

Beyond ^{The} Pale

May 2026

PRESS



Aso Tatsumi, Kid Reporter
The Pale, Middle Kingdom
thepale@midrealm.org



This is the **May 2026** supplemental issue of **The Pale**, Copyright © 2026, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Middle Kingdom is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and *The Pale* is published as a service to the SCA's membership. Subscriptions are available only to members. Memberships are available from the Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., P.O. Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789. All changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office.

The appearance of an advertisement in *The Pale* or *Beyond The Pale* does not represent an approval or endorsement of the merchandise by any officer or body of the SCA or the Middle Kingdom. For information on reprinting articles and artwork from this publication, please contact the Editor, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. This newsletter may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, except for the subscription forms, by any means whatsoever. All graphic elements in *The Pale* are used with permission and in accordance with the appropriate terms of use.

Credits and Staff

Editor

THL Norelle Thespiana
thepale@midrealm.org

Deputy Pale Editor

Baroness Claricia de la Mere
paledputy@midrealm.org

Cover Image

Maranda Williams
all other photos by Alex Williams

Proofreading

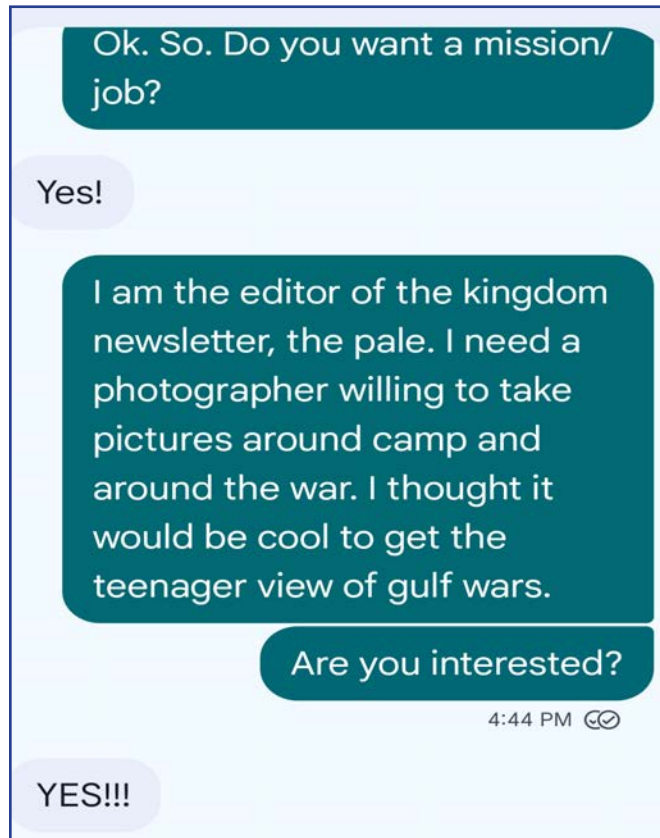
Countess Alys Katharine
Mistress Gianna Vettori
THL Guido de Canale

Design

Captain Tariq al Sanna Af Fjall

From the Editor

In February I had a fun idea to look at our game through the eyes of a kid. The idea was to see what kids do all day while the grown ups are fighting. So I sent a text to a thirteen year old from the next barony over asking if he was going to Gulf Wars.



Don't worry- I have a good relationship with his parents and their full permission. They even upgraded his phone early, so he would have a better camera feature.

For a couple of years, he has been my helper at events. He calls me Crazy Aunt Donna and sends me the worst dad jokes. He is incredibly bright and I thought this would be a fun project for him while not interfering with his vacation time. I whipped up a Press Pass and sent him off.

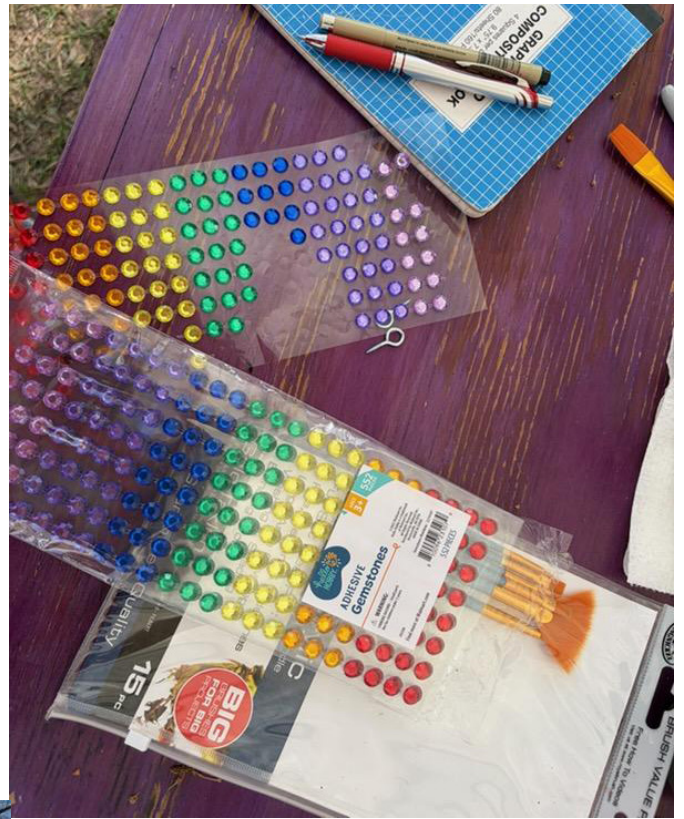
I wasn't sure what to expect but my initial hunch was right and Tatsumi did a great job. Every picture in this special issue is his, and one of his pictures is also the cover picture for the main Pale.



