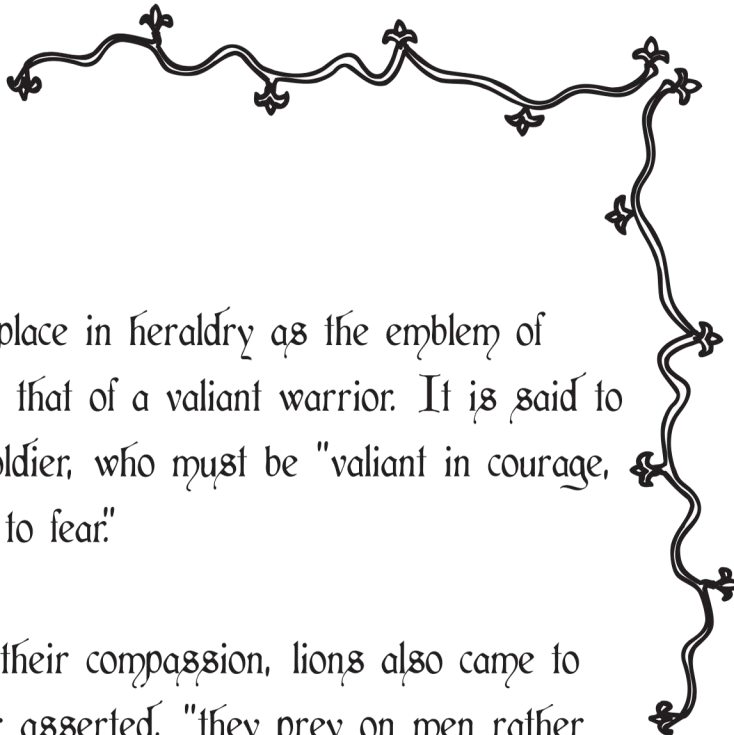


welcome to the Lion's den

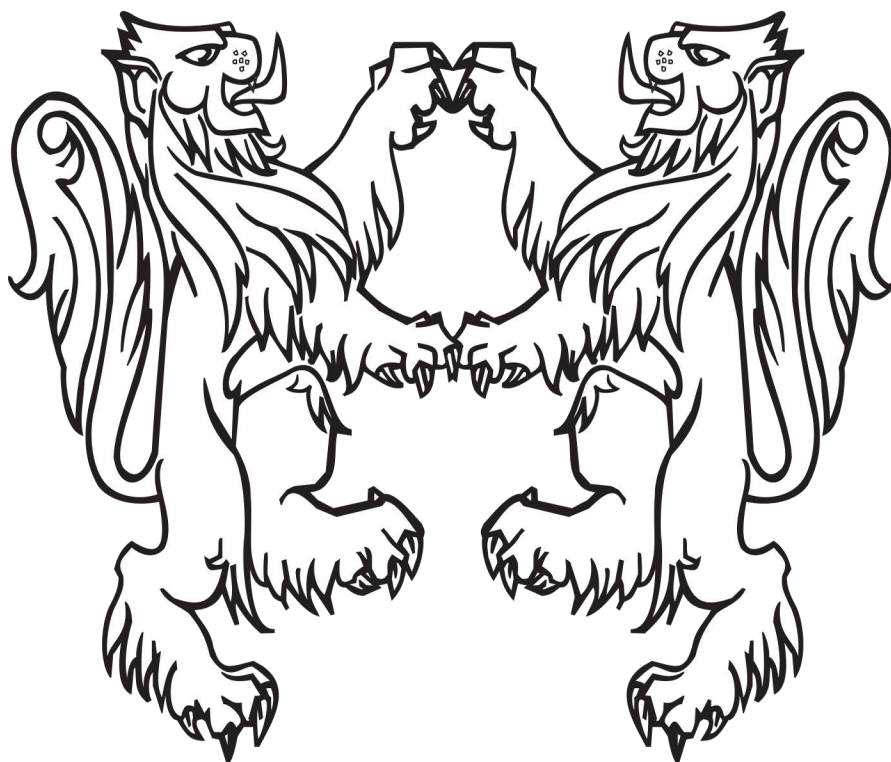


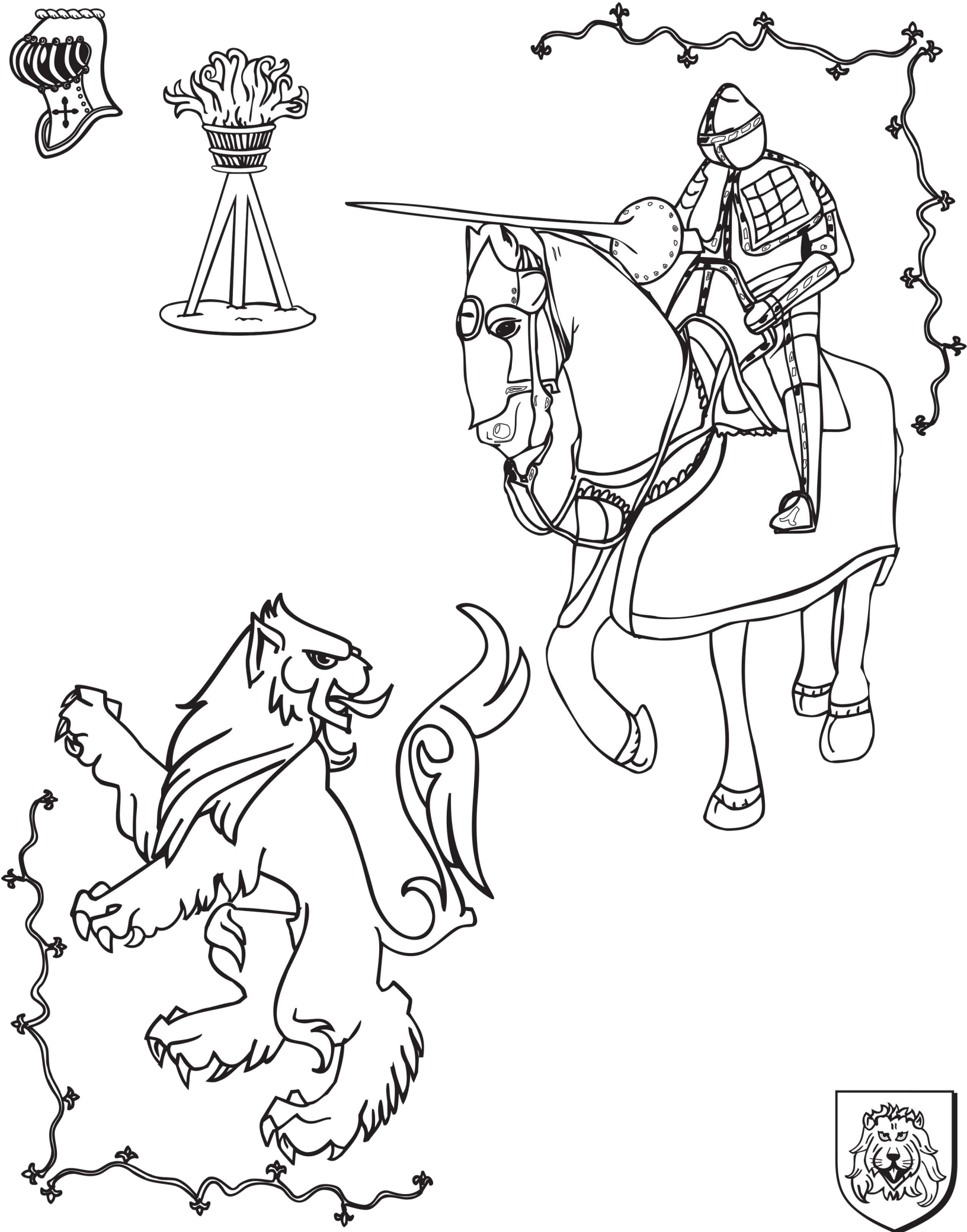


