

NARSAY
"Harp of the Spirit"
See page 3

NINEVEH

*Voice of
The Assyrian Foundation of America*



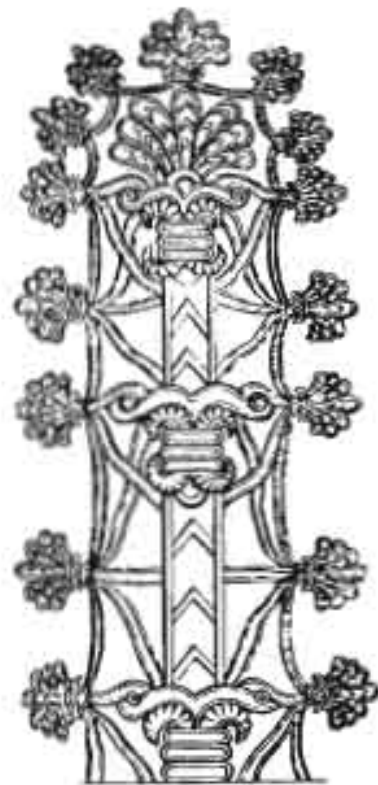
Established 1964

*Dedicated to the
Advancement of Education
of Assyrians*

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1980

VOLUME 3, NO. 1

A religious symbol which undoubtedly comes by unbroken tradition from the ancient east is the Tree of Life. This is found in some of the earliest Sumerian art, and continues throughout Mesopotamian history, being very prominent in the Assyrian friezes of the first millennium B.C. The symbol is represented in oriental rugs, and occurs throughout Christian art from the earliest times, by transmission from ancient Mesopotamia, either through Parthian mediation or through the monks of the colleges of Edessa and Nisibin of the Assyrian Church of the East.



Assyrian sacred tree

CULTURAL—EDUCATIONAL—SOCIAL

NINEVEH

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1980
VOLUME 3 NO. 1

JULIUS N. SHABBAS..... Editor
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POLICY

ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION WILL BE SELECTED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RELATIVE MERIT TO THE ASSYRIAN LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CURRENT EVENTS.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE THOSE OF THE RESPECTIVE AUTHORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF NINEVEH.

ASSYRIAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1964 AND INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AS A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION OF ASSYRIANS.

ADDRESS LETTERS TO

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ONE-EIGHT PAGE	8.00	5.00 ea.

Assyrian Periodicals

We urge our readers to read and support the Assyrian publications. The active participation of all Assyrians is the only guarantee of the success of Assyrian periodicals.

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THE NEXT DECADE

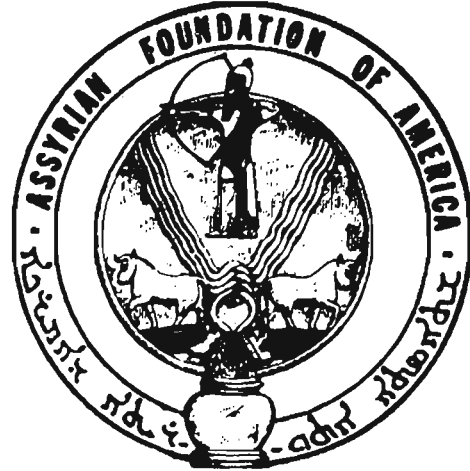
As we enter the new year and a new decade, we should pause and reflect on our past and our future. On August 4, over 15 years ago, was founded the Assyrian Foundation of America to meet the educational and cultural needs of the Assyrian people. Ever since its founding, it has been serving these needs. The unswerving dedication to this principle has been our source of strength and inspiration. The Foundation's achievements are innumerable and self-evident, the degree of its performance and the level of integrity it has maintained throughout has gained the confidence and support of the Assyrians and, as a result, the Foundation has grown considerably over these many years.

Each year has presented a different challenge. We have moved steadily in the fulfillment of our goals. We have made contributions to numerous Assyrian educational and cultural programs as well as extended financial assistance to Assyrians in need.

