

## Shmanners 202: Chivalry

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**Travis:** Please, let me get the podcast for you.

**Teresa:** My hero!

**Travis:** It's Shmanners!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host—no. Is that it?

**Teresa:** Yeah, that's right!

**Travis:** Hello, internet. I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And you're listening to Shmanners!

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** ... for ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear. How... how are you? How are you?

**Travis:** Well, it feels like it's been forever! 'Cause we bulk recorded like, five episodes!

**Teresa:** That's true.

**Travis:** Uh, and so, this is the first, like, recording episode I've done in like, two weeks.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Uh, which is bonkers. And it's a bonkers time. In case you haven't heard, uh, this was supposed to be our first MaxFunDrive episode, but uh, Max Fun has made the decision, and we agree, to postpone the MaxFunDrive. Because this is an uncertain time, and we didn't want to stress anybody out, and make anybody feel pressured.

**Teresa:** But, we still want to provide that good, good content, so here we are.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah yeah!

**Teresa:** We're doing it anyway!

**Travis:** Yeah, we wouldn't miss it for the world! 'Cause... it's our jobs!  
[laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs] And I couldn't believe we hadn't done chivalry before.

**Travis:** I knooow!

**Teresa:** I thought that we had, but the fact that we can't remember...

**Travis:** No, we definitely haven't.

**Teresa:** We definitely haven't.

**Travis:** Because once I started researching this, I was like, "Oh no, I'd remember this."

**Teresa:** Maybe it was mentioned in something.

**Travis:** Oh, definitely. There's no way we haven't mentioned chivalry. Because chivalry, as a concept, right? Like, it's not quite as ubiquitous a term as like... manners or etiquette.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But I think it's right up there, right? It's a thing that people refer to, uh, specifically with like, dudes. Y'know, of like, "Oh, chivalry..." Like, okay. So let's put it this way. Let's start here. What do you think of when you think of chivalry?

**Teresa:** I think of King Arthur.

**Travis:** Okay! Good call. But what do you think of when you think of like... behaviors, and uh, the tenants of chivalry?

**Teresa:** Uh, y'know, holding open doors.

**Travis:** Yeah. Hi, baby Dot! Welcome! Welcome to the party, pal!

**Teresa:** Um, and uh, y'know, like... putting the coat over the puddle.

**Travis:** Over the puddle. Which, has anyone done that? [laughs] That's not a thing, right? That's just a—

**Teresa:** I mean, we talked about it a looong time ago. And we were like, "I mean, I don't think that it actually happens in the world."

**Travis:** Right. Maybe movies.

**Teresa:** There were different literary kind of things I mentioned.

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Like, for instance, I always think of um... the Disney cartoon of uh, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Where Ichabod Crane puts his coat over a puddle for... what's her name?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Katrina.

**Travis:** Really?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Good pull!

**Teresa:** And so, like, that's... that's how I knew about that. But like...

**Travis:** See, for me, I have an image in my head, and I can't remember what it's from, but somebody putting a coat down and somebody stepping on the coat, and like, sinking into the puddle.

**Teresa:** [laughs] I'm sure that's another cartoon.

**Travis:** But here's a—the reason I wanted to cover this, right? Because we always talk about, on this show, about like, the history of the etiquette idea, but also how it still applies, right? And I think, more than pretty much anything I can think of, chivalry is the kind of thing where people, nowadays, "Is chivalry dead? Chivalry's dead." Right?

**Teresa:** Yeah! Is chivalry dead? That sounds like a headline I've read multiple times.

**Travis:** Right? And here's—the reason that is... well, we'll get to it, right? Because the question is, what is chivalry? And the thing is... there is no good answer for that. So! Here's—we—like you said, we think about like, the Arthurian legend. King Arthur. Y'know, knights.

**Teresa:** Lancelot. Ivanhoe.

**Travis:** Right. Rescuing damsels.

**Teresa:** I mean, Ivanhoe was not one of the... the knights of the round table, but...

**Travis:** Yes, but still. A big, chivalrous knight. But the idea of like, y'know, these white knights and fair maidens... throw that right out the window.

