

Ancient Sumer

The Fertile Crescent





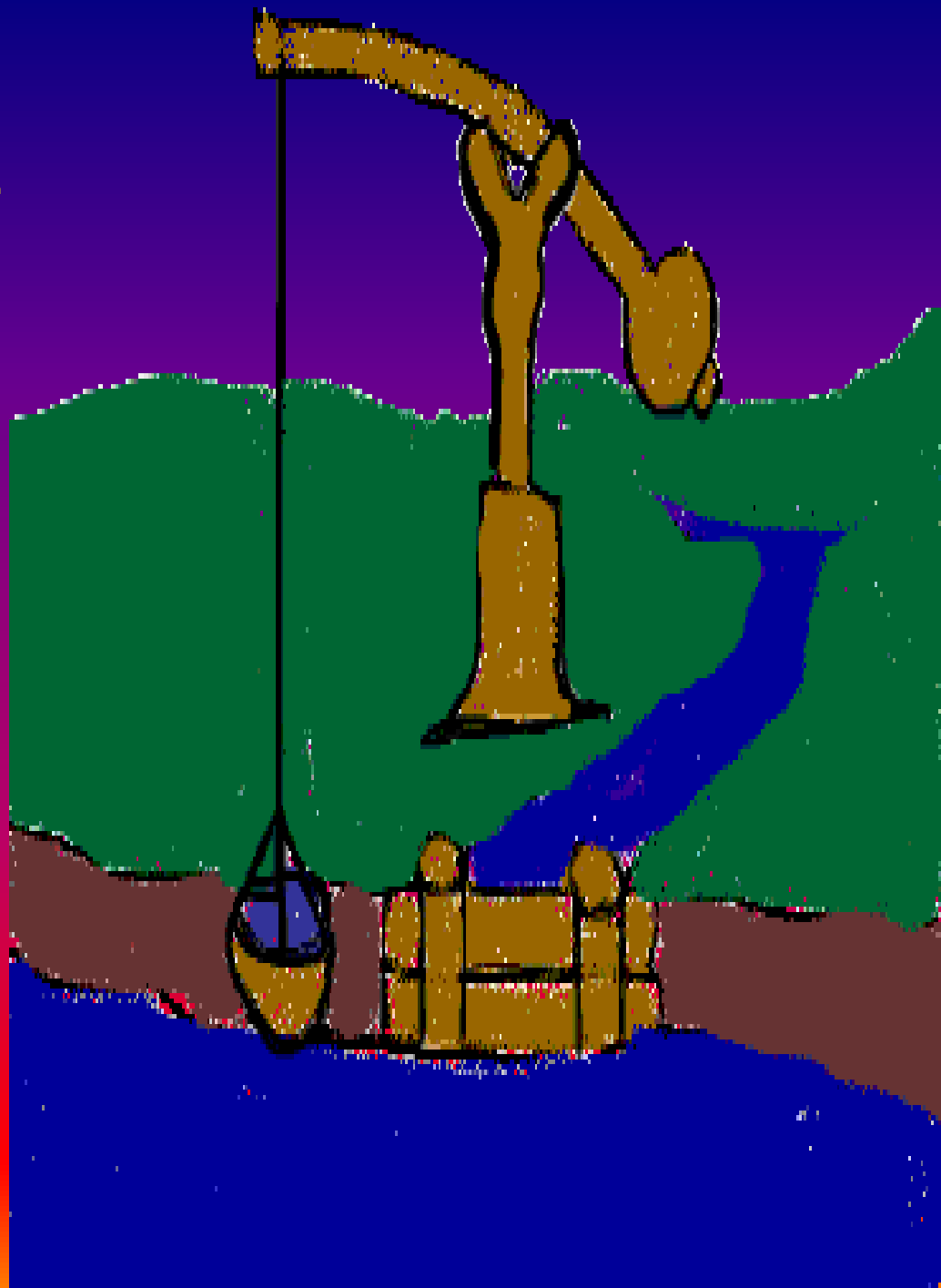
Mesopotamia- “between the rivers”