To keep our identity, heritage and culture alive, during the last decade, we were able to establish a Cultural and Social Center for the Bay Area Assyrians, we have launched a magazine, NINEVEH, and have initiated weekly Assyrian language classes. These have been made possible by the loyalty, dedication and encouragement of our members and supporters.

We reaffirm our commitment and resources to the advancement of the ideals and goals of the Foundation for the coming decade. With God's help, we will continue to move forward with perseverance.

Julius N. Shabbas



DEDICATED TO THE
ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION
OF ASSYRIANS

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

THANK YOU SARGON MICHAEL

ON BEHALF OF THE NINEVEH STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION, WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO MR. SARGON MICHAEL, THE FORMER EDITOR OF NINEVEH, AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR DEDICATION, OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION IN THE PUBLICATION OF NINEVEH MAGAZINE LAST YEAR.

NARSAY "HARP OF THE SPIRIT"

PROLIFIC WRITER, POET AND TEACHER

Narsai, "Kinnara d'Rukha" or "Harp of the Spirit," was born in the year 430 A.D. in the village of Ain Dulbe, in the district of Duhak, near Mosul, in the ancient diocese of Nuhadra. He lived in the days of the Western controversies which gave rise to Ecumenical councils. He graduated from the University of Edessa (Urhai) and taught there for several years. When this Edessene School was closed and destroyed by Roman Emperor Zeno (474-91), the members of the Assyrian Church of the East were expelled from his realm, and segregated themselves in Kurdistan and upper Mesopotamia within the orbit of Persian domination.

Narsai, along with a large number of Assyrian scholars, fled to Nisibis where he was instrumental in establishing the University of Nisibis, a great school of science and learning whose renown spread throughout the world. Students came from all over to attend this University. Under Narsai's leadership considerable advance in various fields of learning was made. He was the head of the University for about 50 years, and died in 507 A.D.

Narsai used his unrivalled writing skill in verse to proclaim the truths of the Word Made Flesh. The chronicler Odisho (Abd-Ishu) ascribes to him 365 metrical poems of seven to twelve syllables each, of which only 25 or 30 have been saved. They encompass a fine historical commentary on the Old and New Testaments, a Book of the Interpretation of the Sacraments, very well known hymns, homilies, sermons and prayers. His poems are marked with great richness of language, beauty of imagery, and profound theological learning. One of his hymns sung every Sunday in the Assyrian (Aramaic) liturgy is "Todi l'Tawa----" Confess to the Good---that is, God. A few of his writings found their way not only into the Assyrian Church of the East but also into the Catholic liturgies. That school became the great Assyrian Church of the East educational center and the nursery of noted patriarchs and prelates of future generations. The Nisibene school was

a sort of coenobium where students, though not always monks, led a quasi-monastic life. Its rule insisted on celibacy and enforced regularity, residence and work. Theology, philosophy and canon law were taught by able church doctors. Labourt states that here the Assyrian Church of the East metropolis saw the birth of the earliest theological university on record, a phenomenon which aroused Justinian's admiration and surprise. Wigram states that since the Assyrian Church of the East graduates of Nisibis University were the teachers of the Arabs, who transmitted the heritage of Greece to the West in the later Middle Ages, it is not difficult to appraise the debt of the great schools of Europe to Nisibis.

Julius N. Shabbas

● How did the "Arabian Nights" originate?

It is generally agreed that the nucleus of the Arabian Nights — "A Thousand and One Night" — had been in existence in about the ninth century, and that throughout the centuries stories were continually being added by wandering storytellers who recited the tales in inns and market place. Finally at some date after 1400 A.D, an unknown author of merit gave it a written form, adding numerous fresh stories.

"The Arabian Nights" was introduced to Europe by Antoine Galland (1646-1715), whose twelve-volume version was published in Paris between 1704 and 1717, and was, from the start, an immediate and colossal success. An English translation of the first six volumes of Galland's edition appeared in 1707, and similar translations appeared in many European countries.

