

code of king hammurabi of babylon

****The Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon: A Cornerstone of Ancient Law****

code of king hammurabi of babylon stands as one of the most remarkable legal documents from the ancient world, offering a unique window into the social, economic, and judicial life of Mesopotamia around 1754 BCE. This ancient set of laws, etched onto a basalt stele, is often hailed as one of the earliest and most comprehensive codes of law, influencing legal systems for centuries to come. Exploring the intricacies of Hammurabi's code not only sheds light on Babylonian society but also helps us appreciate the evolution of justice and governance.

Understanding the Origins of the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon

King Hammurabi ruled Babylon, one of the most powerful city-states in Mesopotamia, during the 18th century BCE. His reign was marked by military conquests, political consolidation, and significant cultural achievements. The code itself was developed as a way to unify the diverse peoples and customs within his expanding empire. Instead of relying solely on oral traditions or localized customs, Hammurabi sought to create a clear, written set of laws to govern his subjects fairly and consistently.

The stele bearing the code was discovered in the early 20th century in the ancient city of Susa (modern-day Iran), where it had been taken as war booty centuries earlier. Today, it resides in the Louvre Museum in Paris, attracting historians, legal scholars, and tourists alike.

The Structure and Content of Hammurabi's Code

Unlike modern legal systems, the code of king hammurabi of babylon is not a systematic legal textbook but rather a collection of 282 laws covering a wide range of subjects. These laws are written in Akkadian, the lingua franca of the time, and are structured mostly as "if-then" statements, making them clear and practical.

Categories of Laws in the Code

The code addresses various aspects of daily life, including:

- **Family Law:** Regulations regarding marriage, divorce, inheritance, and the rights of children.
- **Property Rights:** Laws about land ownership, theft, and property damage.

- **Trade and Commerce:** Rules governing business transactions, loans, and contracts.
- **Labor and Employment:** Standards for wages, working conditions, and responsibilities of workers.
- **Criminal Justice:** Punishments for theft, assault, and other offenses, often employing the principle of lex talionis (“an eye for an eye”).
- **Public Order:** Laws concerning false accusations, bribery, and maintaining social order.

This wide-ranging legislation aimed to regulate social behavior and maintain harmony within the diverse and growing Babylonian state.

Notable Laws and Their Significance

Several laws within Hammurabi’s code stand out for their clarity and directness. For example, one law states that if a builder constructs a house that collapses and causes the death of the owner, the builder shall be put to death. This reflects the gravity of responsibility and accountability in ancient Babylonian society.

Another famous example is the “eye for an eye” principle, which, while often misunderstood as harsh, was actually a step toward proportional justice. It sought to limit excessive punishment and prevent cycles of revenge, promoting fairness in retribution.

Why the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon Matters Today

The significance of the code extends beyond its historical context. It represents one of the earliest attempts to create a written legal system that applies equally to all classes, though with some distinctions. For instance, penalties often varied depending on the social status of the victim or perpetrator, highlighting the structured hierarchy of Babylonian society.

The Code’s Influence on Later Legal Systems

Many legal scholars consider the code of king hammurabi of babylon to be a foundational text for understanding the development of law. Its influence can be traced through subsequent legal traditions in the ancient Near East and beyond. The idea of codifying laws in writing inspired later cultures, including the Israelites, Greeks, and Romans, who developed their own legal codes based on similar principles.

Moreover, the code’s emphasis on justice, accountability, and social order continues to resonate with modern legal philosophies. It teaches us about the importance of clear laws

and the rule of law in maintaining societal stability.

Insights into Babylonian Society and Governance

Beyond laws, the code provides valuable insights into the values and priorities of Babylonian civilization. The detailed regulations on commerce, family, and labor highlight the complexity of their economy and daily life. The code's preamble, which praises Hammurabi as a just ruler chosen by the gods to bring law and order, illustrates the intertwining of religion and governance.

Decoding the Social and Economic Context of the Code

The code of king hammurabi of babylon reflects a society deeply concerned with social hierarchy and economic relations. The penalties and protections afforded to different social classes—such as nobles, commoners, and slaves—reveal the stratified nature of Babylonian life.

