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### Now Boarding All Flights to Ancient Mesopotamia

*If a man has taken money from a merchant and has given a plantation of figs to the merchant, and has said to him, 'The figs that are in my plantation take for thy money,' that merchant shall not agree. The figs that are in the plantation the owner of the plantation shall take, and he shall answer to the merchant for the money and its interests according to the tenor of his bond. ~Lost Section X of Hammurabi's Code*

It is both ironic, and pathetic, that nearly 4000 years later we still have the same problem with today's airline industry. Whether it is because of extreme weather, power blackouts, or poor management, flights are being cancelled in record numbers. So what happens to all the decent, hard-working metaphorical merchants who paid outrageous sums for their tickets? The big bad plantation-owning airline execs try to buy them off with frequent flyer miles, one-way vouchers to nowhere, and complimentary bags of salt-free peanuts. All this despite numerous federal laws requiring airlines to seat passengers on requested flights with all due speed or provide them with just compensation.

Wake up and smell the peanuts! Airline travelers don't want their debts paid back in worthless pennies now, anymore than merchant creditors wanted to barter figs four millennia ago. In the words of one would-be flyer who got bumped off a flight, "Listen b\*\*\*\*, I don't give a s\*\*\* about your frequent flyer miles! You can take your salt-free peanuts and shove 'em up your a\*\*! Either put me on a godd\*\*\* plane, or give me my mother f\*\*\*ing money back!" Needless to say, that flyer never made it to his destination; he is instead the proud owner of airport valet parking. Now, more than ever before, we need to return to traditional Hammurabi-style justice; when airline execs would be made to atone for their sins with blood and ticket holders could rub salt in their wounds.