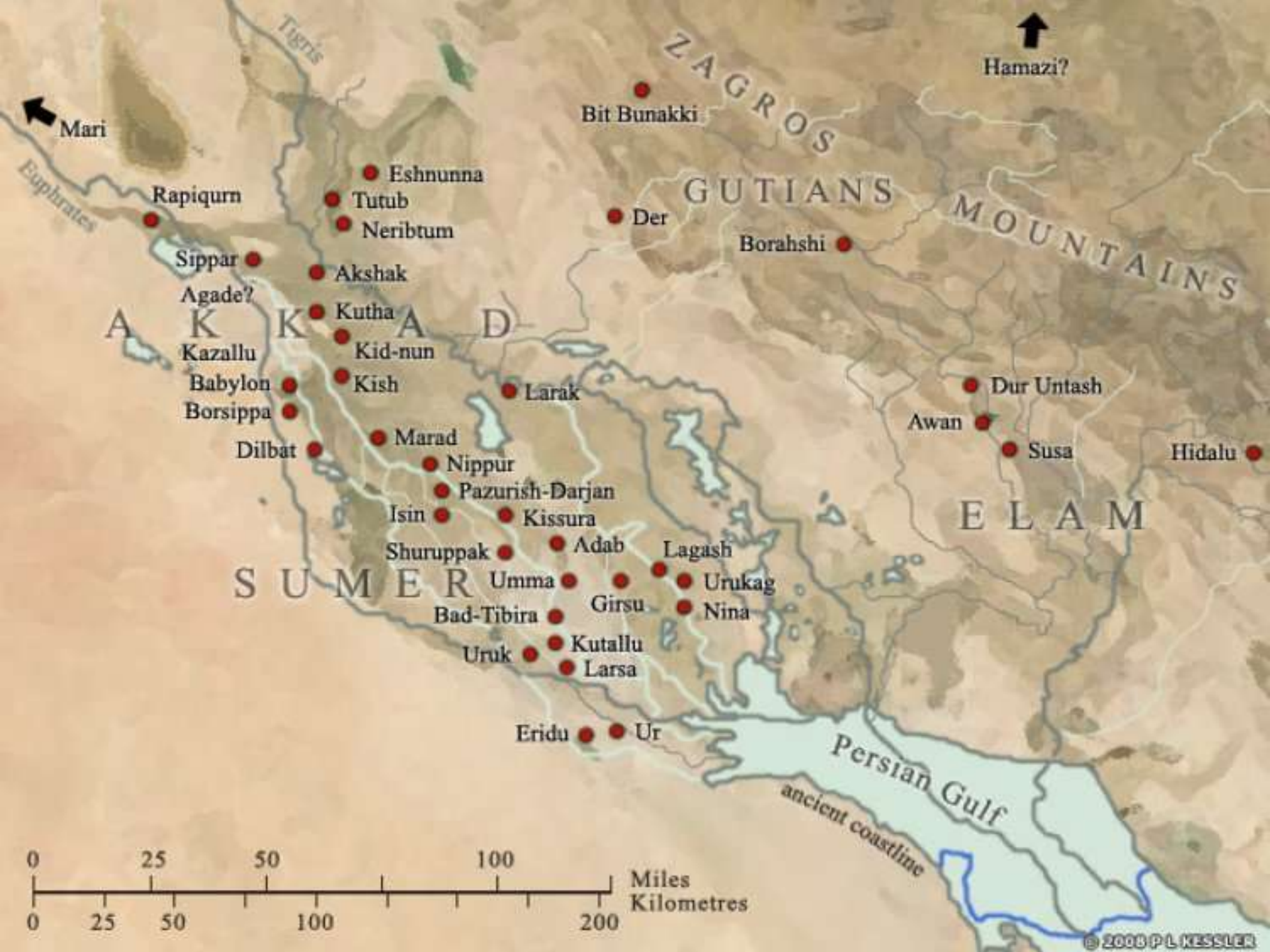
- Many settled between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, also known as the “Fertile Crescent.”



The Sumerians

- The Sumerians took care of the rivers, building dikes, dams, and irrigation systems.