Class Distinctions and Legal Rights

While the code aimed at fairness, it also institutionalized inequality. For example, injuring a nobleman often resulted in harsher punishments than injuring a commoner or slave. This legal differentiation underscores the privileged position of the elite but also shows an early form of social contract where rights and duties varied by status.

Economic Regulations and Trade Practices

Hammurabi's code includes laws regulating interest rates on loans, commercial disputes, and the responsibilities of merchants. This indicates a sophisticated commercial environment where trade, credit, and contracts were vital to the economy. The code helped establish trust and predictability in business dealings, which are essential components of any thriving economy.

Interpreting the Code's Legacy in Modern Times

When we look at the code of king hammurabi of babylon today, it's tempting to view it as primitive or overly harsh compared to modern standards. However, it's important to appreciate it within its historical context—as a groundbreaking effort to create a society governed by written laws rather than arbitrary rule.

The code reminds us that the quest for justice and order is a timeless human endeavor. It also encourages us to consider how laws reflect the values and realities of their societies. Whether it's dealing with family disputes, property rights, or criminal behavior, Hammurabi's laws aimed to balance individual rights with collective responsibilities.

Lessons for Legal Systems and Governance

Modern legal systems can draw inspiration from the code's clear articulation of laws and consequences. Transparency and accessibility of laws remain crucial for justice. Furthermore, the code's attempt to scale punishments according to the severity of offenses and the parties involved offers an early model of proportional justice that continues to influence legal thought.

The code of king hammurabi of babylon is more than an ancient artifact; it's a testament to humanity's early efforts to create order, justice, and fairness in society. Its enduring legacy challenges us to think about the role of law in shaping civilizations and protecting the rights of individuals across time and cultures.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon?

The Code of King Hammurabi is one of the oldest and most comprehensive written legal codes, created by King Hammurabi of Babylon around 1754 BCE. It consists of 282 laws covering various aspects of daily life and justice.

Why is the Code of Hammurabi significant in history?

The Code of Hammurabi is significant because it represents one of the earliest examples of a ruler publicly enacting a set of laws to govern a society, influencing subsequent legal systems with its principles of justice and retribution.

What types of laws are included in the Code of Hammurabi?

The code includes laws related to family matters, property rights, trade, labor, personal injury, and criminal justice, often emphasizing retributive justice, such as 'an eye for an eye'.

How was the Code of Hammurabi presented to the public?

The laws were inscribed on a large stone stele in cuneiform script and placed in a public

location for all to see, demonstrating transparency and the ruler's commitment to justice.

What is the principle of 'lex talionis' in the Code of Hammurabi?

'Lex talionis' refers to the law of retaliation, where punishments mirror the offense, such as 'an eye for an eye,' which is a central concept in the Code of Hammurabi.

How did the Code of Hammurabi impact Babylonian society?

The code helped establish order and fairness by providing clear rules and punishments, reducing arbitrary decisions and conflicts within Babylonian society.

Are there different punishments for the same crime in the Code of Hammurabi?

Yes, punishments often varied depending on the social status of the offender and the victim, reflecting the hierarchical nature of Babylonian society.

Where was the stele containing the Code of Hammurabi discovered?

The stele was discovered in 1901 at the ancient city of Susa, in modern-day Iran, by French archaeologists.

What language is the Code of Hammurabi written in?

The code is written in Akkadian language using cuneiform script, which was widely used in Mesopotamia at the time.

How does the Code of Hammurabi influence modern law?

The Code of Hammurabi laid foundational ideas about codified laws, justice, and government responsibility that influenced later legal systems and the development of modern law.

Additional Resources

Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon: An Analytical Review of Ancient Legal Legacy

code of king hammurabi of babylon stands as one of the most significant legal documents in human history, offering invaluable insight into the societal structures, governance, and judicial principles of ancient Mesopotamia. Enacted around 1754 BCE during the reign of Hammurabi, the sixth king of Babylon, this code is often heralded as the

earliest comprehensive set of laws to regulate public and private life. Its enduring influence extends beyond its historical context, shaping the very foundations of legal systems and justice administration in subsequent civilizations.

