

Hammurabi's Code



Infer:

**-to make an informed guess
based on evidence and prior
knowledge.**

Central Historical Question:

What can we infer
about Babylonia
by analyzing
Hammurabi's Code?



Background Of

Hammurabi

Background of Hammurabi

Hammurabi: Man of War

- Built a new capital city within the city of **Babylon**.



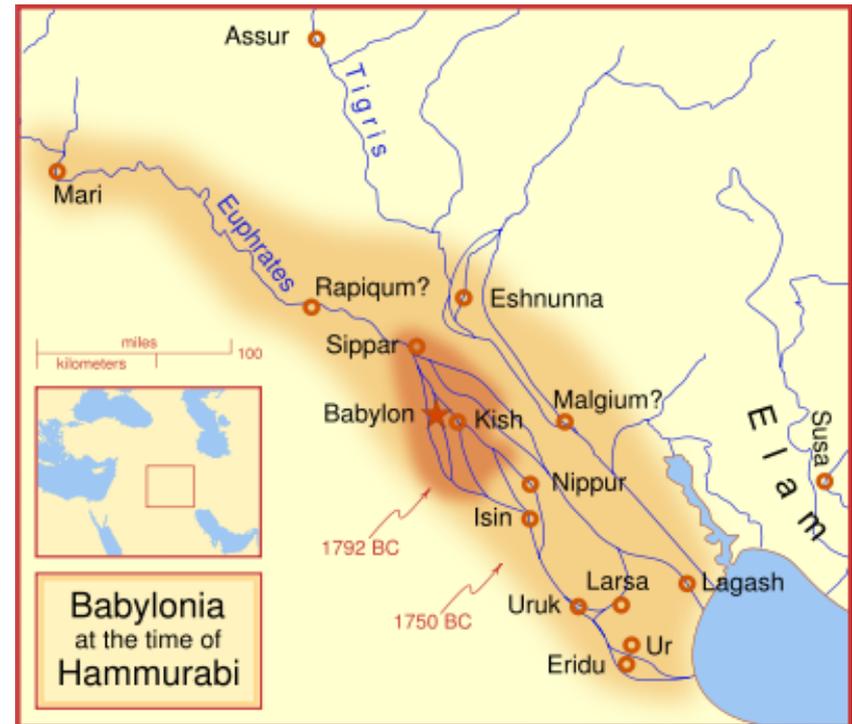
ARTIST RENDITION OF THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

<http://www.geocities.com/Pipeline/4966/garden2.jpg>

Background of Hammurabi

Hammurabi: Man of War

- Leader of the Amorites, or “**Old Babylonians.**”
 - Created a new empire in the area that was Mesopotamia by employing a well-disciplined army.
 - Soldiers carried bronze axes, spears, and daggers.
 - Employed a **divide-and-conquer** method to gain control of **Sumer and Akkad.**