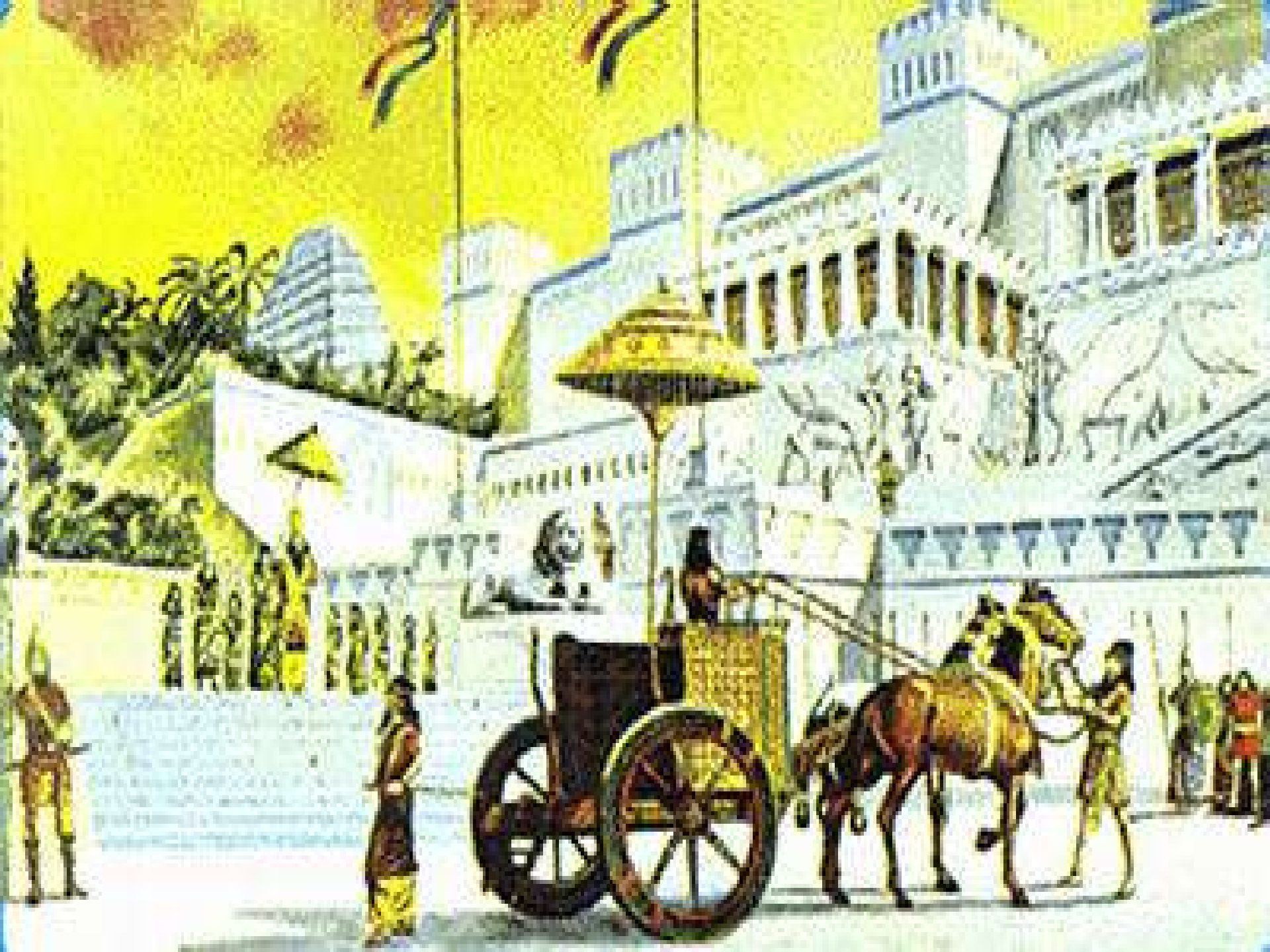
Mari



Sumerian Cities

- **Characteristics:**
 - * Rectangular in shape.
 - * Surrounded by high, wide walls
 - * Broad Streets
 - * Many ziggurats- pyramid-shaped temples that soared to the