Historical Context and Origins

The code of king hammurabi of babylon emerges from the Old Babylonian period, a time when the city-state of Babylon was consolidating power over Mesopotamia's fragmented territories. Hammurabi ascended to the throne with ambitions not only to expand his kingdom but also to establish a centralized authority that could regulate economic transactions, social relations, and criminal behavior. The codification of laws was a strategic move to unify diverse populations under a common legal framework.

Carved onto a 7-foot basalt stele, the code consists of 282 laws inscribed in the Akkadian language using cuneiform script. This physical monument was publicly displayed, signaling the king's commitment to transparency and justice. The prologue and epilogue of the stele emphasize Hammurabi's divine right to rule and his responsibility to protect the weak, reflecting the intertwining of religion and governance prevalent in Babylonian culture.

Structural Composition and Legal Features

The code of king hammurabi of babylon is meticulously organized, covering a broad spectrum of legal areas—from family law and property rights to trade regulations and criminal offenses. Its structure is both prescriptive and punitive, often specifying exact penalties for transgressions, which reveals the early legal principle of *lex talionis* or the law of retaliation.

Categories of Laws

- **Family and Inheritance Laws:** These laws address marriage contracts, divorce proceedings, paternity, and inheritance rights, highlighting the patriarchal nature of Babylonian society but also ensuring property transmission rules.
- **Property and Trade Regulations:** Rules governing land ownership, commercial transactions, loans, and debts reflect Babylon's burgeoning economy and the need for legal clarity in business.
- **Labor and Slavery:** The code stipulates wages, working conditions, and the treatment of slaves, indicating social stratification and class divisions.
- **Criminal Law:** This section includes offenses such as theft, assault, and murder, prescribing penalties ranging from fines and corporal punishment to death sentences.

Principles and Punishments

Central to the code is the principle of proportional justice. For example, the famous “eye for an eye” rule illustrates a system where punishments mirror the nature of the offense. However, this principle was applied unevenly across social classes, with different penalties for commoners, nobles, and slaves, exposing inherent social hierarchies within the legal framework.

The code also introduced the concept of presumption of innocence and the right to present evidence, which were groundbreaking for the era. Judges were tasked with impartiality, and false accusations could lead to severe repercussions, ensuring a degree of fairness in legal proceedings.

Comparative Significance and Legacy

The code of king hammurabi of babylon predates many other codified legal systems, such as Roman law and the Mosaic Law, positioning it as a pioneer in the codification tradition. Unlike earlier oral customs, Hammurabi’s laws were documented and standardized, which contributed to consistency in enforcement across his empire.

Comparison with Other Ancient Codes

- **Ur-Nammu Code:** Older but less comprehensive, focusing mainly on civil law.
- **Mosaic Law:** Religious and moral codes intertwined with legal statutes, influencing Judeo-Christian traditions.
- **Roman Law:** Developed centuries later, it incorporated civil and criminal law but built extensively on earlier precedents like Hammurabi’s code.

The Babylonian code’s emphasis on written laws made it a model for legal transparency and the rule of law. Its influence is evident in the way subsequent civilizations approached legislation and governance, often adopting similar methods of public proclamation and codification.

Critical Perspectives and Modern Relevance

While the code of king hammurabi of babylon is celebrated for its pioneering role, modern scholars critically assess its limitations. The legal system it established was inherently unequal, with punishments varying significantly based on social status and gender. Women, slaves, and lower-class individuals were subject to harsher treatment and fewer

protections, reflecting the patriarchal and hierarchical nature of Babylonian society.

Moreover, the code's rigid application of retributive justice contrasts with contemporary legal systems that emphasize rehabilitation and restorative justice. Nonetheless, its insistence on codified laws and public accessibility remains a foundational concept for modern jurisprudence.

Key Takeaways for Contemporary Legal Studies

- **Codification:** Establishing written laws accessible to the public is crucial for legal clarity and fairness.
- **Legal Equality:** The code highlights the pitfalls of stratified justice systems, informing current debates on equality before the law.
- **Judicial Responsibility:** The role of judges in ensuring impartiality and upholding legal standards is an enduring principle.

The code of king hammurabi of babylon thus serves both as a historical artifact and a lens through which to examine the evolution of legal thought. Its detailed prescriptions reveal a society striving for order amid complexity, grappling with the balance between authority and justice.