**Teresa:** 'Cause that's not chivalry?

**Travis:** Well, we'll get to that.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Okay. So, it was actually a like, aristocratic lifestyle ideal.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** But the thing is, there was no one chivalry, like, method. There was no one—because it was the kind of thing where it was like... as needed, like, it will fill the space, y'know? It is like, a liquid. It will fill the space as needed.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Okay. The space it's in. It's fluid.

**Travis:** So, let's rewind way, way back to the beginning. The beginning of chivalry, at least in our research for this show. And I think that this is gonna be the kind of episode where everyone's gonna be like, "Well, actually..." And that's fine! You can tweet it at us.

**Teresa:** No, don't tweet it at us. [laughs]

**Travis:** Well... the beginning of chivalry traces back to one small invention. Can you guess what it is?

**Teresa:** Uhh... the book.

**Travis:** Nope.

**Teresa:** Okay. [laughs]

**Travis:** You ready? The stirrup.

**Teresa:** The stirrup?

**Travis:** The stirrup. Because—

**Teresa:** Okay!

**Travis:** Yes. Because... so, mounted combat was not new, right? People had been fighting on horses forever. But with the stirrup, they were able to deliver these like, powerful blows, right? Because before that, right, you had a sword in one hand, and the reins in the other to stay on.

**Teresa:** Oh, and you had to kind of grip the horse with your legs.

**Travis:** Right. But with the stirrups, you could brace against it, right? And swing, like, with your whole body.

**Teresa:** This kind of reminds me a lot of the high heels episode, right? 'Cause that was another thing that allowed—

**Travis:** That's why boots—yes.

**Teresa:** ... the boot to stay in the stirrup. So, this is all kind of like... steps toward the end.

**Travis:** Yes, right? So now you could like, real—like, armor had to step up, 'cause chainmail suddenly, like, wasn't enough. Right? That's where you start seeing like, plate mail, and like, solid pieces. Because you could

basically like, two-handed swing, or throw your whole body weight into it, and just smash a fool.

So, this turned cavalries into like... y'know, death sentence—like a marching... like tanks, basically. Right?

**Teresa:** Okay. Okay.

**Travis:** And so, the term 'chivalry' actually comes from the French word for 'knight on horseback,' chevalier.

**Teresa:** Ohh!

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** That makes sense! Okay.

**Travis:** Right. Now, this is disputed, if this is the first interpretation of the word 'knight,' because it's possible that it comes from old English or German words for 'servant' or 'bondsmen.' Uh, but, when it comes to chivalry, this is where we start seeing that aristocratic part of it.

**Teresa:** Right, because you had to be rich to be a knight.

**Travis:** Right. Or, at the very least, you needed a rich backer. So, you needed a well-trained horse, because imagine, like, you're rushing into battle with it, with people yelling and metal clanging, and all of this, and like... if I was a horse, I'd be like, "Oh, no."

**Teresa:** "No. No thank you." [laughs]

**Travis:** But then again, if I was a knight, I'd be like, "Oh, no. No. Oh, y'know what? No. No thank you."

**Teresa:** [laughing] That's not your preferred job, I think, in the...

**Travis:** Oh, no, yeah. Y'know, I'd be a jester. Let's be honest. I'd be a jester. Or, if I could somehow travel back with my basic understanding of like, science and engineering, I'd be a wizard.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm!

**Travis:** Um, but this is the thing. It's like, not only did you need the horse, you had to feed the horse, take care of the horse. You had to, y'know... weapons, saddles, take care of your armor, all of this stuff.

**Teresa:** Maybe even pay someone to do that for you.

**Travis:** Well, so that's the thing. So, there were lots of noble houses that now were like, "Oh, y'know what? I wanna claim some land. I wanna be a part of this, so I'm gonna start paying people to do this thing for me." Which is why, if you ever see like, in movies, where knights are like, "My lord. My lord. Yes, my lord." Like, that wasn't just saying like, 'yes sir,' as we might say now. It was probably like... their lord, right? Is like, this is the lord who controlled them.

