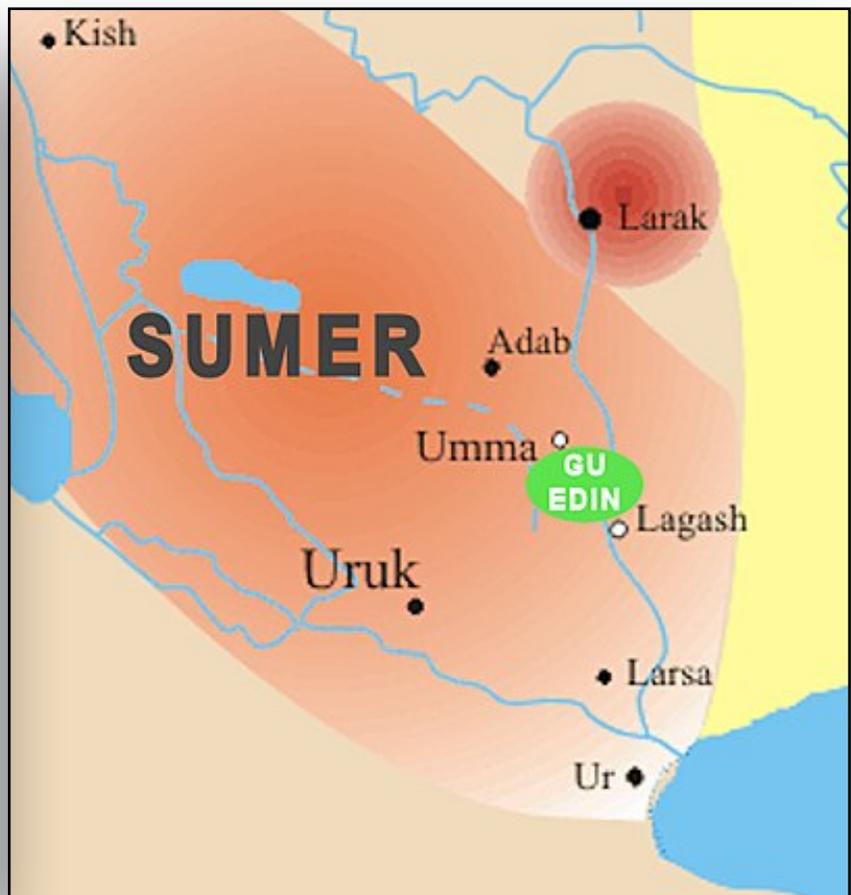


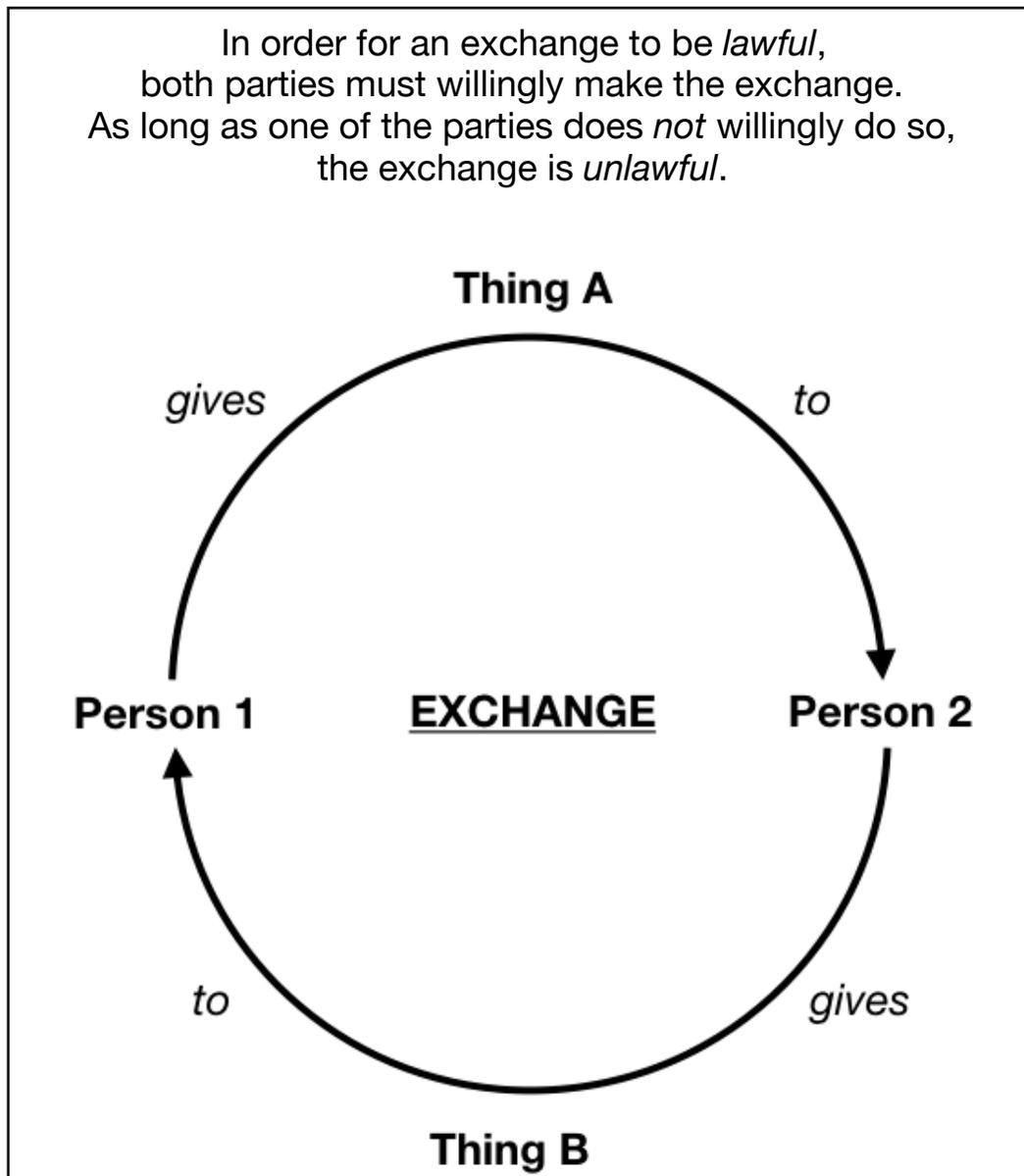
Urukagina of Lagash's Reforms Cone (2350 BCE)

[Urukagina's Reforms Cone is the oldest surviving code of law in the historical record today.]



In the past, anyone who ever ruled the city of Lagash had ruled as *Lord* of Lagash. Yet thanks to the city's patron god Ningirsu, Urukagina became the first *King* of Lagash. Ningirsu instructed Urukagina to free the people of Lagash from usury, hunger, theft, and murder. Hence by following Ningirsu's instructions, Urukagina duly freed Lagash's people from usury, hunger, theft, and murder. Accordingly, widows & orphans no longer are at the mercy of the powerful people in the city, and the city's workers no longer have to beg for their bread. Now when a rich

man offers to buy a poor man's donkey, if the poor man is *willing* to sell it then he will say, "In return for my donkey, pay me what pleases me," but if the poor man is *unwilling* to sell his donkey, then the rich man shall not force the poor man to sell it. Now when a rich man offers to buy a poor man's house, if the poor man is *willing* to sell it then he will say, "In return for my house, pay me what pleases me," but if the poor man is *unwilling* to sell his house, then the rich man shall not force the poor man to sell it.



Questions about the ***Code of Urukagina***.

1. Case #1 -

Without Jill's permission, Jack *took* Jill's \$10 item from her. Yet in return for Jill's \$10 item, Jack willingly gave \$10 to Jill. According to Urukugina, the exchange was *unlawful*, because Jill did *not* willingly give her \$10 item to Jack. In fact, she did not even give it to him, because he took it from her (entirely without her permission). Yet more specifically, did Jack *steal* Jill's \$10 item from her? In other words, did he commit theft? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.

2. Case #2 -

Jack *forced* Jill to give her \$10 item to him, and then he *willingly* gave \$10 to her. According to Urukugina, the exchange was *unlawful*, because Jill *unwillingly* gave her \$10 item to Jack. Yet more specifically, did Jack *steal* Jill's \$10 item from her? In other words, did he commit theft? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.

3. Are the two cases of unlawfulness *equally* bad? Why or why not? Explain. If they're *unequally* bad, then which of cases is *worse* than the other (and *why*)? Explain.
4. Based on what you have answered thus far, **what is stealing**? In other words, **what is theft**? (Consider the possible difference between giving something *willingly* and giving something *unwillingly*, and also consider the possible difference between giving something *unwillingly* and taking something from someone *without their permission*. If you copy-and-paste a definition that you've looked up somewhere, you'll get no credit for this question.)