

Hammurabi's Code (excerpted)

1. If a man accuse a man and charge him with murder, but cannot convict him, the accuser shall be put to death.
3. If a man, in a case before the court, offer testimony concerning deeds of violence, and does not establish the testimony he has given, if it is a case involving life, that man shall be put to death.
14. If a man steal a man's son, who is a minor, that man shall be put to death.
16. If a man harbor in his house a runaway slave (either from the palace or from a common man), and does not bring the slave forth at the order of the commandant, the owner of the house shall be put to death.
17. If a man catches a runaway slave in the country and brings him back to his owner, the owner shall pay the man two sheckels of silver.
18. If a man breaks into a house, he shall be put to death in front of that house, and buried there.
22. If a man practices banditry and is captured, he shall be put to death.
23. If the bandit is not captured, then the man who suffered the loss must make his case before the god of the city and the governor shall compensate him for whatever was lost.
24. If there was loss of life, the governor shall pay one mana of silver to his heirs.
42. If a man rents a field for cultivation and does not produce any food because he has not done the necessary work, he shall give to the owner a share of grain based on the production of adjacent fields.
55. If a man opens a canal for irrigation and neglects it, and lets the water damage a nearby field, he shall compensate by paying for the grain that was lost.
100. If an agent makes a profit where he went, he must write down all interest he made, and make a count of his days, and must pay expenses to all merchants with whom he did business.
101. If he made no money where he went, the agent shall pay double expenses to the merchant.
103. If an agent on a journey is robbed, the agent must take an oath before god, and he may go free.
108. If a barmaid won't take grain in payment for a drink, or if she makes the amount of drink too small for the payment of grain, she may be prosecuted, and if guilty, she will be thrown into the river.
109. If outlaws plan a conspiracy in a wine-seller's place, and she does not report them to the authorities or arrest them on the spot, she will be put to death.
110. If a priestess or nun opens a wine-selling shop, or enters one for a drink, she shall be burned.
129. If the wife of a man is caught lying with another man, they shall bind the two and throw them into the water. If the husband of the woman wishes to spare her life, the king shall spare her life.

131. If a man accuses his wife of adultery, but she has not been caught lying with another man, she can take an oath before god, and return to her home in peace.
137. If a man puts away a concubine or a wife who has borne him children, he must return the woman's dowry and give her part of a field, garden, and goods, so she can raise the children. When her children are grown up, they inherit according to the laws, and the woman may marry another man.
138. If a man puts away a wife who has not borne him children, he must return her dowry, and then she must go.
142. If a woman hates her husband and says, "You shall not have me," they will investigate to see if she is of any fault. If she is without fault but her husband has been going out and greatly belittling her, then the woman has no blame. She shall take her dowry and go to her father's house.
143. But if the woman has sinned, belittling her husband, she shall be thrown into the river.
145. If a man takes a wife, but she does not bear him any children, he may take a concubine. The concubine does not take precedence over the wife.
153. If a wife brings about the death of her husband because of her affair with another man, that woman shall be impaled.
162. If a man marries a woman who bears him children, but she dies, the man may not have her dowry. It belongs to the children.
195. If a man strikes his father, they shall cut off his hand.
196. If a man destroys the eye of another man, they shall destroy his eye.
197. If he breaks a man's bone, they shall break his bone.
198. If a noble man destroys the eye or breaks the bone of a common man, he shall pay one mana of silver.
199. If a man breaks the bone or destroys the eye of a slave, he shall pay one-half the slave-price.
200. If a man knocks out the tooth of a man his own rank, they shall knock out his own tooth.
201. If a noble man knocks out the tooth of a common man, he shall pay one-third mana of silver.
202. If a man strikes a man who is his superior, he shall receive sixty strokes with an oxtail whip in public.
215. If a physician performs surgery and saves a man's life, he shall receive ten sheckels of silver.
216. If a physician performs surgery and causes a man's death, they shall cut off his hand.
229. If a builder makes a house and does not make it firm, and the house collapses and causes the death of the owner of that house, the builder will be put to death.
230. If it causes the death of a child in that house, they shall kill the builder's child.
231. If it causes the death of a slave in that house, the builder will give his slave to the owner of the house.
282. If a slave says to his master "You are not my master," the master must prove that he is master. He may then cut off that slave's ear.

