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Fun for all of the family with enough logic for a basic education.

BAZI PANDIT (Play Thinker)

RULES - READ CAREFULLY: The winner is the one who first maneuvers three of the pawns into a straight line. Do not use the diagonal as a winning line, that is, from one corner diagonally to the opposite corner. Players alternate placing pawns one at a time on the spaces and continue moving or jumping a pawn to any vacant spot until they maneuver three into a straight line. (By "jumping" you do not capture your opponent's pawn, but merely move to a more desirable vacant place you wish to use.) A player may remove one of his pawns from the game as a move and replace it on any spot that is vacant as a move, but this is dangerous. Your move is complete when pawn is released.

HISTORY OF THE GAME: While a G.I. laying out a hangar on the Persian Gulf in 1944, I sat down in the shade for a "break." Soon two friends, small Arab boys. Abbas and Hosein, sat down in such a position as to keep a watchful eye over their milch goats and started playing a game. I watched and soon Hosein scooted back and I was invited to play with Abbas, a rugged opponent. I decided that if a graduate engineer had to do a lot of thinking for an apparently simple game, it was worth passing on to you. You learn to be cautious, to think, to maneuver, to watch yourself as well as your opponent's actions. In this brotherhood-of-man manner I learned So-We-Chut-Ah or Bazi Damena (copr., 1951) I found that other soldiers knew the game and, later, other nations with older civilizations were familiar with it. I call it the Hindustani BAZI PANDIT, which means "Play Thinker," because of its aptness.

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The building on the opposite side is that of Daniel's tomb. Nearby is Queen Ester's palace at Shush, Iran. Both are revered by Christians, Jews. and Moslems alike. I use it as a symbol of the Golden Rule, the most universal rule the G.I. found for all people. The dots simulate star rubies or star sapphires, gems which from within themselves produce a beautiful star of light much like you when you smile.

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