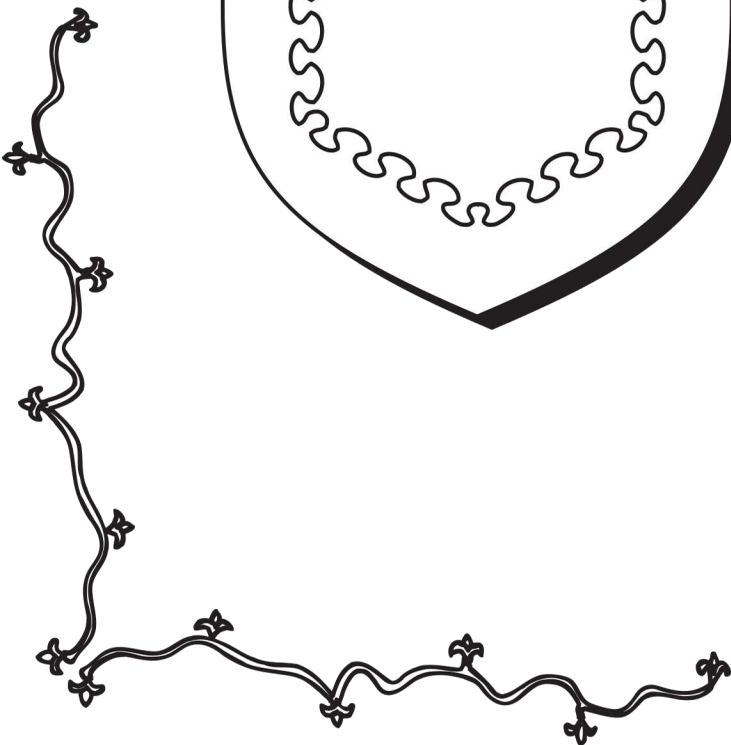
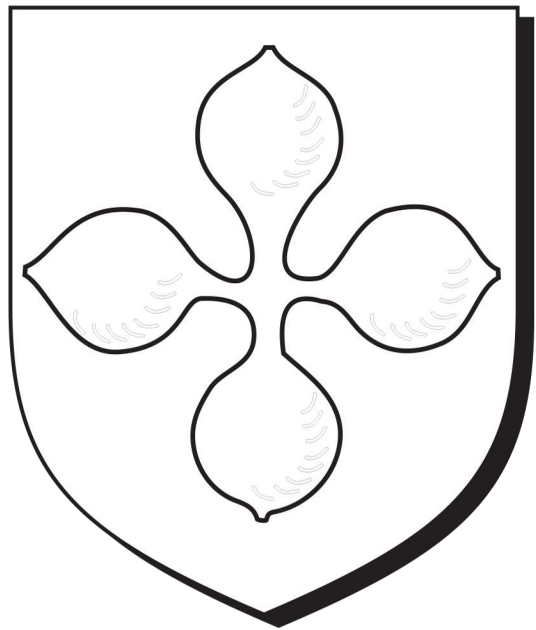
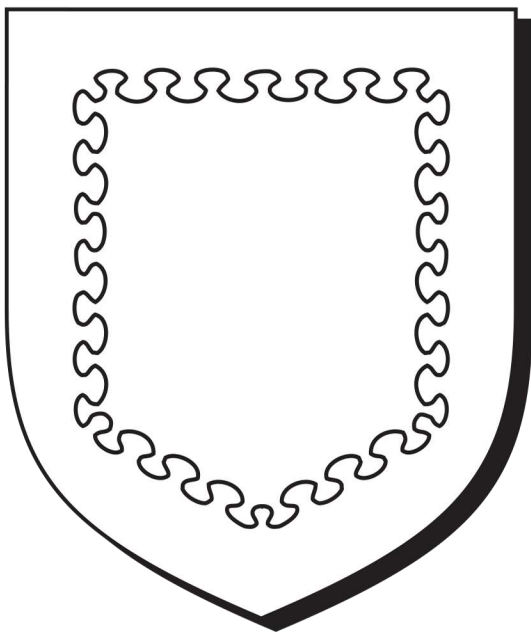
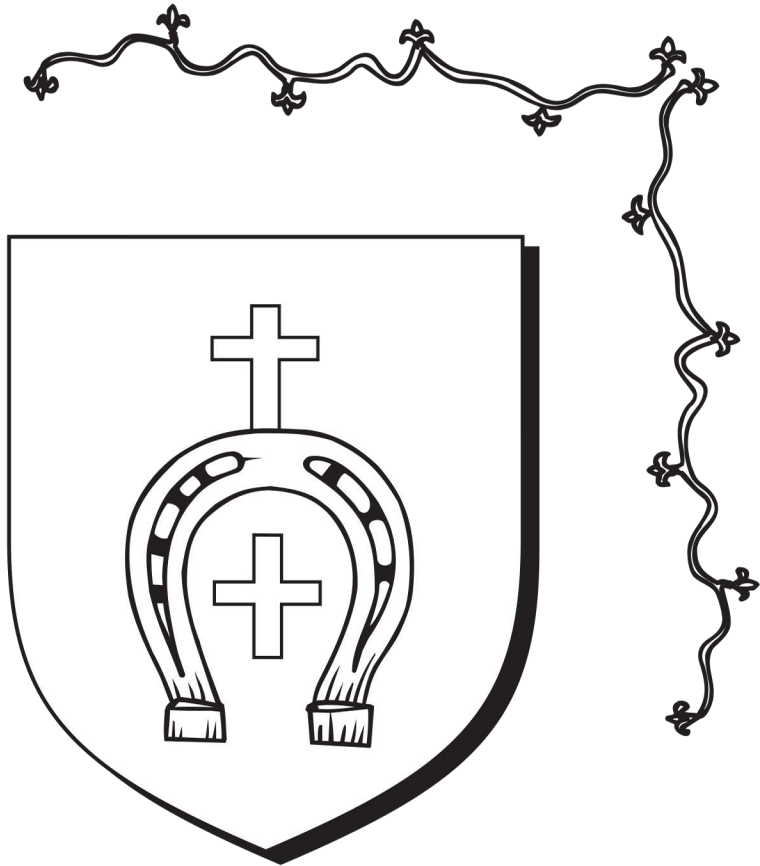