In tracing the trajectory from Hammurabi's stele to contemporary legal frameworks, one observes the timeless challenge of creating laws that are just, equitable, and effective—a challenge that continues to shape societies worldwide.

Code Of King Hammurabi Of Babylon

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi (Illustrated) Hammurabi, 2021-01-08 The Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian code of law of ancient Mesopotamia, developed during reigning Hammurabi from c. 1792 BC to c. 1750 BC (according to the Middle Chronology) of the 1st dynasty of Babylon. It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world. These 282 case laws include economic provisions (prices, tariffs, trade, and commerce), family law (marriage and divorce), as well as criminal law (assault, theft) and civil law (slavery, debt). Penalties varied according to the status of the offenders and the circumstances of the offenses. One of the best known laws from Hammurabi's code was "eye for an eye" law: §196. If a man has caused the loss of a gentleman's eye, his eye one shall cause to be lost.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Oldest Code of Laws in the World Hammurabi (King of Babylonia.), 1911

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi Hammurabi, Leonard William King, 2014-09-01 The Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian law code of ancient Mesopotamia, dating back to about 1772 BC. It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world. The sixth Babylonian king, Hammurabi, enacted the code, and partial

copies exist on a human-sized stone stele and various clay tablets. The Code consists of 282 laws, with scaled punishments, adjusting an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth (*lex talionis*) as graded depending on social status, of slave versus free man. Nearly one-half of the Code deals with matters of contract, establishing, for example, the wages to be paid to an ox driver or a surgeon. Other provisions set the terms of a transaction, establishing the liability of a builder for a house that collapses, for example, or property that is damaged while left in the care of another. A third of the code addresses issues concerning household and family relationships such as inheritance, divorce, paternity and sexual behavior. Only one provision appears to impose obligations on an official; this provision establishes that a judge who reaches an incorrect decision is to be fined and removed from the bench permanently. A handful of provisions address issues related to military service. One nearly complete example of the Code survives today, on a diorite stele in the shape of a huge index finger, 2.25-metre (7.4 ft) tall (see images at right). The Code is inscribed in the Akkadian language, using cuneiform script carved into the stele. It is currently on display in The Louvre, with exact replicas in the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the library of the Theological University of the Reformed Churches (Dutch: Theologische Universiteit Kampen voor de Gereformeerde Kerken) in The Netherlands, the Pergamon Museum of Berlin and the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. Hammurabi ruled for nearly 44 years, c. 1792 to 1750 BC according to the Middle chronology. In the preface to the law, he states, Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted prince, who feared Marduk, the patron god of Babylon (The Human Record, Andrea & Overfield 2005), to bring about the rule in the land. On the stone slab there are 44 columns and 28 paragraphs that contained 282 laws. The stele was probably erected at Sippar, city of the sun god Shamash, god of justice, who is depicted handing authority to the king in the image at the top of the stele. In 1901, Egyptologist Gustave Jéquier, a member of an expedition headed by Jacques de Morgan, found the stele containing the Code of Hammurabi in what is now Iran (ancient Susa, Elam), where it had been taken as plunder by the Elamite king Shutruk-Nahhunte in the 12th century BC. The Code of Hammurabi was one of several sets of laws in the ancient Near East. The code of laws was arranged in orderly groups, so that everyone who read the laws would know what was required of them. Earlier collections of laws include the Code of Ur-Nammu, king of Ur (c. 2050 BC), the Laws of Eshnunna (c. 1930 BC) and the codex of Lipit-Ishtar of Isin (c. 1870 BC), while later ones include the Hittite laws, the Assyrian laws, and Mosaic Law. These codes come from similar cultures in a relatively small geographical area, and they have passages which resemble each other. The Code of Hammurabi is the longest surviving text from the Old Babylonian period. The code has been seen as an early example of a fundamental law regulating a government — i.e., a primitive constitution. The code is also one of the earliest examples of the idea of presumption of innocence, and it also suggests that both the accused and accuser have the opportunity to provide evidence.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: *Codex Hammurabi* Hammurabi, 2021-04-10 The 'Codex Hammurabi' stands as one of the earliest and most significant legal documents in human history, dating back to around 1754 BCE. Written in cuneiform script on a basalt stele, this collection of laws encompasses a wide range of social, economic, and family matters, reflecting the intricate fabric of Babylonian society. Its literary style is characterized by a concise yet rhythmic form, embodying both prescriptive legal codes and ethical principles. Contextually, the Codex emerges from a time when centralized governance began to implement codified laws to maintain order and justice, showcasing early attempts at legal reform and administration that would influence future legal systems worldwide. Hammurabi, the sixth king of the First Babylonian Dynasty, is known for his diplomatic and military prowess as well as his commitment to societal welfare. His historical context—characterized by political consolidation and cultural flourishing—provided him a platform to enact laws aimed at justice and community stability. His personal insights and leadership aspirations shaped the content of the Codex, ensuring it spoke to both commoners and the elite. This foundational text is essential for anyone interested in legal history, social justice, or the development of civilizations. The 'Codex Hammurabi' not only reveals the legal framework of ancient Babylon but also invites readers to reflect on the enduring principles of law and morality that resonate through