* * * * *

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW SAYS....

THE REASONABLE MAN ADAPTS HIMSELF TO THE WORLD; THE UNREASONABLE ONE PERSISTS IN TRYING TO ADAPT THE WORLD TO HIMSELF. THEREFORE, ALL PROGRESS DEPENDS ON THE UNREASONABLE MAN.

ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST AT ITS HEIGHT THEIR MAGNITUDE OF ACHIEVEMENT AROUND 1000 A.D.

The metropolitan dioceses under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East were at least twenty in number with several bishoprics within each province.

- 1) Patriarchalis, with a metropolitan at Kashkar and bishops at Hirah, Anbar, Karkha, Na'aman, Buazicha, Badaria, Tirhana, Kosra, Ocbara, Wasit, Rada and Naphara
- 2) Jundishapur, with a metropolitan at Jundishapur and bishops at Susa, Ahwaz and Suster
- 3) Nisibis, with a metropolitan at Nisibis and bishops at Bakerda, Balada, Arzun, Gesluna, Mardin, Amida (modern Diyarbekr), Maiperket, Harran and Raqqa
- 4) Teredon, with a metropolitan at Basrah and bishops at Ubullah, Destesana and Nahr-al-Marah
- 5) Mosul, with a metropolitan at Mosul and bishops at Nineveh, Beth-Bagas, Haditha, Dasena, Nuhadra and Urmia
- 6) Adiabene, with a metropolitan at Erbil and bishops at Maalta, Zuabia and Caftoun
- 7) Garamaea, with a metropolitan at Karkh and bishops at Dakuka, and Buazicha - distinctive dioceses from those in the province of Patriarchalis
- 8) Halwan, with a metropolitan at Halwan and a bishop at Hamadan
- 9) Fars, with a metropolitan at Rawardshir and bishops at Shiraz, Shapur and Astachar, and on the islands of Socotra, Catara, Masamig, Drin and Ormuz
- 10) Khurasan, with a metropolitan at Marw or Merv and a bishop at Nishapur
- 11) Atropatene, with a metropolitan at Taurisium and bishops at Maragha and Achlat
- 12) Herat, with a metropolitan at Herat and a bishop for Segestan
- 13) Arran, with a metropolitan at Bardaa
- 14) Rayy, with a metropolitan at Rayy and a bishop at Isfahan
- 15) Dailam, with a metropolitan at Mukar
- 16) India, with intermittent metropolitans at various places
- 17) China, with metropolitans at Sianfu and numerous undefined bishoprics
- 18) Turkestan, with metropolitans at Samarqand and numerous undefined bishoprics
- 19) Damascus, with a metropolitan in Damascus
- 20) Jerusalem, instituted as bishopric in 835 and raised to a metropolitan see in 1065

Assemani's estimate of the thirteenth century puts the metropolitan provinces of the Assyrian Church at twenty-five with an average of eight to ten episcopal sees for each province, thus totalling 200 to 250 Bishoprics. These are figures in which any church could take pride.

MODERN FORM OF THE ANCIENT NAMES

It is by no means unusual for the ancient names of towns and districts to live on in a form that is more or less transparent.

ANCIENT NAME	MODERN FORM
1. Urbillum, Arba-llu, Arbela	Erbil, Arbil
2. Bab-llim, Babili, Babylon	Babil
3. Nippur	Nuffar
4. Ninua	Nineveh
5. Shushim	Susa
6. Ursalimmu	Jerusalem
7. Kolara Mountain	Kullar mountain
Is a range that stretches in a northwest-southeast direction between Dokan and Sulaimaniya.	