And so, because these were not necessarily people doing their own fighting, they were like, rich people paying people, you had this ideal of like... I'm willing to throw myself into battle and hurt people for a paycheck.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Right? And so, it led to like, this really unstructured, untrained, violent, uhh, like... class opening up, right? The knight class, or the warrior class, right? Because I think—

**Teresa:** Okay. 'Cause they were basically mercenaries.

**Travis:** Right. And we think of knights as, y'know, as you have said, like Arthurian knights of the round table. These like, shining examples of it, right? But a lot of times, it was just like... more like Game of Thrones, where it was just like, "I'm willing to do the bidding for you if you will give me land and a title, and pay for my stuff." Right?



And so, it led to, like, lots of violence. If you think about like, the Hundred Years' War.

**Teresa:** [gasps] I'm putting it together in my brain! I won't say anything, 'cause I'm sure you want the reveal!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, and so, we think of—and so, like, the Hundred Years' War was like, these rich dudes, right? Who are like, "Oh!" And this aggressive style of fighting, where people were clobbering each other. And so, chivalry was created as a societal thing to say like, "Hey. Maybe don't be monsters?"

**Teresa:** Yeah! Yeah! So, they had the... there was this creation of this mercenary class, and then they created rules to keep the mercenary class in check.

**Travis:** Sure. Yes, basically. And it was first, um, created by the church.

**Teresa:** They are sooo, like, on it about making rules. They totally make rules for everyone all the time.

**Travis:** Um, and so, um, Jennifer Goodman Wollock, a professor of medieval studies at Texas A&M... like, think of them like tanks, right? They've got horses in armor. They're chugging along, and they're hard to stop. Right? So, if you think about it, when there was no war, and they're just like... I don't know, we're gonna take this village, I guess? Take what we want? Right?

And so, these knights were not honorable. And Alex, our researcher, uses some choice words to describe these knights. [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** But let's just say, they were like, entitled. And maybe not in full control of their impulses. And they—a lot of them were from aristocratic families, um, and commanded by, frankly, warlords. And so, if—[laughs] This is—I'm going to read this verbatim, 'cause I like this line that Alex wrote. "If these guys had a Tinder bio, their love for looting, burning, and pillaging would be listed in the place where normal people would write that they're proud dog moms and love going on adventures."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** So, this—this code, this idea of chivalry was instilled for a lot of different reasons. And one of them, as we said, was like, control. Of saying like, "Hey. Please don't like, pillage. That's not cool." But it was also a classist thing, right? Of like... think of it this way – because it was so amorphous, you could say like, "Ah, but you are not chivalrous." And it meant nothing.

**Teresa:** Mmm.

**Travis:** But it was like, a way of saying like, "That's why you can't be a knight."

Man, I hate that this is my go-to example, but it is. It's like in *Knight's Tale*, right? Where they're—Heath Leger's character is willing to do all this stuff, but they're like, "Oh, but you didn't come from an aristocratic family, so that's why... you can't." Right? Because...

**Teresa:** That's why you can't sit with us.

**Travis:** It kept people from raising up into, y'know, the next class, right?

**Teresa:** This kind of unattainable, uh, perfectness that you had to have, I think. Isn't this also kind of a religious aspect, right? So that you could also get people to go fight the crusades for you, and things like that?

**Travis:** Yes. We'll get to that in a second, but yes.

**Teresa:** Oh!

**Travis:** And so, uh, Wollock goes onto write, quote, "In the early middle ages, church councils were praying to be delivered from knights." And so, they—they wrote this idea of like, knights have to have a professional code, and y'know, codes aren't new. Y'know, there's the Romans, and Samurai, and all this stuff. But the thing is, chivalry isn't summarized in a single code. And it's kind of whatever they needed it to be in the moment.

So, what is it? Well, um, basically, how it started, like I said, it comes from chevalier, which means warrior on horseback, which comes from chevalerie, which means horse soldiery. And so, a chevalier who practiced chevalerie became known as chivalry.

