

The Beginning of King Solomon's Temple  
(Solomon's Building Permit)  
by  
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What would have happened if King Solomon had the same rules as we have today?  
Of course we will never know, but this may have happened.....

WM: Casually leaves via main door.

KS: Enters lodge, in costume, through preparation room door, sits in the East.

HA: (at main door) \*\*\*(also in costume)

JD: \*\*\*, opens door, Who comes here?

HA: HA with Aristotle, Capernicus, Abiff, & Associates with engineering progress report.

JD: (closes door) HA with Aristotle, Capernicus, Abiff, & Associates with engineering progress report.

KS: Admit Him

HA: (to A and sign in) Most Worshipful KS, sorry to keep you waiting, but the traffic was atrocious, there was a multi oxen pile-up on I1.

KS: No problem, these cart drivers have really been abusing my new, higher speed limit.

HA: I'll say! Two mules and a donkey passed by trusty steed on the way in. I have the pre-bid engineering report for you.

KS: Ah! I am eager to review this document, where is it?

HA: The team of oxen will be delivering it shortly.

KS: Team of oxen?

HA: Yeah, it got a little heavy for our mules.

KS: Heavy?

HA: Yeah, the environmental impact study alone took 14 sheets of granite.

KS: Environmental Impact Study?

HA: Oh yeah, environmental impact study. Some Egyptian found some Zaradatha Sand Beetles near the proposed clay grounds.

KS: Sand beetles?

HA: Yeah, sand beetles. They claim they are an “endangered species.” Some day this whole land will probably be sand!

KS: Endangered species?

HA: Yeah, if we do too much heavy excavation near their habitat, we will have to create a new habitat of equal area with the same amenities as the old habitat.

KS: Create a habitat?

HA: Yeah, they say this beetle is close to extinction and if we dig the clay in this region they will perish like the dinosaurs.

KS: That is crazy! We are over run by sand beetles!

HA: Ah! But these are Succuth sand beetles, not Zaradatha sand beetles.

KS: What! I have seen those beetles and they look the same to me!

HA: Yeah, they do. They are genetically identical, but they were named for the region that they were discovered, therefore the Succuth sand beetle lives closer to Succuth, and the Zeradatha beetle lives closer to Zeradatha.

KS: This is ridiculous!

HA: Yeah, I know. Don’t worry. We will just capture a crate full of beetles to show the inspector.

KS: What?

HA: Yeah, we will capture a population of beetles similar in size to the population that is currently on our proposed site, strip off the top soil, dig our clay, then when we are done, we will import fill, landscape the terrain to match the original profile right down to the very blade of grass, then release the crate of beetles.

KS: That is insane! They are cannibals, and there won’t be any left!

HA: There should be one left, we’ll just turn that one loose when we are done. That’s enough of the Environmental Impact Study. We have the first town hall meeting scheduled.

KS: Town hall meeting?

HA: Oh yes, we must give all the neighbors a chance to vent their frustrations at you for building such a monolithic structure next to their property.

KS: They have no say in what I do!

HA: Yeah, that's true, if the fight gets too tough you can declare Eminent Domain after the third meeting.

KS: Eminent Domain?

HA: Yeah, that is the Politically Correct term for "screw you."

KS: So when does construction start?

HA: Well, your building permit must be passed first.

KS: Building permit?

HA: Yeah, we must first make the blueprints, take the soil samples, have the civil engineers design the footings, provide stress/strain calculations for the critical joints, have the structural crew provide shear/stress diagrams on the beams and columns, have the mechanical group design the aqua-ducts and sewer ducts, compile the designs, have the architect render a drawing or model, present the entire documentation to the planning commission with a signed copy of the building permit, and obtain approval before breaking ground.

KS: Planning commission?

HA: Oh! I almost forgot; the bond!

KS: The bond?

HA: Yes the bond.

KS: What is the bond?

HA: The property has that old Socrates edifice must be destroyed.

KS: So.

HA: So you will have to put up a bond to ensure that no damage is done to any public property or utilities when this edifice is leveled.

KS: What? That whole block will be excavated!

HA: Rules are Rules Most Excellent. Oh, and don't forget about the "One Call."

KS: One Call?

HA: Yeah, before the excavation begins, we must call to have the entire site checked for buried aqua-ducts or such.

KS: But nothing is there! I have never heard of this!

HA: Herd is right! The fine will be one hectacomb of cattle if we get caught digging without this permit!

KS: Crazy!

HA: Oh no, what is crazy is after construction starts!

KS: Why is this?

HA: If the crew has more than 15.3 lost time accidents per 100 workers per year it will be an automatic inspection of the site by OSHA.

KS: OSHA?

HA: Yeah, the Occupational Slave Helper Association. If they see any safety violations, they must be corrected immediately AND you will pay a fine.

KS: A fine?

HA: Yeah, you had better stock up on hectacombs of cattle because it won't take much to get a fine.

KS: Like what?

HA: Well, see this bucket?

KS: Yes.

HA: We will need one for every 12 workers for every 40 hours of work.

KS: I don't understand.

HA: Well, when you have a lot of guys working, and the pace is fast, you need to have some buckets for them.

KS: Oh, I see, they will need lots of water to drink.

HA: Well, that's not exactly what I am getting at.

KS: I still don't get it.

HA: They will be drinking lots of water ..... this leads to lots of doing something else .....

KS: I get the picture!

HA: These buckets have to be within 1 furlong from the worker's location. Further away and you'll be saying bye-bye hectacombs if you get the wrong inspector.

KS: I can't believe what I am hearing!

HA: Yeah, and you definitely don't want to have a life endangering violation.

KS: Like standing behind the stones as they are brought up the hill to the site?

HA: No, that would be the DOT, not OSHA, but you may need a few more hectacombs. This bunch likes their fines too.

KS: How is this possible?

HA: Over weight, over width, over height, over length, not enough timbers, not secured with the correct ropes, invalid operators license.

KS: That's not what I mean.

HA: Well, that's just the way it is. Besides, if you violate the rules, someone may turn you in to the Department of Slave Labor, or call in the union, or call the KAO.

KS: The KAO?

HA: The Kingdom Accounting Office.

KS: BUT IT IS MY KINGDOM AND I SHALL DO WHAT I WANT!!!

HA: .....(silence)....., Most Excellent, you just may go down in history as the wisest man!