Ziggurats

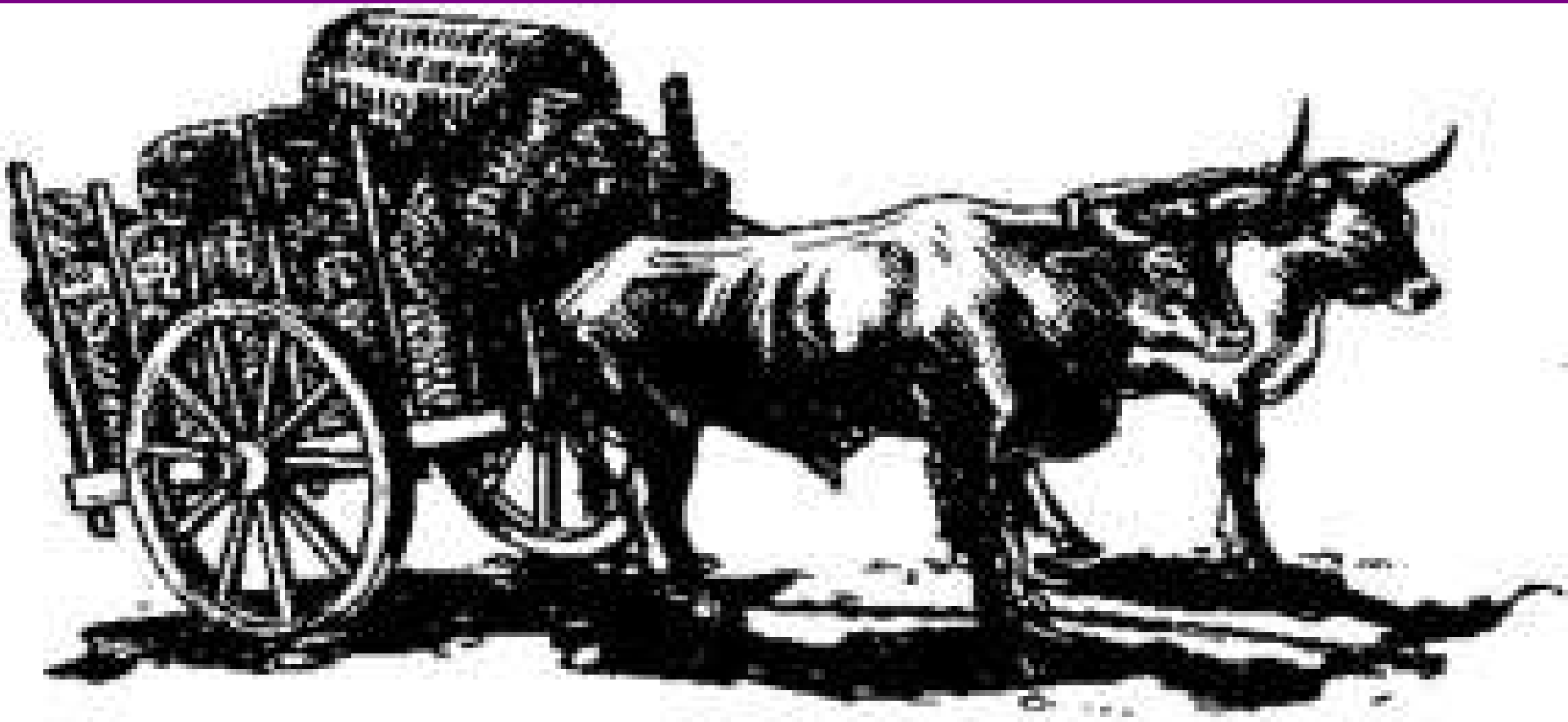


Dangers of the Desert

- Many traders had to deal with the deadly travels of the desert: primarily heat & sandstorms.

