The *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*

=Isin
=Larsa (Isin tributary)
=Eshnunna
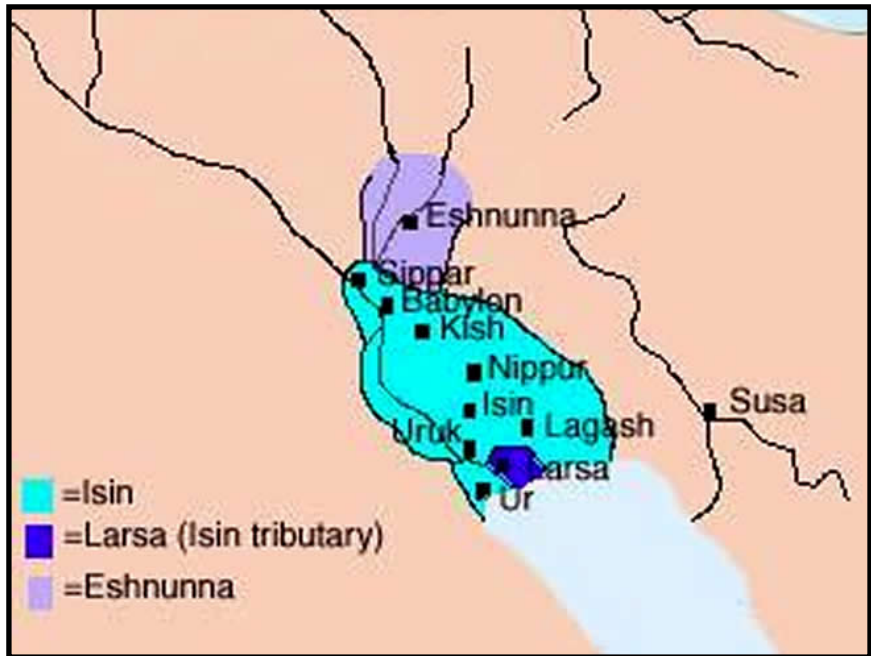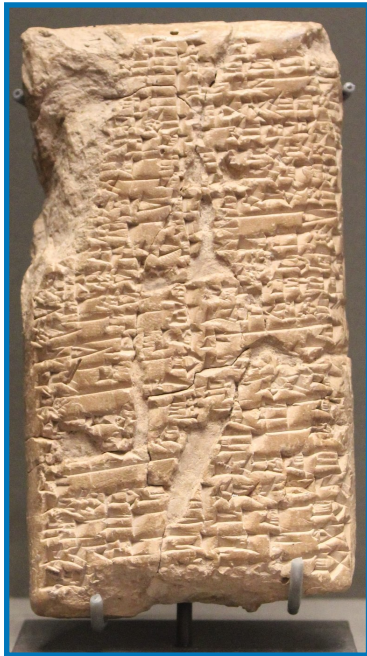
When the gods An & Enlil made An's daughter the Queen of Sumer & Akkad,

they called upon me, Lipit-Ishtar, to be her viceroy!

They called upon me to eliminate enmity, violence, and injustice

from the land of Sumer & Akkad!

They called upon me to bring fairness to the land of Sumer & Akkad!

Answering their call,

I established justice in the land of Sumer & Akkad!

I liberated the children of Nippur, Ur, and Isin!

I liberated the children of Sumer & Akkad!

I decreed that every parent should support their children, and

I decreed that every child should support their parents!

I imposed service equally on all of the men of the land!

These are my laws:

- If a man sinks someone else's boat, he shall replace the boat.

- If a man kills a pregnant woman, he shall be put to death.

- If someone falsely accuses an innocent person of a crime,
  the accuser shall suffer the punishment for the crime
  that they falsely have accused the innocent person of doing.

- If a man rents an ox and breaks its horn or tail,
  he shall pay the ox's owner one-quarter of the ox's value in silver.

- If a man rents an ox and cuts its hoof's tendon,
  he shall pay the ox's owner one-third of the ox's value in silver.

- If a man rents an ox and destroys its eye,
  he shall pay the ox's owner one-half of the ox's value in silver.

- If a man cuts down a tree in someone else's orchard,
  he shall pay 20 shekels of silver to the owner of the orchard.

- If a man rents a garden to a gardener,
  the gardener is entitled to one-tenth of whatever grows from the garden.

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Questions about the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*.

Questions 1–5 simply concern the basic underlying logic of Lipit-Ishtar's laws.

1. Jack rents a garden to Hugo, and Hugo then grows 70 apples in Jack's garden. According to the Code of Lipit-Ishtar, Hugo is entitled to how many of the apples that he grew in Jack's garden?

2. Jack rents a garden to Hugo, and Hugo then grows 70 apples in Jack's garden. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, Jack is entitled to how many of the apples that Hugo grew in Jack's garden?

3. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, if Jack falsely accuses Hugo of killing a pregnant woman, how should Jack be punished?

4. Harry sunk Pierre's boat, and then Jack falsely accused Hugo of sinking Pierre's boat. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, how should Jack be punished?

5. Harry cut down a tree in Pierre's orchard, and then Jack falsely accused Hugo of cutting down the tree in Pierre's orchard. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, how should Jack be punished?

Questions 6–9 highlight something *problematic* with the logic of Lipit-Ishtar's laws.

6. Jack cut down a tree in his own orchard, and then Jack falsely accused Hugo of cutting down the tree in Jack's orchard. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, how should Jack be punished?

7. Given your answer to question 6, what is *problematic* about your answer? Would Jack truly be punished? *Why* or why *not*? Explain.
    (Optional: How might you *fix* the wording of Lipit-Ishtar's law to solve the problem?)

8. Pierre sunk Jack's boat, and then Jack falsely accused Hugo of sinking Jack's boat. According to the *Code of Lipit-Ishtar*, how should Jack be punished?