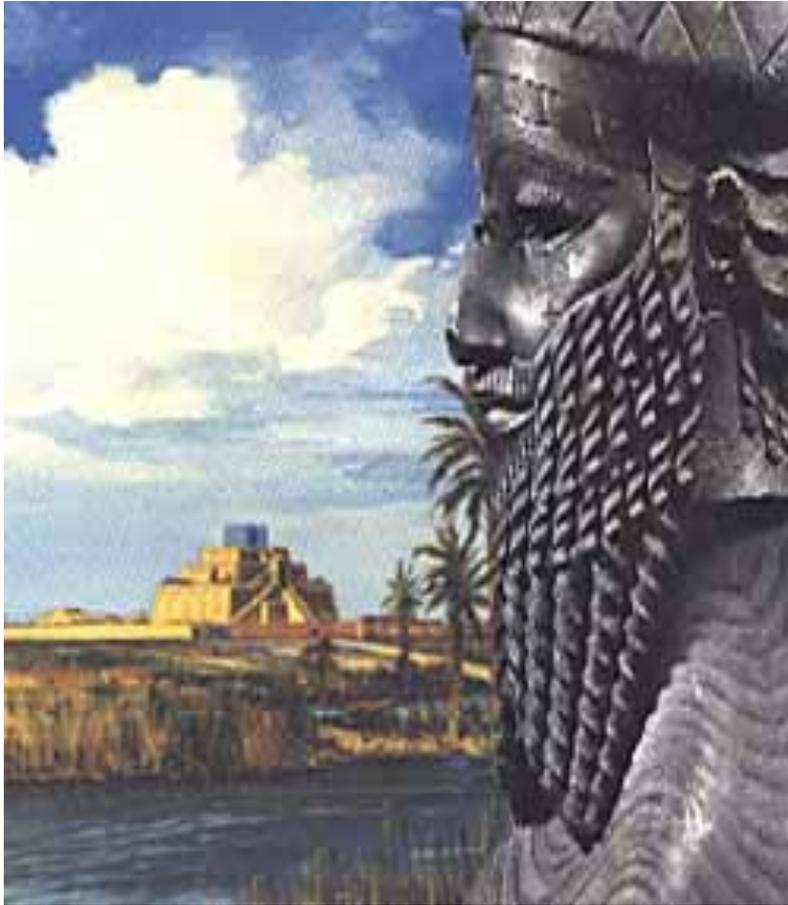


**MAP OF THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
AT THE TIME OF HAMMURABI**

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/12/Hammurabi's_Babylonia_1.svg/400px-Hammurabi's_Babylonia_1.svg.png