So, in the like—originally translated, if someone was good at chivalry, they were good at not falling off their horse while fighting.

**Teresa:** Okay! Well, that is definitely one aspect to fighting on a horse.

**Travis:** Yes. But then it became this much broader idea of like... complimenting their fighting, and their lifestyle, and you're still thinking, "What does it mean!?" But there is no direct answer. Because it—so, a noble person might think chivalry involved respectful poise and adherence to etiquette in court. Someone who carries themselves. Y'know, like a—"Ah, how chivalrous!" Y'know? As you said, the coat on the puddle, and the proper bow, right?

But clergy might believe that chivalrous knights, y'know, showed discipline and unwavering faith, and this is where we see a lot of that in the crusades. And didn't want to be violent unless forced to draw a sword. But a warlord would describe a man as chivalrous if he doled out swift and aggressive justice to those who wronged him, or—so, it really was this like...

**Teresa:** So it's like the same definition of cool. What is cool?

**Travis:** Right! Right, exactly.

**Teresa:** Cool is whatever you like. [laughs]

**Travis:** You're not wrong, right? Because it was this thing of like, how do we keep people from joining this cool group? By not ever really knowing what cool is, unless we wanted to exclude someone.

So here are some examples that we found, uh, of like, differing ideas, right? One, maybe a knight must carry himself with grace and poise as he enters the court. Or, remain loyal to Jesus Christ until the very end, serving Him as his master. Crusades. Uh, you must always walk on the right side of a lady. Right? But then there was also—and here's—quick trigger warning here, this is about assault.

But like... it was okay to, let's say, sexually assault a woman if you wanted to, if you'd quote unquote "earned it." Right? Like, this is where we get into that like, pillaging and taking what's your—right? Chivalry was not, like, knowing how to treat a woman.

**Teresa:** Because it's about knowing how to treat the women that *you* like, but maybe—

**Travis:** Not even that.

**Teresa:** Maybe the other warlords' women, you could mistreat.

**Travis:** Well, so, here's the thing. And I'm gonna jump ahead a little bit. But this idea of like, taking care of women and being like, courteous to women? That was like, a propaganda thing later that we'll get to. But like, this idea, it had nothing to do—

**Teresa:** It sounds very Victorian to me.

**Travis:** Right. Well, this had nothing to do with like, "And of course, we all agree here in the 11<sup>th</sup> century that women are to be treated with respect and—" No. That was not... a thing.

**Teresa:** So, knights put damsels in distress.

**Travis:** Well, I mean, they just didn't really think of them that way.

**Teresa:** Hey, that was supposed to be kind of a joke.

**Travis:** Oh, sorry. Ha ha ha ha ha! Very good. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Um, and that's the thing is like, there is no short answer. So... where did we get this idea? We've been circling around it. We've touched on it a bunch. The Arthurian Legend.

So, think of these tales as opinion pieces masquerading as history. So, several churches and noble people wrote these fantastical stories that we know today, where knights are brave adventurers, saving women and slaying dragons. And this served two purposes. One, it helped spread propaganda to impressionable youth by raising up the idea of the good, just, and polite knight as a pop culture hero. And the church hoped that this would lessen violence over time.

**Teresa:** Well, also, and that the idea that people are called by God, right?

**Travis:** Right. Exactly.

**Teresa:** So, the Lady of the Lake is kind of like, the God stand-in. Like, it's a calling.

**Travis:** You are the arm of God, right? Not—you're not operating for your own desires. Right? You're doing God's work. Right? And two, the other purpose was, any story that became popular helped spread the author's personal agenda on what they felt chivalry should be.

So, for example, *The Book of the Order of Chivalry*, by Ramon Llull, portrays chivalry as a kind of noble and romantic ideal. This is where we get knights kissing maidens' hands, and taking their handkerchiefs into battle, right? It was a history of chivalry, and not actually the truth about chivalry.