Left: This is the tree you see every year when you get to the Middle Kingdom encampment. The first day is going through gate and setting up tents all day, so there wasn't much time for pictures.

Below: The Kingdom gate and shield wall got put up and members of the Barony of Shattered Crystal (Tatsumi's home barony) p+osed for a picture.





Above: Tatsumi had a giant pancake for breakfast in the lodge .
Right: It was craft day in camp, and Tatsumi dazzles things around camp.

Below: It's been very cold all day, but the sunsets are still pretty.
Below right: Camp at night





Top: The parade to Open Ceremonies goes right past the Middle Kingdom camp, but it started sleeting so there are only a few pictures. It stopped sleeting long enough to get some pictures on the battle field of some visiting royals.

Below left: Oliver Sutton and Grainne Shionnach, Prince and Princess of Æthelmearc

Below right: Everyone starts to gather on the battlefield.



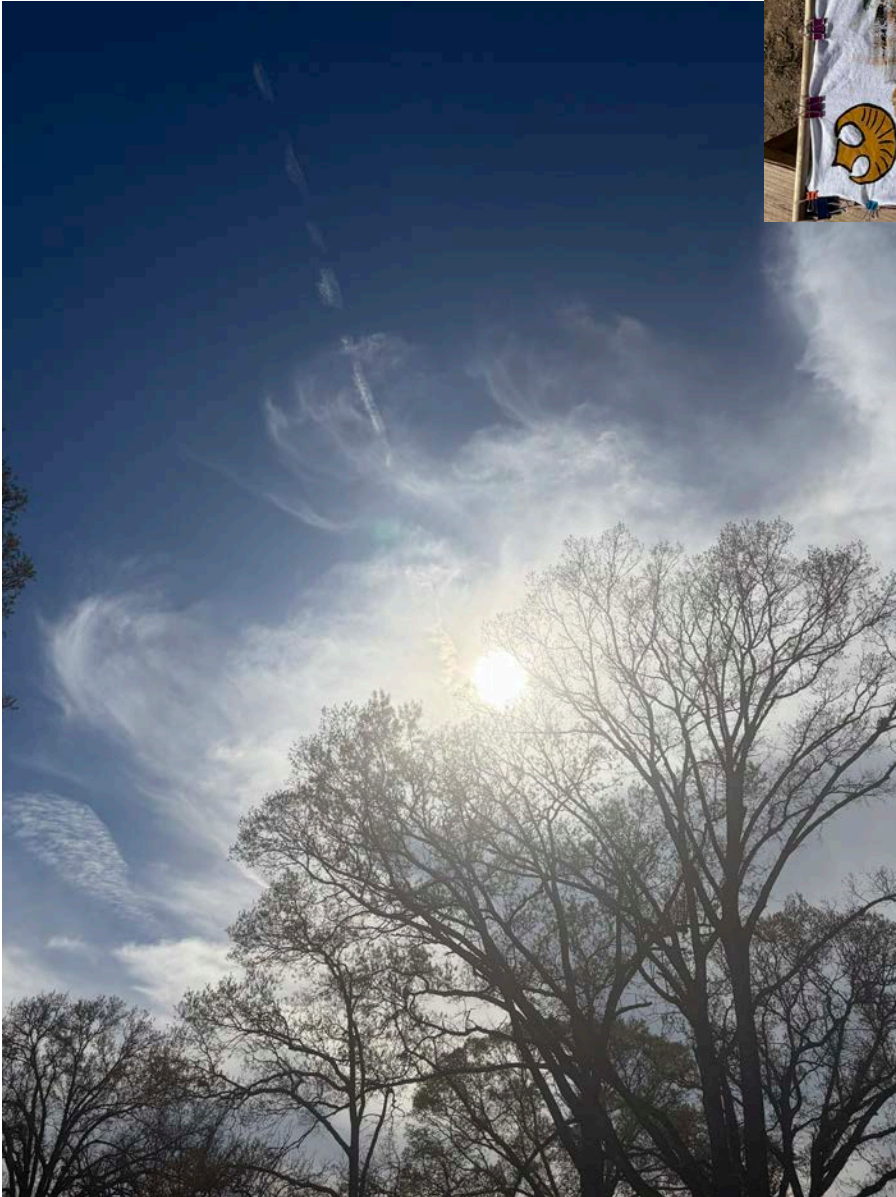
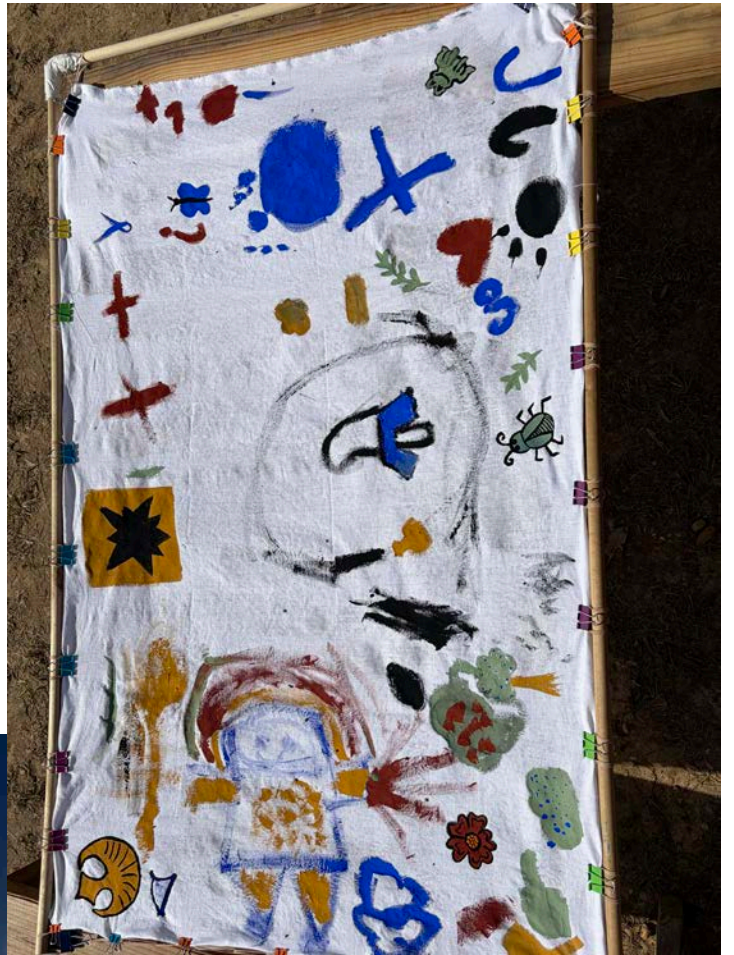


Top: Odyssey Coffee is doing business before the other merchants open and the road to the marketplace gets busy.

Above left: Got some henna and liked it so much that he got a kit for his birthday after the war was over.

Above right: Dame Dredda at the Thrown Weapons range