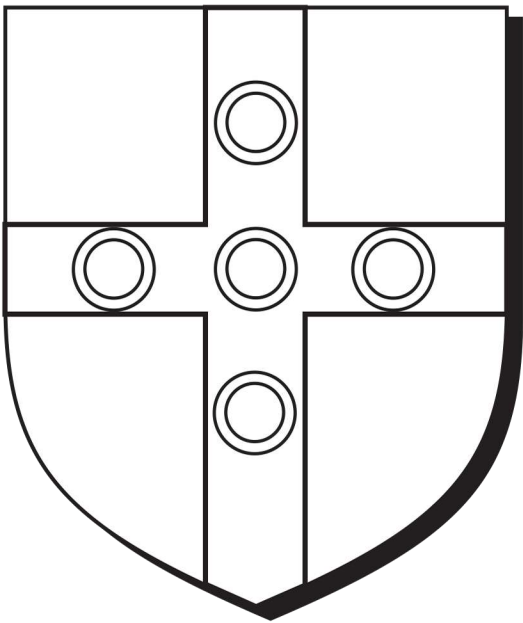
Lions have always held a high place in heraldry as the emblem of deathless courage, and, hence, that of a valiant warrior. It is said to be a lively image of a good soldier, who must be "valiant in courage, strong of body, politic in council and a foe to fear."

