it for a while, I had a lot to make up for.

Siege Weapons

We would be remiss if we didn't at least touch on siege weapons, although we covered this in extreme detail in an episode titled sieges. if you want more (and more detailed) information check our episode . We talked about trebuchets, and catapults. So no need to exhaustively cover these again, they were built to launch big rocks at bigger rocks—typically bigger rocks stacked in the form of castles—and the idea was to unstack the castle rocks via the smaller rocks. Catapults were also occasionally used to launch excrement and filth and disease and all manner of unpleasantness over the castle walls to torment your enemies, drive them from shelter, or get them sick, which is pretty gross. I don't want to be the guy loading up that catapult. A catapult uses tension—like a spring—whereas a trebuchet uses a counterweight to launch its payload. Sounded sexual. Catapults and trebuchets mostly replaced the ballista, also known as a bolt thrower, which was basically a giant catapult-sized crossbow used by the Greeks and Romans...that sounds badass but they were complicated to create, unwieldy, and less effective as a siege

weapon. Very cool looking though. I feel like ballistas would be good for fighting dragons.

Just like the ballista evolved into Catapults and trebuchets, catapults eventually gave way to cannons when gunpowder made its way to Europe in the middle ages... Handguns started showing up in the 14th century, so technically guns are medieval, but we're going to ignore them because they're also not very fun, and they kind of don't fit with the aesthetic. It's true that soldiers in full suits of armor actually did face soldiers shooting at them with primitive muskets, but I kind of can't wrap my mind around that and I don't really like it so we're going to pretend it never happened. And that's how we'll end this episode, with rejection of reality and delusional denial.

We have a new maniac! Or actually another case of an upgraded maniac. Rowan fever dream started with a lower tier but upgraded to the highest tier, this has happened a couple times recently and we super appreciate it. Also very cool name. Rowan fever dream should hang out with Ryan Roman. I feel like both of you should be wielding medieval weaponry.

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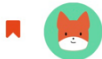
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