Bottom right: A green mustachioed "stranger" appears in the Middle Kingdom camp with the Dragon Herald Staff of Office. But the Dragon Herald isn't even at Gulf Wars! .



Top left: Artisan's row tent
Top right: A kids' group art project
Left: The sun finally came out and temperatures rose.



M
O
O
N
L
I
G
H
T

M
A
D
D
N
E
S
S
!



Top left: Spent almost a whole day in the dye tent including learning how acidity would affect some dyes on yarn.
Top right: Supplies in the dye tent
Bottom left: A giant dye bath of indigo; Tatsumi came home with an indigo handkerchief that he made.
Bottom right: Lady Aldren with a supply of wool to be dyed.





The sun sets fast at Gulf Wars. Court started in daylight, and the children were called forward to receive a gift from their Majesties. Soon the sun was gone and the torches were lit changing the whole vibe.





Their Majesties Kemma and Sasha took some time out to pose for a couple of silly pictures.





Squeezed into the backseat, ready to go home, tired and happy.

Fun Facts:

This was Tatsumi's third Gulf Wars.

There was no soap in the men's room, and the shower curtains were all torn.

The site tokens were wooden medallions that smelled like lemons.

His favorite food at Gulf Wars was the chicken on a stick.

Tatsumi loves tea so his favorite merchant was Auntie Arwen's Spices.

Since Gulf Wars, Tatsumi has turned fourteen.