The Book of Chivalry by Geoffroi de Charny takes a more pragmatic view, showing knights, instead, as thoughtful and intellectual men. And they're both just opinion pieces instead of historical accounts, where each man is making clear what he *thinks* knights should act like. And the incorrect impressions we have of chivalric laws are because the romances that talked of knights who were pure and virtuous and romantic, saving maidens... they were just the most popular at the time, and therefore, were passed down the most, right?

**Teresa:** Ohh, okay.

**Travis:** These were not like, historical accounts of, "I was sitting on a bench and I watched this dude do this thing." This was like, "Let me tell you of the knights!" Right?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, one of the things we have to thank for the idea of chivalry is Arthur. The portrayal of Arthur as a man of honor and pillar of the people has influenced our idea of knights in ways we don't even realize. And the portrayal of Lancelot in those legends also swayed our modern psyche when it comes to the idea of chivalry.

When you think about it, England, at the time of the Arthurian legend, needed something to believe in. Right? And this is true—we see this throughout history, and throughout, uh, y'know, novels and fiction and all this stuff, right? Superman. Uh, the Iliad. Y'know, these ideas of like, "Here's a hero we can all rally behind!" Right?

**Teresa:** I like how you went from like, a super modern example to like, a super old example.

**Travis:** Well, I'll tell you my secret. I don't have a lot of these in 1800.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm sure there were some. Um, but like, even now, Super—like, the Avengers movies, right?

**Teresa:** Yeah, totally.

**Travis:** Where it's just like, hey, here's—not only some escapism, but here's some ideals. Right? Here's some things.

**Teresa:** I mean, that's what Captain America is completely about.

**Travis:** That's exactly what Captain America is about, right? And so, when you—and so, in these times, right, back to the Arthurian legend, the Roman Empire was falling. Anglo-Saxon tribes were warring, and there was nothing to unite the British people. And so, the idea of this chivalrous, just, and round table installing Arthur, with his humble beginnings... it was like a big deal.

And the thing is, in the legends, he's not perfect. Right? Like, he defies Merlin, despite warnings, and he wasn't able to find the grail, 'cause his heart wasn't pure enough, and y'know, there's the issues with Guinevere and Lancelot. Like, he was flawed, but he did his best. And so, it ended up being this, uh, y'know, this idealistic... this uh, what's the word I'm looking for? When you reach for something.

**Teresa:** It's a legend.

**Travis:** Well, but it was also, like... it gave people—it didn't seem out of their reach. Right? It was—

**Teresa:** Okay. Aspirations.

**Travis:** It was aspirational. That was it. This attainable kind of perfection, of like, we could all be a little more like Arthur. Right? And there's this quote in *The Death of King Arthur* by Sir Thomas Mallory, that kind of summed up, uh, the modern ideal of chivalry. And it was spoken at Lancelot's funeral, and a character says, "Thou were the meekest man who ever ate in the hall

amongst ladies, and thou were the sternest knight to thy mortal foe that ever put steel in the rest.”

Basically, saying like, around women, you were gentile and meek. And around enemies, you killed real good.

**Teresa:** You kicked the butts.

**Travis:** Right. And it was a titan. A titan in the streets, and—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] No. Uh, but like, this idea of like, in the feast hall, you were gentle, and on the battlefield, not so much. And so, this is where we get into the talking of modern chivalry. And I think that this is the problem when we talk about it. And this—here’s where I am going to bloviate for a little bit, right?

The thing is, even now, this is where the connection, like, blew me away thinking about it. Because I already knew this about modern chivalry. But to see that it still, like, kind of traced back, is chivalry is still an amorphous thing that people try to use to enforce their own ideals.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And their own BS. Right?

**Teresa:** Exactly. “You can't sit with us unless you're cool.”

**Travis:** Right. But more than that, it’s like, “Ah, this is how a woman should be treated.”

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** “This is how a man should act. This is how a woman should act.” Right? That idea of like, a man opening a door for a woman. That has nothing to do with chivalry. There is no—that wasn’t like... Lancelot wasn’t



opening a horse door to like, help a lady get in, right? This is a thing of like, here is an outdated practice that like, puts women in their place. That they are waiting for a man to open the door, that a man...

