

Chelm Copyright Code (CCC)

By Philip *Fishl* Kutner

News of the long lost code was spread across all of the many international networks. It was in bold print in all of the headlines and in all of the major newspaper. Television commentators spoke of it for days upon days.

This long lost paper was found in a time capsule deep in the chalk caves under Chelm. Along with it was a clear explanation of the code and why this location was chosen. The finders were the lead members of a Yiddish-speaking, spelunking club from Yenemsville, U.S.A.

Thus read the accompanying document, "We the higherarchy of this first ever Sanhedrin can see far, far into the future. We see a world of foolishness:

- where man will turn against man
- where man will become very selfish.
- where families will be disrupted
- where mothers or fathers will leave their children
- where a few will amass great wealth
- where there will be no concern for the masses
- where man will fight against man
- where disease will be rampant
- where nations will die of starvation
- where people will not obey His Commandments.

So we have created the Chelm Copyright Code."

"We declare that God has given the Commandments, and he did not copyright them. Who gave man or woman the right to say that his or word is more important than God's word? Therefore we decree the Chelm Copyright Code that states, "NO PERSON SHALL HAVE THE SOLE RIGHTS TO ANY STORY, PLAY, POEM, SONG OR ARTICLE."

The International Yiddish Community decided that this was too important a matter to be handled lightly. In fact the matter was immediately brought before the United Nations General Assembly. All other debate ceased. Even the Security Council placed this priority above Iran's nuclear arms race, the North Korean problem, the Palestinian issue and world terrorism.

The decision was reached that The Code must have great thought, discussion and debate. It was too important a matter for just a few representatives at the U.N. What was needed was to have regional symposia and a representative from each of the symposia would come to Chelm and give a report. Then the wisest judges of Chelm's sages would render a decision.

Each country has its own copyright code. In fact we even have the © symbol to denote that a book, story, article, etc. has been copyrighted. Even this rule of international law is not always followed. Rogue nations have turned an eye in cases of mass production of musical CDs, videos and cassettes.

Well, after many years of thought, discussion and debate, representatives came to Chelm, and at the tribunal each representative presented the findings of his/her regional symposium. It soon became apparent that there were two camps with opposite philosophies.

The Do-Good, God-Fearers felt that if that's the way God wanted it, it was good enough for them—all copyrights should be removed without any Grandfather Clause included.

The Evil, Rogues felt that authors, publishers lyricists, as well as printers would not create or publish new material, for it would affect their ability to amass wealth.

What first appeared as an insurmountable obstacle, proved no match for these tribunal judges who were the Sages of Chelm. It is common knowledge in Chelm that these pious men *daven* in he morning as well as the afternoon and evening.

It is during this time that creativity occurs. Since no man is permitted to speak about mundane matters during prayer, the wives soon learned that it was the best time to make requests and to give opinions. Since no man ever responded during prayers, the wives assumed that the husband consented to the request. Rarely did he shake his head from to and fro as his body *shukled* up and down.

It was in the household of the Chief Sage of Chelm that a resolution to this international dilemma was first promulgated. It was Kluge Ketsese, the wife of Chief Sage of Chelm who spoke the words that were the basis for the resolution confronting the nations of the world. Here is what she said, "Why not give each side exactly what they want?"

This bit of brilliant wisdom caught the Chief Sage of Chelm off-guard and he stopped shukling and smiled at Kluge Ketsese. How could it be otherwise? She filled in the game plan after the prayers were completed. "Let's charge twice as much for each item. Half will go as in the past and the other half will go to the needy, and it will be a mitsve.' So ended the problem of the Chelm Copyright Code.