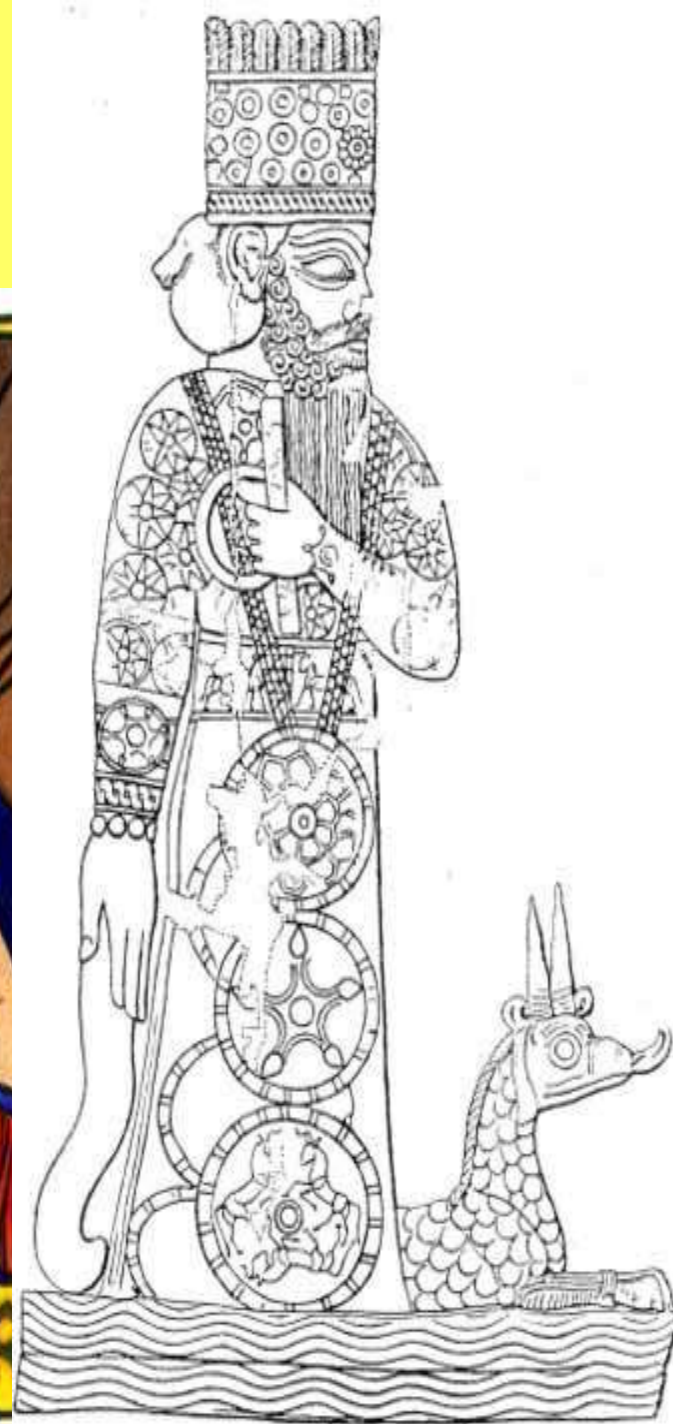
Inventions

- **The Sumerians did develop the first wheeled vehicles.**



Sumerian Religion

- Gods control every aspect of life. They eat, drink, and raise families.
- Responsible for violence and suffering.

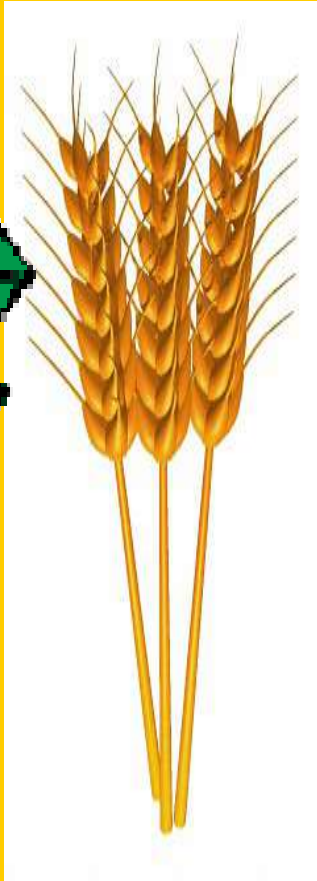


Ceremonial Marriage of the King and Inanna- goddess of love.