AKKADIAN ORIGIN OF NAMES & WORDS

Professor Giovanni Semerano, an Italian classicist and author of several books and publications on early European civilization: traces a number of names and words to their original Akkadian, a few are listed below:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Original</u>		
1. Britain	Biritu	-	land surrounded by water
2. Atlantis, Italy, Aetolia	Atalu	-	sunset twilight. Where the sun sets for the Mesopotamians
3. Keltoi (Greek name for Celtic people)	Killatu	-	community
4. Asia	Asu	-	rising of the sun
5. Europe	Erebu	-	west
6. Africa	Eperu	-	territory
7. Hellas (ancient Greece)	Ellatu	-	group of similar or confederated peoples
8. Ampiles (one of Etruscan's eight months, corresponding to April-May, or when the dry season began.)	Abil	-	dry
9. German	Gerum Gerru	- -	to be hostile, to make war. travelling warlike tribes.
10. Pulumchva (Etruscan word found in an inscription excavated in Rome in 1963)	Pulungu	-	nail, needle, celestial body
11. Rome	Ramu	-	to found, to establish
12. pars, pario (Latin for part)	parsu	-	part
13. nex (Latin for massacre)	neksu	-	massacre

<u>Present</u>	<u>Original</u>
14. nox (Latin for night)	nahu - to repose, rest
15. amar or emar (Greek for day)	Amaru - to see
16. Homer (Greek poet)	zammeru - the singer or chanter
17. kassiteros (Greek word for tin)	Origin in combination of two words: kasitu - mix melt eru - copper
18. Semo (a Roman god)	Samu - heaven
19. Zeus or Zen (old Homer's god who among other things made the earth fecund)	Zenu or Zinu - rain
20. Elysian fields, Elysium - where good dwelt after death	Elsu - happy, blessed
21. Soul - English Seele - German	Salulu - shadow of shade
22. Side - English Seite - German Sito - Italian	Siddu - side

KAHLIL GIBRAN SAYS....

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ARE
LIFE'S FAITHFUL COMPANIONS WHO
WILL NEVER PROVE UNTRUE TO YOU.
FOR KNOWLEDGE IS YOUR CROWN,
AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR STAFF;
AND WHEN THEY ARE WITH YOU,
YOU CAN POSSESS NO GREATER
TREASURES.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Assyrian Foundation wishes to welcome the following to its body of membership:

Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick Ashouri,
Danville
Dr. & Mrs. Yousif Kharaka, Palo Alto
Mr. Victor Khodabakhsh, Milpitas
Ms. Shamiran Rosh, Oakland

ASSYRIAN FOUNDATION FUNCTIONS

Kha B'Neesan Dance Party (Assyrian New Year)	03/22/80
Picnic/John F. Kennedy Memorial Park, El Sobrante	06/22/80
Picnic/Crown Memorial Park, Alameda	08/10/80
Bazaar at the Center	09/20/80
Halloween (Somekka) Dance Party	10/25/80
New Year's Eve Party	12/31/80

ASSYRIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THE SECOND YEAR OF TEACHING ASSYRIAN LANGUAGE. ELEMENTARY CLASSES ARE TAUGHT BY MR. ROBERT KAROUKIAN OF SAN FRANCISCO WITH ADVANCED CLASSES BY THE EDITOR, MR. JULIUS N. SHABBAS OF BERKELEY. THE CLASSES ARE HELD AT OUR CENTER ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 P.M.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. In the ancient times, the Persian Gulf was called Bitter River (nâr marratu).
2. Assyria was the first country to have a Navy. In the 700's B.C., King Sennacherib organized the first fleet to carry armed men.
3. An aspect of Assyrian art which has considerable appeal to modern taste is carving in ivory. Carved ivory, often overlaid with gold.
4. There are two Jewish symbols which can be traced back to the religious art of ancient Mesopotamia. These are the menorah, or ritual lamp, and the magen David, or Shield of David, which occur together on an Old Assyrian seal of the early second millennium B.C.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Sargon David Memorial Fund

Mid 1978, the Assyrian Foundation was the recipient of a \$5,000 donation from Sargon David family. A fund was established in his name, and the interest generated was to be used for educational purposes. The original amount with the interest plowed in and other designated contributions presently remain intact. Gifts, donations, and grants to this Memorial Fund will be welcome.