Background of Hammurabi

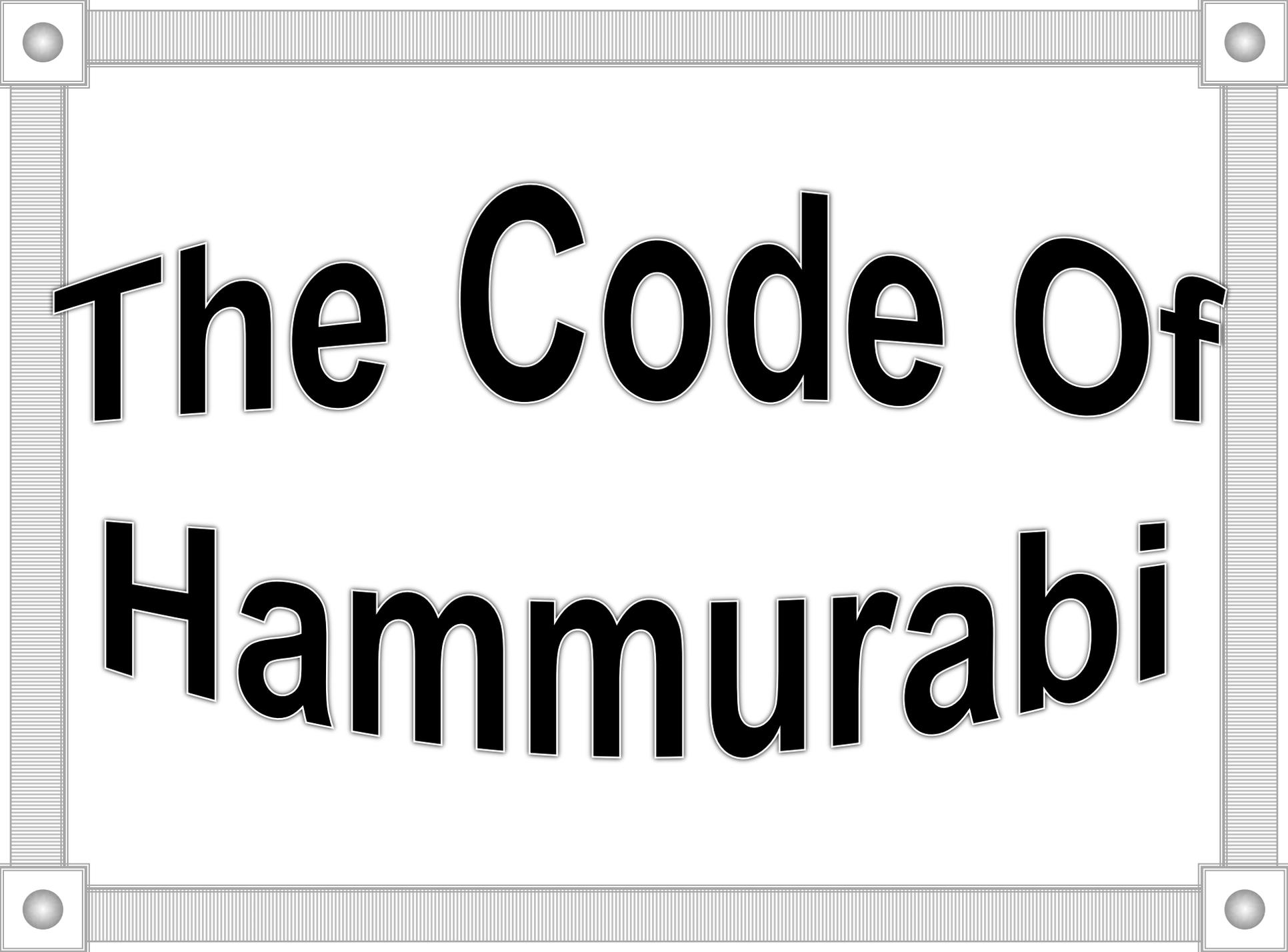
Hammurabi: Man of Peace



SARGON THE CONQUEROR

<http://www.akkad.ca/artempiressargon.jpg>

- **Assimilated** Mesopotamian culture with Sumerian ways to create a larger, more stable culture.
- Was extremely interested in state-building, funding the building of **irrigation systems**, temples, **walled cities**, and public buildings.
- Encouraged and protected both domestic and foreign trade.



The Code Of Hammurabi

The Code of Hammurabi

Origins

- Not the first code of laws in Mesopotamia, but most of the earlier laws survive in fragments.
- Provides insight into just about every aspect of Mesopotamian society and life.
- **282** law codes were carved into stelas.



**CODE OF HAMMURABI IN
CUNEIFORM WRITING**

<http://geodi.org/Pari141.JPG>

The Code of Hammurabi

Criminal Codes



**SHAMASH, BABYLONIAN SUN GOD &
GOD OF JUSTICE**

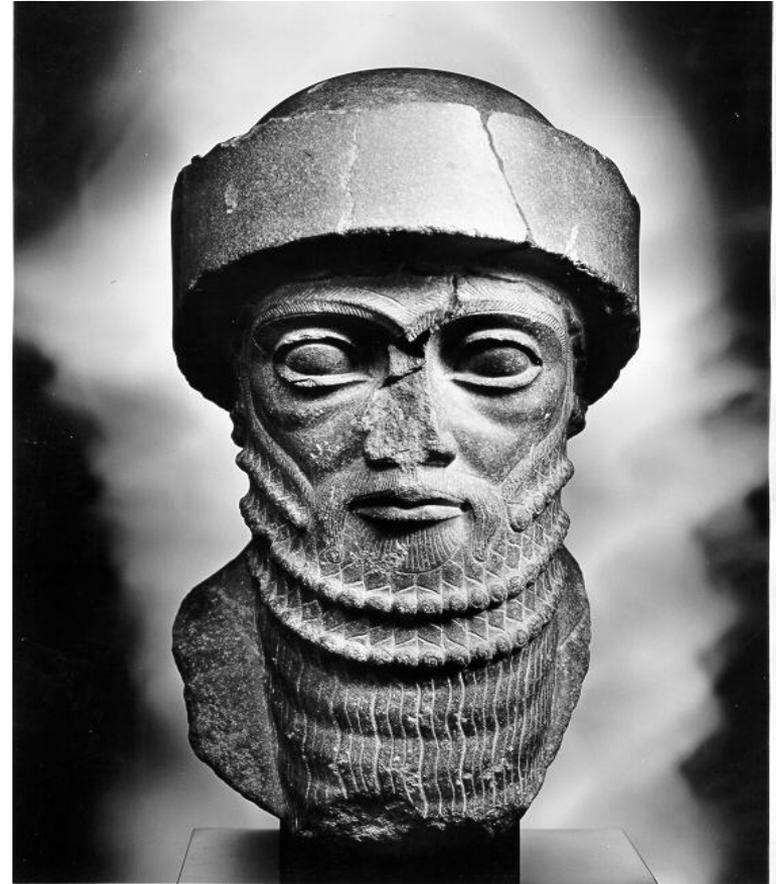
<http://www.awesomestories.com/biography/stories/hammurabi/images/shamash.jpg>