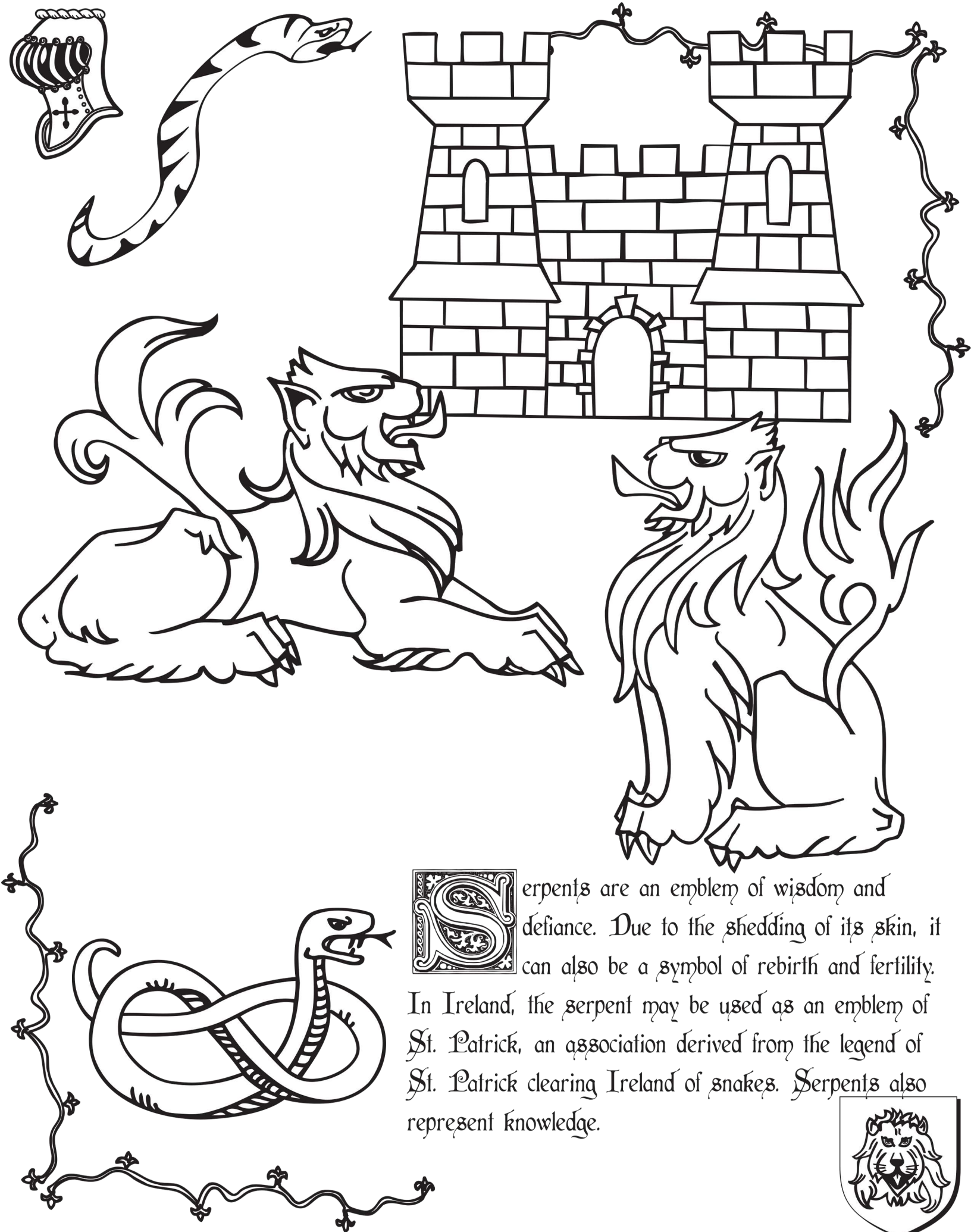
Through the somewhat dubious legend of their compassion, lions also came to symbolize Christ. As one medieval author asserted, "they prey on men rather than women, and they do not kill children except when they are very hungry."

The lion, with such repute of its noble nature and having the position and title of king of the beasts, is naturally one of the most common heraldic symbols on the continent of Europe. The winged lion is the emblem of St. Mark.









Serpents are an emblem of wisdom and defiance. Due to the shedding of its skin, it can also be a symbol of rebirth and fertility. In Ireland, the serpent may be used as an emblem of St. Patrick, an association derived from the legend of St. Patrick clearing Ireland of snakes. Serpents also represent knowledge.