Because here's the thing. I was talking with a friend recently about this, is like, what it really comes down to is, these behaviors of the opening the door, the bringing home flowers, the... all of these things. They are... they are the trappings of being a good partner. They are performatively being a kind person, without the actual work that goes into being a good partner or a kind person.

**Teresa:** Hmm, okay.

**Travis:** So, like, I will display for you that I love you by opening the door. I will display for you that I love you by not chewing, y'know, with my mouth open, or whatever. Not that those are bad things. Right? Here's the thing – if you—

**Teresa:** 'Cause I love it when you bring me home flowers from the grocery store.

**Travis:** Right. This is the thing. There's nothing wrong with these practices. Y'know? If your partner wants you to walk on the right side of them, if your partner wants you to open the door, if your partner wants flowers, these things are all great. But the problem is, what we see now is people saying, "This is what you *have* to do to be a good partner."

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Or, and thank the lord it's not being in—at least, not in my circles and the things I read, it's not being enforced in the same way. But like, this idea of, if you do these things, if you check off this list, you are a good partner. Without ever getting into like, hey, did you ask them what they want? Did you do these things? Is this, y'know, what is actually making your relationship strong and healthy, or are you just going through the motions 'cause someone told you?

I was looking up like, different, like, modern chivalry. And it was like, "He calls you back!" And I was like, oh my god. [laughs] It's like, the lowest, lowest threshold for being a not terrible partner.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And it's just like, yeah, he doesn't openly make fun of you! It's like... all of this stuff of like, hey, this—

**Teresa:** Like old school Cosmo stuff.

**Travis:** Right. And it's nothing. It is honestly nothing. It is basically like, to look back at the knights and like, yeah, they're not going around murdering people! How chivalrous! And it's like, no, y'know, the problem is that we... we want to use terms like chivalry. Once again, these amorphous things, of this like, harkening back to a better time.

I mean, it is what it always has been, right? It's people trying to use the concept of chivalry to push their own agenda. Right? And so, if you look now, and search—'cause I did this. Ohh. If you search like, "Is chivalry dead?" It's all like, "I miss the days where bluh bluh bluh bluh bluh bluh!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And it's dumb. It's bad. And so, here's—

**Teresa:** Well, and it's also this whole, like, masculine construct, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Where the men were men, and they treated the women like women, and blar blar blar blar blar.

**Travis:** [blows raspberry] So here's what I propose. Since chivalry is this amorphous thing, and it's for people to push their own agendas... why not push our agenda?

**Teresa:** Okay!

**Travis:** Right? And so, this is the thing, is... Alex and I agree in our research and everything about it, is like... we could use chivalry to try to undo a lot of concepts of toxic masculinity. Right? Because sure, there are those who see chivalry as like, "I will step up and fight for what is right!" Right? But there is also, in history, right? In the history of chivalry, people who say, "I do not want to fight." Like, that the chivalrous man shows, uh, mercy.

**Teresa:** Restraint.

**Travis:** Right, restraint and mercy, and y'know, like, doesn't hurt, and that kind of—and so, like, why don't we focus on that more? And say like, the chivalrous person, uh, because I think that a part of undoing it is going to be saying chivalry can apply to anybody who wants to. Chivalry, maybe—like, chivalry is knowing that it's okay to cry. Right? Because in the Arthurian legend, there was people who write about Lancelot weeping when he was told that he was the greatest knight in the kingdom, in the land, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And he was so happy to hear that, he wept. Right? And so, it's like, yeah, how about we say chivalry is like, being okay showing emotions? Being okay being kind and gentle. And not just treating women with, but treating *everyone* with respect. And like, just being a chill person who's not looking for a fight, who's okay showing emotions, who's kind and gentle, who is, y'know, just as happy doing, y'know, traditionally masculine things as they are doing traditionally feminine things.