Mar Shimun Memorial Fund

This memorial was created in memory of the late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, the ex-Patriarch of the Church of the East, the purpose of which is to help perpetuate education within the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East and of the Assyrians. You may direct your contributions to:

Mar Shimun Memorial
P. O. Box 1541
Burlingame, CA 94010

The David B. Perley Memorial
Assyrian Fund

A memorial to the late David B. Perley, an active and devoted member of the Assyrian community, has been created. The monies from this Fund will be used to subsidize the publication of scholarly books or monographs in the English language about the Assyrians since the Seventeenth Century. You may direct your contributions to:

The Center for Middle Eastern
Studies
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

checks payable to:

CMES, Harvard University
for the David B. Perley
Memorial Assyrian Fund

CONTRIBUTIONS

On behalf of the Assyrian Foundation, we wish to extend our gratitude to our members and friends of the Foundation for their generous financial support:

Building Pledges

Mr. Jacob Malek Zadeh	\$500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Julius N. Shabbas	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Saul Daniel	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Sargon Shabbas	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Phrydon Badal	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Voltaire Warda	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Benjamin	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shabbas	50.00
Ms. Mariana Shabbas	30.00

General Contributions

Mr. & Mrs. Sargon Michael (thru United Way)	\$ 13.95
Mr. Antranik Bavoukian (thru United Way)	13.95
United Way	26.87

NINEVEH Magazine

Mrs. Rose B. Dartley	\$ 50.00
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Assyrian Classes

Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Elias	\$100.00
Mrs. Martha E. Joseph	20.00

CONTRIBUTIONS - CONT'D,...

Christmas Appeal

Mr. & Mrs. Julius N. Shabbas	\$ 35.00
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Ms. Mariana Shabbas	15.00

KAHLIL GIBRAN SAYS....

TENDERNESS AND KINDNESS ARE NOT SIGNS
OF WEAKNESS AND DESPAIR, BUT MANI-
FESTATIONS OF STRENGTH AND RESOLUTION.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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Ms. Loodia Mikhael	10.00
Ms. Shamiran Rosh	10.00
Mr. David Warda (for '80, '81 and '82)	45.00
Mr. & Mrs. Sargon Shabbas	20.00
Mr. Victor Khodabksh	15.00
Mr. Gilbert Adam	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shabbas	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Sami Neesan	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Benjamin	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Aprim Yonan	20.00
Ms. Mariana Shabbas	15.00

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO SANKHIRO KHOFRI

The members of the Assyrian Foundation extend their best wishes and prayers to Sankhiro Khofri who is recuperating from his recent illness. Sankhiro is a loyal, hard working, and devoted member of the Foundation.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In the membership meeting of February, Mr. Joseph Benjamin, CPA, a member of the Foundation, gave a talk on the latest changes in the Federal and State tax laws, as well as the importance of Wills. The members found the lecture highly informative. We wish to thank Joseph for his presentation.

BOOKS ABOUT ASSYRIANS

1) ASSYRIAN HERITAGE -- U.S. OR DEATH

A history by Mary Elia.
A book about the Assyrian Culture from Bible days to present. An accounting of events and personal experiences of the Elia family from Iran to the United States. To order, contact:

Mary Elia - Northridge, CA. Phone:
(213) 360-4153 or Mrs. James G. Elia,
10338 Lindley Avenue, Apt. #221,
Northridge, CA 91326.

2) THE GIRL FROM ODDA

A novel by William Mirza about the life of the Assyrians in Urmia.

NOTE: These books will be reviewed in the forthcoming issues of NINEVEH.

THE ASSYRIAN FOUNDATION EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCE TO...

