

Dearest residents of Hitchcock,

It is my utmost pleasure to unveil a priceless artifact from the formative years of Hitchcockian civilization: a pair of weathered marble tables were discovered lying by the side of the road just weeks ago by my distinguished colleague Dr. Sahlins, as he knelt down to hitch a customer's car to the tow truck. Since then, we here at the American Anthropological Association have scrutinized the physical properties of the tablets, probed the mysteries of their ritual uses, and debated their objective existence nigh continuously. It's been a very exciting time for all of us.

Using the most precise and cutting-edge dating methods, I was able to both guarantee dinner plans for this coming Saturday and reliably source the tablets to the spring of 2009; based on what we can glean from the few remaining contemporary sources, they appear to have been transcribed during a mysterious spring festival known as Ska'av, the purpose of which has long puzzled anthropologists. Before this, the traditions they contain had likely been transmitted orally for several generations.

The tablets contain a set of ritual commandments attributed in part to Orcsa, who appears to have been some sort of a whale deity, and in part to other figures in the pantheon of ancient Hitchcock, about whom less are known at this time. It is our pleasure to share with you the text of these invaluable relics whisked away from the heavy hands of time and weary metaphor.

Sincerely,

Claude Levi-Strauss,
Honorary President, AAA
CEO, AAA

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I: THOU SHALT NOT FAIL TO ATTEND HOUSE MEETING FOR MIDTERM ELECTIONS. IF THOU ATTENDEST NOT, THE WORST GOVERNMENT WILL BE ELECTED, AND THOU IN PARTICULAR SHALT SEE AN INCREASE IN THY TAXES. AND LO, THOU SHALT HAVE TAXES IN THE FIRST PLACE, INSTITUTED SIMPLY SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE INCREASED. TREMBLE, MORTALS. TREMBLE WITH FEAR, AND FORGET NOT TO ATTEND HOUSE MEETING.

II: THOU SHALT GO FORTH DURING HOUSE MEETING AND BOLDLY ANNOUNCING THE STATE OF OUR FINANCES AT THE PODIUM, IF THOU ART TREASURER, EVEN WHEN THOU HAST NOTHING TO SAY. 'TIS A KNAVE WHO ACTS OTHERWISE, AND SURELY HE SHALL BE PONDED.

III: THOU SHALT NOT REMOVE THY PANTS DURING AN AT LARGE PRESENTATION. SHOULD THOU ATTEMPT TO DO SO, BEWARE! FOR I SHALL BEND THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE THEMSELVES TO FORESTALL THE OCCURRENCE OF SUCH A RUINOUS DEED. NOR SHOULDST THOU CHUG MILK FROM THE GALLON; SUCH BEHAVIOR LIKENS THEE TO THE FAITHLESS SARACENS.

IV: NEITHER SHALT THOU COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S PROSPIE, NOR THINE OWN PROSPIE NEITHER. WHOMSOEVER COVETETH A PROSPIE IS AS ONE NO LONGER OF MY PEOPLE, BUT SHOULD THIS PROSPIE COVET THEE, ACT THOU WITH IMPUNITY, FOR TRULY, TWAS A BAMF WHOSE MEREST PRESENCE CONJUREST SUCH BASE THOUGHTS IN ONE SO YOUNG, AND THE BAMF ARE ALWAYS AMONG MY PEOPLE.

V: THOU SHALT NOT MAKE WRONGFUL USE OF THINE OWN NAME BY ENGRAVING IT UPON A STONE TABLET, OR WRITING IT UPON A WHITEBOARD, OR YEA, UPON ANY OTHER SURFACE, WHEN THOU HAS COME TO THE FOURTH FLOOR OF SECTION V IN SEARCH OF CONDOMS. FOR TIS NOT FIT FOR THE EYES OF MORTALS TO BEHOLD RECORD OF SUCH DEEDS, WHICH SHOULD REMAIN BETWEEN THEE, THY GOD, AND THE PROSPIE WHO HATH INITIATED THEM.

VI: THOU SHALT NOT KNOW THE INGREDIENTS IN THY FOOD AT BARTLETT. THOUGH FALKOWITZ TEMPTS YOU WITH THE ALLURE OF THE IPAD, STRAY NOT FROM THE PATH I HAVE SET BEFORE YE. FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF INGREDIENTS IS FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE, AND LO, I WOULD NOT HAVE MY PEOPLE FALL FROM INNOCENCE SO.

VII: THOU SHALT HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED T-SHIRT DESIGNS. THOU SHALT NOT HAVE LAUGHED AT MY USE OF THE PERFECT IMPERATIVE. FOR THY GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD, AND A BIT TOUCHY; HE LIKETH NOT LAUGHTER.

VIII: THOU SHALT NOT EGRESS BY MEANS OF ANY WINDOW, NAY, NOR INGRESS NEITHER. FOR TO TRANSGRESS A WINDOW IS TO TRANSGRESS AGAINST MY LAW. NEITHER SHALL THY ILK PASS THROUGH A WINDOW, NOR THY PROPERTY NEITHER. WHATSOEVER PASSES THROUGH A WINDOW, SHALL BE REDUCETH TO DUST. FOR DUST ARE YE ALL, AND DUST TOO SHALL INHALE WERE IT NOT FOR WINDOWS.

IX: AND YEA, THOU SHALT CONTACT ME, THROUGH MY EARTHLY REPRESENTATIVES THE ELDER SAGES, IF THY PUNY MORTAL BRAIN CANST BUT THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO END COMMANDMENT VII.

X: LOOK YE TO THE HORIZON FOR WORD OF THE TOURNAMENT OF THE SUPER SMASH BROTHERS, FOR YEA, ON THE FIFTH DAY YET TO COME, THE SEERESS MANDRA STAFFORD SHALL ANNOUNCE ITS ADVENT, AND THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES SHALL RING WITH JOY. BUT HEAR YE, FOR SHOULDST THOU PLAY WITH KIRBY, SWALLOW NOT THINE ENEMIES WHOLE, FOR SUCH IS THE MARK OF THE GLUTTON. YEA, THIS IS MY COMMAND, AND I HAVE DELIVERED IT UNTO YOU.