**Teresa:** But also stands up for what's right.

**Travis:** Stands up for what is right, but knows that, sometimes, throwing fists isn't the way to do that. Sometimes it's by leading by example, and all of these things, right? Like, the thing is, chivalry is not dead, because I don't think it was ever alive to begin with.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I think that chivalry is a skeleton structure on which other people projected their thing. But it's just—it's a code. Just like there have been codes forever.

**Teresa:** Like the pirate code.

**Travis:** Right. The pirate code, Samurai code, all this stuff, right? All of it is like—well, I don't know if the pirate code ever was.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I see you smirking, 'cause you made me agree to it. You tricked me, 'cause you know I've seen *Pirates of the Caribbean* too many times to pretend like the pirate code's not real.

**Teresa:** It's true. [laughs]

**Travis:** But my point being is that, like, I think we could use chivalry... as a shortcut to say like, "Oh, did you know chivalry means this?" And they'll be like, "Uh, no it doesn't." Like, "Show me where it doesn't."

**Teresa:** Ooh!

**Travis:** And they won't be able to find it!

So, before we wrap up, here are some things that I think everybody, when they hear chivalry, thinks of. Right? Let's wrap up by doing... I don't know. We usually talk about like, the actual etiquette. But I don't know that that is a thing in chivalry. But, I think this is the—these are the things that everyone thinks of when they think of chivalry.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Fair play.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** "Don't attack an unarmed foe, a dismounted enemy, or a civilian. Do not cheat, attack from behind, or torture."

**Teresa:** I can get behind that.

**Travis:** Right. "Nobility. Respect authority. Obey the law. Protect the innocent." Sure.

**Teresa:** Sure, as long as they're not a tyrant.

**Travis:** Sure. Uh, "Valor. Exhibit courage in word and deed. Never abandon a friend, an ally, or a noble cause. Respect women, and protect them." Now, if that was respect people and protect them, then I'm 100% on board with that.

**Teresa:** I love this reading voice that you have.

**Travis:** Thank you very much. This is my proclamation voice. "Honor. Keep your word. Maintain your principles. Be a person one can trust." I think I'm kind of doing a bit of a Sam the eagle kind of thing.

**Teresa:** A little bit.

**Travis:** [imitating Sam the eagle] That's the American way! Okay.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay. "Courtesy. Be polite and mannerly. Treat all people with respect. Listen attentively." Yes. Okay.

**Teresa:** Hmm, okay.

**Travis:** "Loyalty. Remain true to your country, lord, kingdom, cause, and loved ones." Sure.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** Open to interpretation, that one.

**Teresa:** These all sound... nice. They sound nice.

**Travis:** Now, this one, I think, Alex just threw in. I don't—"If Merlin tells you not to mess with Guinevere, leave the poor woman alone."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That one seems oddly specific, Alex. Thank you so much. And thank you, Alex, for your help in putting this one together. As always, we wouldn't be able to do it without you. Thank you to MaximumFun.org, our podcast home. Thank you for listening. You are incredible, and I'm—

**Teresa:** And y'know, even though we've postponed the MaxFunDrive, something that you can do for us all year round is to rate, review, and subscribe on iTunes, and to, y'know, tweet about us. Tell a friend.

**Travis:** Tell a friend. Yeah, jinx! If you liked this episode, and you're like, "Oh, I learned so much from it!" Tell somebody.

**Teresa:** Yeah. The more listeners we have, the more we can grow our show. And when the time comes, the more members we can add to the Max Fun family.

**Travis:** And the more exciting everything will be, and we'll grow, and become more powerful!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, let's see. What else, Teresa? What are we forgetting?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent "Brental Floss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thanks to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. You can reach us @ShmannersCast. That's where we get all of our listener submitted questions for our topics.

Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover photograph of our fan run Facebook group. You should join that, if you would love to give and get excellent advice. And if you would like to submit a topic to us, please email us. [ShmannersCast@gmail.com](mailto:ShmannersCast@gmail.com).

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

**Travis:** You've been listening to Shmanners.

**Teresa:** Manners, Shmanners. Get it.

[theme music plays]

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