

T H E R I G H T F I T F O R S U R E



R I C H A R D H O W A R D

This menage of three white jerboas
the family Dipodidae
happens just now to be grooming their often
attended tails which they seem to know must be
licked clean now and then, a procedure
that requires bringing the tail (a longish
jerboa appendage) across back and
shoulders (*i.e.* not touching the ground)
in order to be licked clean
when they are eventually placed
on a shadowless shelf (up two flights of stairs)
in a seldom visited wing of the Louvre
where rare Egyptian pets and toys are
toyed and petted by votaries of
all ages, as they were by admirers of
13th- to 15th-Century Dynasties
of southeastern Egypt). It appears
however that in our own moment
there may be a lapse in the common practice:
families beg off sometimes, and in this case
a generally shimmering dad
finds himself at a loss to relay
a like effulgence to a less showy son.
Of course he assumes that even a hoodlum
can be checked by a succession of
grandiose postures which nonetheless
that son ignores, as does the boy's *real* mentor,
i.e. his mom, who merely makes that series

of matronly gestures which by some
matronly discipline enables
an intuitive young fellow to fulfill
the classical family instance whereby
the House of Jerboa – quiescent
but consistent – tends to its campaign;
for some thirteen dynasties, identical
or nicely similar Jerboas carried on
(not *out* but *on*) their consistent task,
in Egypt mostly, though we've surely
heard of what appear to be creatures quite like
ourselves lixiviating their flesh, for which
what exercise and especially
what *name* for such exercise might we
select? In this case, we should turn with relief
to the silent but clearly self-willed master
of those white-tailed Jerboa creatures
who, without a doubt, would be our man!