time. In this enriched edition, we have carefully created added value for your reading experience: - A succinct Introduction situates the work's timeless appeal and themes. - The Synopsis outlines the central plot, highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists. - A detailed Historical Context immerses you in the era's events and influences that shaped the writing. - An Author Biography reveals milestones in the author's life, illuminating the personal insights behind the text. - A thorough Analysis dissects symbols, motifs, and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings. - Reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work's messages, connecting them to modern life. - Hand-picked Memorable Quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance. - Interactive footnotes clarify unusual references, historical allusions, and archaic phrases for an effortless, more informed read.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi King Hammurabi, 2018-04-07 The Code of Hammurabi is one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes of law. This is volume 2 in the series of 150 volumes entitled The Trail to Liberty. It was written in 1754 B.C. by The Babylonian King Hammurabi. King Hammurabi's Code was carved onto a massive, finger-shaped black stone stele (pillar) that was looted by invaders and finally rediscovered in 1901. The code is inscribed in the Akkadian language, using cuneiform script carved into the stele. It is considered one of the first documents that codified or formed a foundation of what would become known as civil and criminal law, especially in the West. The following is a partial list (20 of 150) of books in this series on the development of constitutional law. The Code of Hammurabi was a Mesopotamian legal code that laid a foundation for later Hebraic and European law. 1. Laws of the town Eshnunna (ca. 1800 BC), the laws of King Lipit-Ishtar of Isin (ca. 1930 BC), and Old Babylonian copies (ca. 1900-1700 BC) of the Ur-Nammu law code 2. Code of Hammurabi (1760 BCE) - Early Mesopotamian legal code laid basis for later Hebraic and European law. 3. Ancient Greek and Latin Library - Selected works on ancient history, customs and laws. 4. The Civil Law, tr. & ed. Samuel Parsons Scott (1932) - Includes the classics of ancient Roman law: the Law of the Twelve Tables (450 BCE), the Institutes of Gaius (180), the Rules of Ulpian (222), the Opinions of Paulus (224), the Corpus Juris Civilis of Justinian (533), which codified Roman Law, and the Constitutions of Leo. 5. Constitution of Medina (Dustur al-Madinah), Mohammed (622) - Not so much a constitution as a treaty which united Muslims, Jews, Christians and pagans, in the city-state of Medina, that exhibits some principles of constitutional design. 6. Policraticus, John of Salisbury (1159), various translations - Argued that citizens have the right to depose and kill tyrannical rulers. 7. Constitutions of Clarendon (1164) - Established rights of laymen and the church in England. 8. Assize of Clarendon (1166) - Defined rights and duties of courts and people in criminal cases. 9. Assize of Arms (1181) - Defined rights and duties of people and militias. 10. Magna Carta (1215) - Established the principle that no one, not even the king or a lawmaker, is above the law. 11. Britton, (written 1290, printed 1530) - Abridged, updated, more readable, and more widely used codification based on Bracton, originally in the French of the English court, reflecting changes in the law, including changes in juries. 12. Confirmatio Cartarum (1297) - United Magna Carta to the common law by declaring that the Magna Carta could be pled in court. 13. The Declaration of Arbroath (1320) - Scotland's declaration of independence from England. 14. The Prince, Niccolò Machiavelli (1513) - Practical advice on governance and statecraft, with thoughts on the kinds of problems any government must be able to solve to endure. 15. Utopia, Thomas More (1516) - Satirical analysis of shortcomings of his society and a vision of what could be. 16. Discourses on Livy, Niccolò Machiavelli (1517 tr. Henry Neville 1675) - Argues for the ideal form of government being a republic based on popular consent, defended by militia. 17. Relectiones, Franciscus de Victoria (lect. 1532, first pub. 1557) - Includes De Indis and De iure belli, arguing for humane treatment of native Americans and of enemies in war. Provided the basis for the law of nations doctrine. 18. Discourse on Voluntary Servitude, Étienne De La Boétie (1548, tr.) - People are ultimately responsible for their servitude, and non-violent resistance can win their freedom. 19. De Republica Anglorum, Thomas Smith (1565, 1583) - describes the constitution of England under Elizabeth I, that indicates tendencies toward republican ideals. 20. Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos (Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants), Junius Brutus (Orig. Fr.