Archdeacon Ninus Michael of San Francisco on the recent loss of his Father, Sheem Michael. "Thou hast created us for Thyself, and our heart cannot be quieted till it may find repose in Thee."

St. Augustine

The DeKelaita family of San Francisco on the recent loss of their Mother, Elishwa DeKelaita. "Thou art thy mother's glass, and she in thee calls back the lovely April of her prime."

Shakespeare

ASSYRIAN RECIPE

HAREESA:

2 pounds Giluli (unshelled wheat)
4 pounds chicken (med. cooked & boned)

Wash and soak giluli in water overnight. Place chicken and giluli in 8 qt. saucepan and cover with water. Cook for 5-6 hours, or until well cooked. Be sure the kernels are covered with water during cooking time (using only boiling water). When cooked (mixture will be quite thick), beat with a wooden spoon.

Serve hot with melted butter. Sprinkle crushed coriander (toli) seed, if desired. (Salt should be added to the Hareesa just before serving).

-- from Betty Elias

Sensational values in new 1980 **ZENITH**

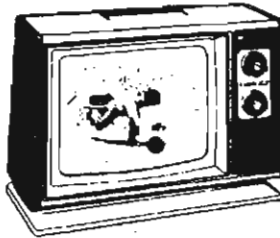
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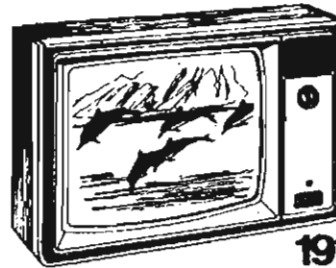
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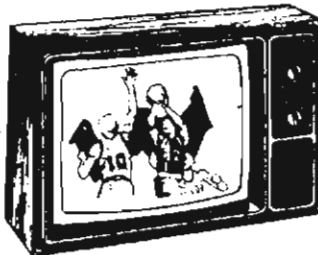
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The **BHMN - K1318C**
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Super Video Range
Tuner. Dark Brown with
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on cabinet top and
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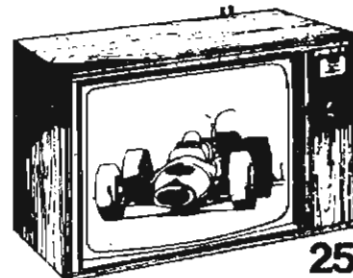
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The **STRAVINSKY - K1924W**
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17"
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Tuner. Simulated grained
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color trim.

