
(EXCERPTS FROM)

HAMMURABI'S CODE OF LAW

2. If any one bring an accusation against a man, the accused go to the river and leap in, if he sink in the river his accuser shall take possession of his house. But if he escape unhurt, then he who brought the accusation shall be put to death, while he who leaped into the river shall take the house of his accuser.
3. If any one bring an accusation of a serious crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged, he shall, be put to death.
5. If a judge reaches a decision in a case; if later error shall appear in his decision, and it be through his own fault, then he shall pay twelve times the fine set by him in the case, and shall be publicly removed from the judge's bench.
6. If any one steal the property of a temple or of the court, he shall be put to death, and one who receives the stolen thing from him shall be put to death.
8. If any one steal cattle or sheep, or an ass, or a pig or a goat belonged to a free man he shall pay tenfold; if the thief has nothing with which to pay he shall be put to death.
10. If any one lose an article, and find it in the possession of another (who cannot prove that he purchased the item), he shall be put to death and the owner receives the lost article.
14. If any one steal the minor son of another, he shall be put to death.
15. If any one take a male or female slave outside the city gates, he shall be put to death.
16. If any one receive into his house a runaway male or female slave, the master of the house shall be put to death.
21. If any one break a hole into a house (breaks in), he shall be put to death.
22. If any one is committing a robbery and is caught, he shall be put to death.
23. If the robber is not caught, then shall he who was robbed claim under oath the amount of his loss and the community shall compensate him for the goods.
25. If fire break out in a house, and some one who comes to put it out take the property of the master of the house, he shall be thrown into that self-same fire.
27. If a chieftain or man be caught in the misfortune of the king (captured in battle) and his fields and garden given to another, if he return, his field and garden shall be returned.
42. If any one take over a field to till it, and did no work on the field, he must deliver grain to the owner of the field.
48. If any one owe a debt for a loan, and the harvest fail, or the grain does not grow for lack of water; in that year he need not give his creditor any grain.
53. If any one be too lazy to keep his dam in proper condition, and if the dam break and neighbors fields be flooded, then he in whose dam the break occurred be sold for money to replace the corn which he caused to be ruined.
56. If any one open his ditches to let in the water to his crop, and the water overflow the plantation of his neighbor, he shall pay ten gur of corn for every ten gan of land.

{The text for laws 66 through 99 was missing from the stela.}

102. If a merchant entrust money to an agent (broker) for some investment, and the broker suffer a loss, he shall make good the capital to the merchant.
108. If a tavern-keeper (feminine) does not accept corn in payment of drink, but takes more money than the value of corn, she shall be thrown into the water.
109. If conspirators meet in the house of a tavern-keeper, and these conspirators are not delivered to the court, the tavern-keeper shall be put to death.
117. If any one fail to meet a claim for debt, and sell himself, his wife, his son, and daughter for money or give them to forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them, and the fourth year be free.
120. If any one store corn for safe keeping in another person's house, and any harm happen to the corn in storage, the owner of the house shall pay for the corn.
121. If any one store corn in another man's house he shall pay him storage at the rate of one gur for every five ka of corn per year.
125. If any one place his property with another for safe keeping, and through thieves or robbers, his property be lost, the owner of the house, through whose neglect the loss took place, shall compensate the owner for all that was given to him in charge.
127. If any one "point the finger" (accuses wrongdoing) at a sister of a god or the wife of any one, and not prove it, his brow shall be marked (by cutting the skin).
133. If a man is taken prisoner in war, and his wife leave house and court, and go to another house, she shall be judicially condemned and thrown into the water.
136. If any one leave his house, run away, and then his wife go to another house, if then he wishes to take his wife back, the wife of this runaway shall not return to her husband.
137. If a man wish to separate from a woman who has borne him children, he shall give that wife a part of the property, so that she can rear her children.
141. If a man's wife, who lives in his house, wishes to leave it: if her husband offer her release, she may go on her way, and he gives her nothing. If her husband does not wish to release her, she shall remain as servant in her husband's house.
145. If a man take a wife, and he intend to take another wife, this second wife shall not be equal to his wife.
148. If a man take a wife, and she be seized by disease, he shall not put away his wife, but shall keep her in the house and support her so long as she lives.
168. If a man wish to put his son out of his house, if the son be guilty of no great fault, for which he can be rightfully put out, the father shall not put him out.
175. If a State slave or the slave of a freed man marry the daughter of a free man, and children are born, the master of the slave shall have no right to enslave the children.
185. If a man adopt a child and name him as son, and rear him, this grown son can not be demanded back again.

186. If a man adopt a son, and if after he has taken him he injure his foster father and mother, then this adopted son shall return to his father's house.
195. If a son strike his father, his hands shall be hewn off.
196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
197. If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.
200. If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.
202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.
205. If the slave of a freed man strike the body of a freed man, his ear shall be cut off.
206. If during a quarrel one man strike another and wound him, he shall pay the physicians.
209. If a man strike a free-born woman so that she lose her unborn child, he shall pay ten shekels for her loss.
210. If the woman die, his daughter shall be put to death.
215. If a physician make a large incision with an operating knife and cure it, or if he open an eye tumor and saves the eye, he shall receive ten shekels in money.
217. If he be the slave of some one, his owner shall give the physician two shekels.
218. If a physician make a large incision with the operating knife, and kill him, or open a tumor with the operating knife, and cut out the eye, his hands shall be cut off.
219. If a physician make a large incision in the slave of a freed man, and kill him, he shall replace the slave with another slave.
225. If a veterinary surgeon perform a serious operation on an ass or ox, and kill it, he shall pay the owner one-fourth of its value.
226. If a barber, without the knowledge of his master, cut on a slave not to be sold, the hands of this barber shall be cut off.
227. If any one deceive a barber, and have him mark a slave not for sale, he shall be put to death, and buried in his house.
229. If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
230. If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.
242. If any one hire oxen for a year, he shall pay four gur of corn for plow-oxen.
243. As rent of herd cattle he shall pay three gur of corn to the owner.
252. If a man's ox kill a slave, he shall pay one-third of a mina to the owner.
257. If any one hire a field laborer, he shall pay him eight gur of corn per year.
268. If any one hire an ox for threshing, the amount of the hire is twenty ka of corn.
275. If any one hire a ferryboat, he shall pay three gerahs in money per day.
282. If a slave say to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him his master shall cut off his ear.

DECODING HAMMURABI'S CODE

What are some aspects of Babylonian life that were governed by Hammurabi's laws?

What are some of the specific crimes mentioned in Hammurabi's Code of Laws?

What are some of the specific punishments mentioned in the Code?

In what ways did Hammurabi's Code protect the rights of Babylonian citizens?

In what ways did Hammurabi's laws address the differences in social classes in Babylonian society?

Which of the laws do you think were the **MOST** fair and reasonable? Explain.

Which laws do you think were the **MOST** unfair and unreasonable? Explain.