1581, Eng. tr. 1622, 1689).

code of king hammurabi of babylon: *The Oldest Code of Laws in the World* Rey de Babilonia Hammurabi, 2017-08-28

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi Hammurabi, 2019-12-03 The Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian law code of ancient Mesopotamia, dating back to about 1754 BC. It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world. The sixth Babylonian king, Hammurabi, enacted the code, and partial copies exist on a man-sized stone stele and various clay tablets. The Code consists of 282 laws, with scaled punishments, adjusting an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth (lex talionis) as graded depending on social status, of slave versus free man. Nearly one-half of the Code deals with matters of contract, establishing, for example, the wages to be paid to an ox driver or a surgeon. Other provisions set the terms of a transaction, establishing the liability of a builder for a house that collapses, for example, or property that is damaged while left in the care of another. A third of the code addresses issues concerning household and family relationships such as inheritance, divorce, paternity, and sexual behavior. Only one provision appears to impose obligations on an official; this provision establishes that a judge who reaches an incorrect decision is to be fined and removed from the bench permanently. A few provisions address issues related to military service. Hammurabi ruled for nearly 42 years, c. 1792 to 1750 BC according to the Middle chronology. In the preface to the law, he states, Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted prince, who feared Marduk, the patron god of Babylon (The Human Record, Andrea & Overfield 2005), to bring about the rule in the land. On the stone slab there are 44 columns and 28 paragraphs that contained 282 laws. The laws follow along the rules of 'an eye for an eye'.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi Illustrated Hammurabi Hammurabi, 2020-08-06 one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes and was proclaimed by the Babylonian king Hammurabi, who reigned from 1792 to 1750 B.C. Hammurabi expanded the city-state of Babylon along the Euphrates River to unite all of southern Mesopotamia. The Hammurabi code of laws, a collection of 282 rules, established standards for commercial interactions and set fines and punishments to meet the requirements of justice. Hammurabi's Code was carved onto a massive, finger-shaped black stone stele (pillar) that was looted by invaders and finally rediscovered in 1901.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: **The Code of Hammurabi** Robert Francis Harper, 2007-11-01 The intention of Ancient Texts and Translations (ATT) is to make available a variety of ancient documents and document collections to a broad range of readers. The series will include reprints of long out-of- print volumes, revisions of earlier editions, and completely new volumes. The understanding of ancient societies depends upon our close reading of the documents, however fragmentary, that have survived. --K. C. Hanson Series Editor

code of king hammurabi of babylon: **The Code of Hammurabi, King of Babylon, about 2250 B.C.** Hammurabi (King of Babylonia.), Robert Francis Harper, 1904