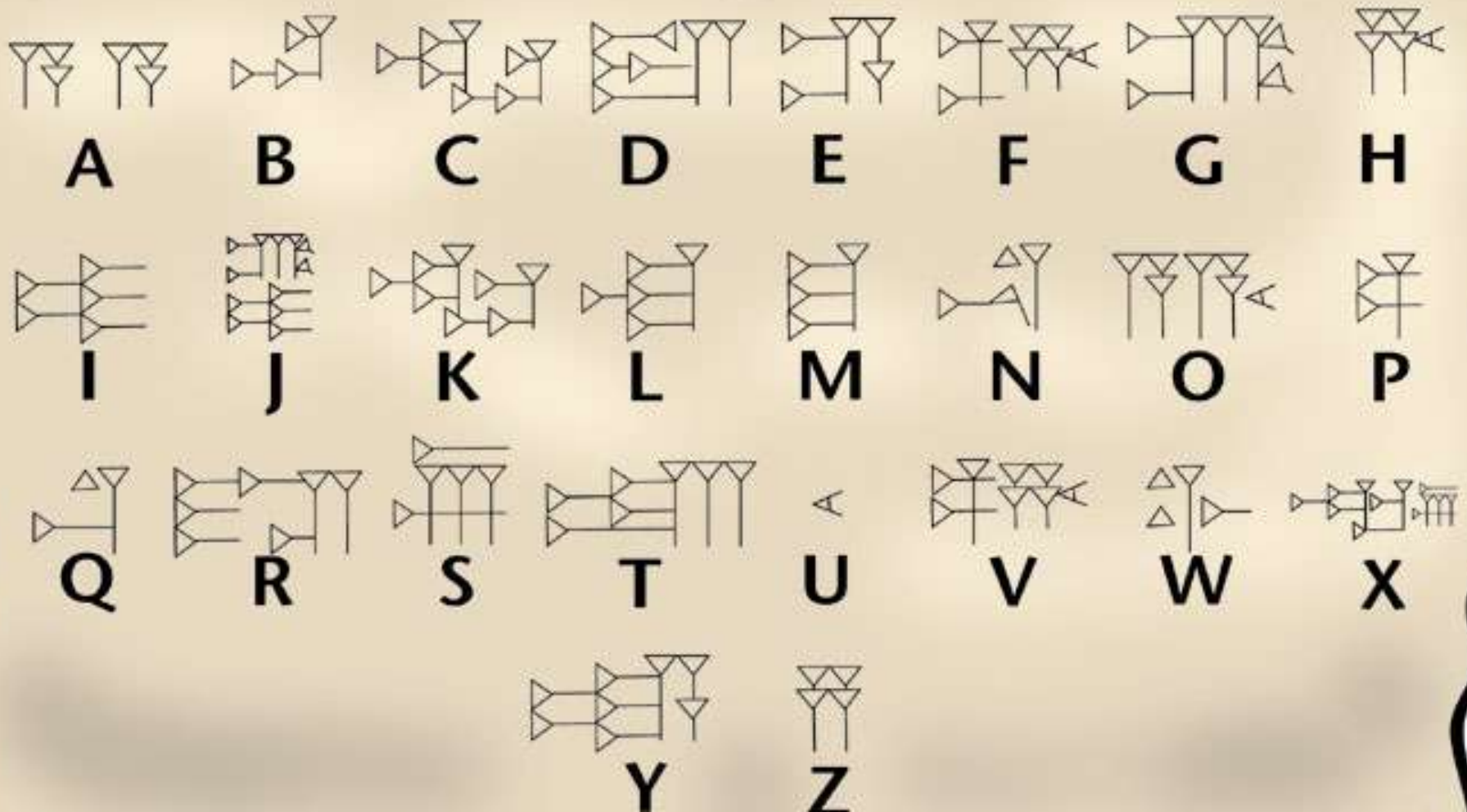
The highest duty was to please the gods.

- Sacrificed animals, wine, grain, and held ceremonies.



Cuneiform:

- The earliest form of writing.



School

- Studied reading, writing, math, geography, medicine, astronomy, and literature.
- Harsh punishments were inflicted on “bad” students. (such as a good caning)

“The Tale of Gilgamesh”

- **Travels the world in search of eternal life.**
- **King of Uruk**
- **Earliest surviving piece of literature (18th century b.c.)**
- **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pGhEu9eInA>**



Gilgamesh was the mighty King of Uruk, a most powerful city-state of Ancient Sumer. He was _____ human and _____ god.

What did the Sky God Anu send to punish Gilgamesh for oppressing his people?

After an initial fight (won by _____), Gilgamesh and Enkidu became friends and travelled together to slay the Demon Humbaba and cut down his trees. After defeating Humbaba, Gilgamesh used the wood from his forest to build a great _____ for Uruk.

How does Enkidu describe the afterlife in his dreams?

After Enkidu's death, Gilgamesh sets out on a quest to win Eternal Life. At the waters of Death, he destroys two stone giants erroneously, learning later that they were the only living beings that could touch the waters. The boatman, Urshanabi, instructs Gilgamesh to make _____ oars in order to make the journey to meet the Ancient One.

After failing the tests of the Ancient One, Gilgamesh returns home to Uruk where he realizes his fate is not to _____, but for his actions and creations in this world to carry his name for eternity.

**That concludes Ancient
Sumer.**