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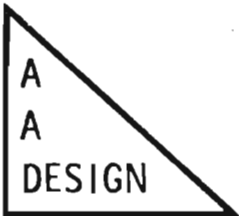
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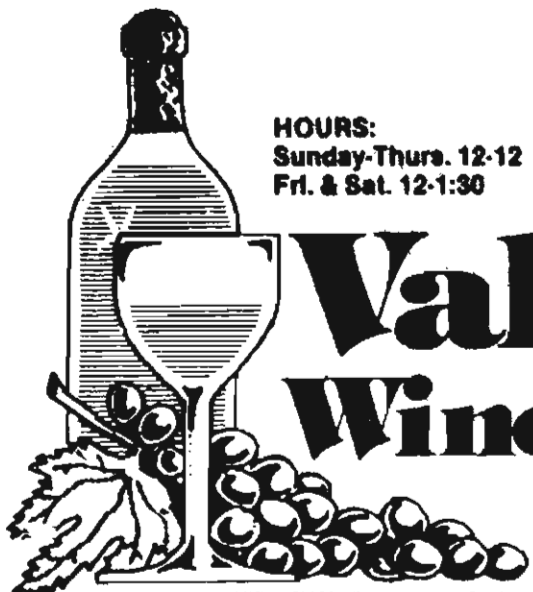
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 دریا کے کنارے بہتا ہے۔ اس کا پانی شہر کے لیے بہت ہی مفید ہے۔
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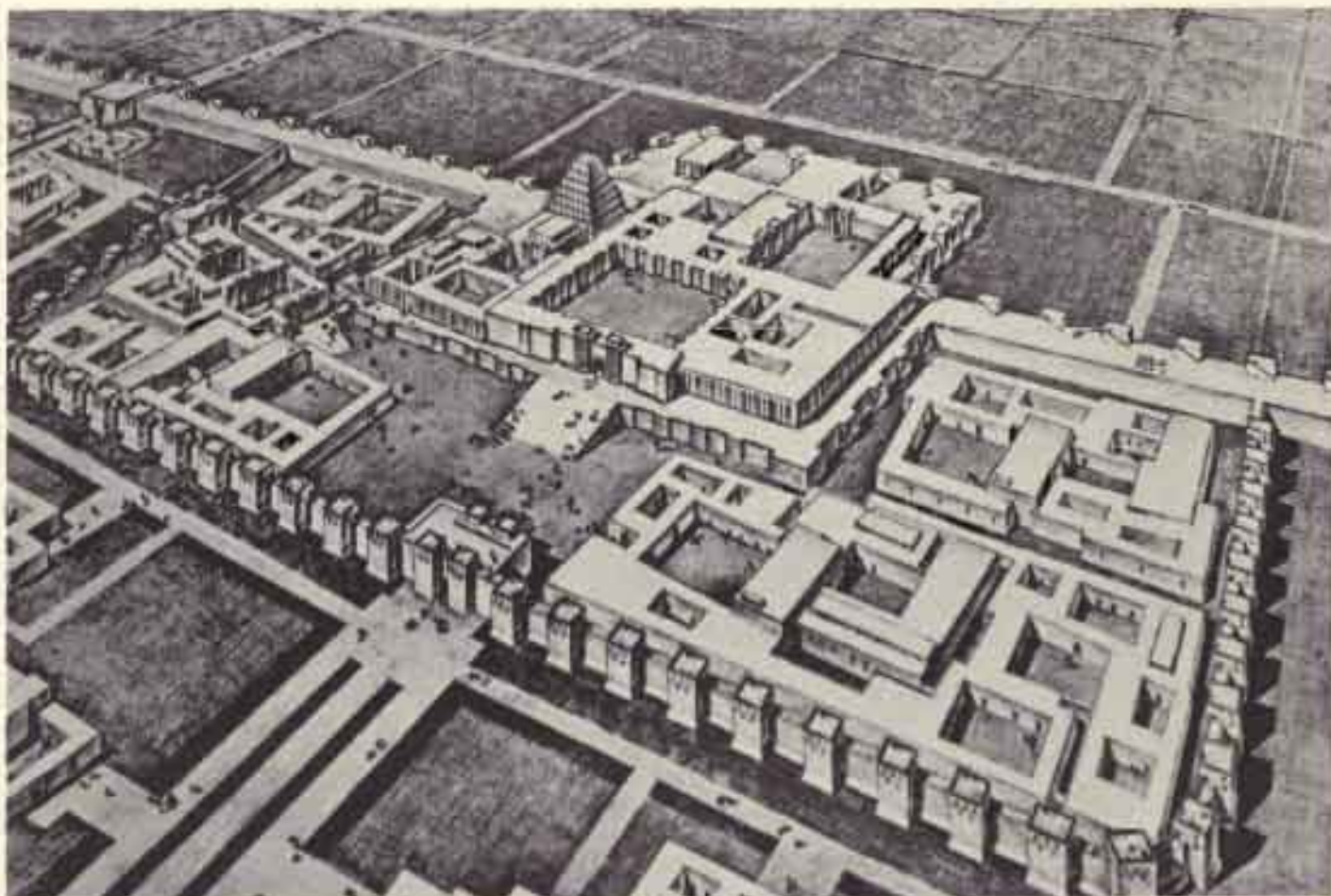
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Dur Sharrukin (Khorsabad) Bird's-eye view of Sargon's Palace (8th Century B.C.)