code of king hammurabi of babylon: *The Code of Hammurabi* Hammurabi King of Babylon, 2015-04-20 The Code of Hammurabi - Hammurabi, King of Babylon - The Oldest Code of Laws in the World - Translated by L.W. King - The Oldest Code of Laws in the World. The Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian law code of ancient Mesopotamia, dating back to about 1754 BC. It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world. The sixth Babylonian king, Hammurabi, enacted the code, and partial copies exist on a human-sized stone stele and various clay tablets. The Code consists of 282 laws, with scaled punishments, adjusting an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth (lex talionis) as graded depending on social status, of slave versus free man. Nearly one-half of the Code deals with matters of contract, establishing, for example, the wages to be paid to an ox driver or a surgeon. Other provisions set the terms of a transaction, establishing the liability of a builder for a house that collapses, for example, or property that is damaged while left in the care of another. A third of the code addresses issues concerning household and family relationships such as inheritance, divorce, paternity and sexual behavior. Only one provision appears to impose

obligations on an official; this provision establishes that a judge who reaches an incorrect decision is to be fined and removed from the bench permanently. A handful of provisions address issues related to military service. The code was discovered by modern archaeologists in 1901, and its editio princeps translation published in 1902 by Jean-Vincent Scheil. This nearly complete example of the Code is carved into a diorite stele in the shape of a huge index finger, 2.25-metre (7.4 ft) tall (see images at right). The Code is inscribed in the Akkadian language, using cuneiform script carved into the stele. It is currently on display in the Louvre, with exact replicas in the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the library of the Theological University of the Reformed Churches (Dutch: Theologische Universiteit Kampen voor de Gereformeerde Kerken) in The Netherlands, the Pergamon Museum of Berlin and the National Museum of Iran in Tehran.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi Leonard William King, 2016-07-23 The Code Of Hammurabi is the earliest known written set of laws ever discovered. They were written on an eight foot tall piece of black basalt and were found in ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq). The code contains details of crimes and their punishments as well as settlements for disputes and guidelines on how a civilian should behave.

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Oldest Code of Laws in the World Hammurabi (King of Babylonia.), 1905

code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi, King of Babylon, About 2250 B.C. Robert Francis 1864-1914 Harper, King Of Babylonia Hammurabi, 2021-09-09 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

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code of king hammurabi of babylon: The Code of Hammurabi Hammurabi, 2015-09-03 The Code of Hammurabi Translated by L. W. King With commentary from Charles F. Horne, Ph.D. (1915) Code of Laws of Babylon Hammurabi was the ruler who chiefly established the greatness of Babylon, the world's first metropolis. Many relics of Hammurabi's reign ([1795-1750 BC]) have been preserved, and today we can study this remarkable King, as a wise law-giver in his celebrated code. . By far the most remarkable of the Hammurabi records is his code of laws, the earliest-known example of a ruler proclaiming publicly to his people an entire body of laws, arranged in orderly groups, so that all men might read and know what was required of them. The code was carved upon a black stone monument, eight feet high, and clearly intended to be reared in public view. This noted stone was found in the year 1901, not in Babylon, but in a city of the Persian mountains, to which some later conqueror must have carried it in triumph. It begins and ends with addresses to the gods. Even a law code was in those days regarded as a subject for prayer, though the prayers here are chiefly cursings of whoever shall neglect or destroy the law. LAWS of justice which Hammurabi, the wise king, established. A righteous law, and pious statute did he teach the land. Hammurabi, the protecting king am I. I have not withdrawn myself from the men, whom Bel gave to me, the rule over whom Marduk gave to me, I was not negligent, but I made them a peaceful abiding-place. I expounded all great difficulties, I made the light shine upon them. With the mighty weapons which Zamama and Ishtar entrusted to me, with the keen vision with which Ea endowed me, with the wisdom that Marduk gave me, I have uprooted the enemy above and below (in north and south), subdued the earth, brought prosperity to the land, guaranteed security to the inhabitants in their homes; a disturber was not permitted. The great gods have called me, I am the salvation-bearing

shepherd, whose staff is straight, the good shadow that is spread over my city; on my breast I cherish the inhabitants of the land of Sumer and Akkad; in my shelter I have let them repose in peace; in my deep wisdom have I enclosed them. That the strong might not injure the weak, in order to protect the widows and orphans, I have in Babylon the city where Anu and Bel raise high their head, in E-Sagil, the Temple, whose foundations stand firm as heaven and earth, in order to bespeak justice in the land, to settle all disputes, and heal all injuries, set up these my precious words, written upon my memorial stone, before the image of me, as king of righteousness.

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