- **Very strict system of justice.**
- Penalties were severe and **varied according to social class.**
- Examples.
 - A crime against a member of the upper class (nobility) by a member of the lower class (commoner) was punished more severely than the same offense against a member of the lower class.

The Code of Hammurabi

Criminal Codes

- **Principle of retaliation and retribution** applies.
 - “**Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.**”
 - The law applied only for **social equals**. Members of the upper classes usually paid money for crimes against the lower members of society.



BUST OF HAMMURABI

<http://clendening.kumc.edu/dc/pc/hammurabi01.jpg>

The Code of Hammurabi

Criminal Codes



BABYLONIAN SOLDIER

http://lh4.ggpht.com/_uuSFdDYNAc4/Rz8YFY4DuwI/AAAAAAAAACNs/bGvRmCNC-w8/aamacedonia-soldier-2.jpg

- Soldiers were expected to serve.
- If a soldier hired a substitute, the original soldier was **put to death** and the substitute given **full control over the first man's estate**.

The Code of Hammurabi

Responsibilities of Public Officials

- Governors of an area and city officials were expected to catch criminals.
- Failure to do so meant that the officials had to **replace property or pay damages** to the victims or their families. This was **done out of their own pockets**.



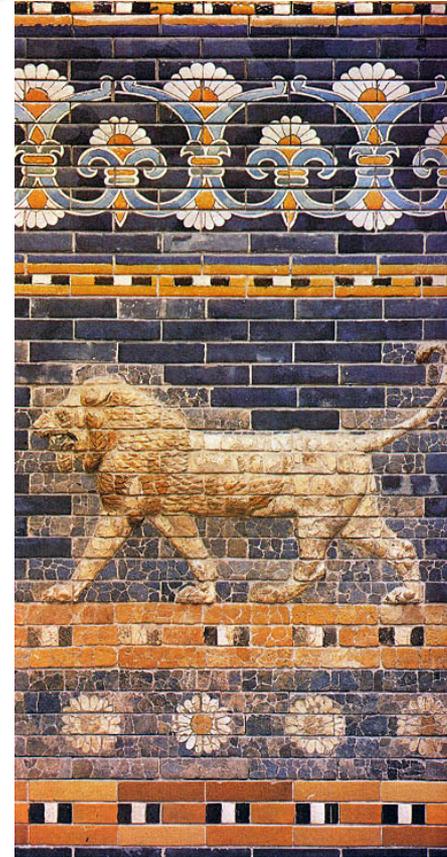
**BELSHAZZAR,
PRINCE OF BABYLON CA. 550 B.C.**

<http://www.ordination.org/Belshazzar.jpg>

The Code of Hammurabi

Consumer Protection Laws

- **Builders** were responsible for the buildings they constructed.
 - If the building collapsed and killed a family member, a family member of the builder was also killed.
- Laws surrounding renting and owning farmland were also within the code.



BABYLONIAN LION

http://home.cfl.rr.com/crossland/AncientCivilizations/Middle_East_Civilizations/Babylonians/Ishtar_Gate_of_Babylon_section_jk.jpg

The Code of Hammurabi

Consumer Protection Laws



**REMAINS OF A BABYLONIAN
IRRIGATION CANAL**

<http://journeytoforever.org/media/l/lowd2.jpg>

- **Irrigation laws** were strict because of the **geography** of Mesopotamia.
- **Interest rates on loans** were watched very closely.
 - If a lender raised his interest rates after the loan was made, the lender **lost the entire amount** of the loan.
- **Wage restrictions** for different key laborers.

The Code of Hammurabi

Marriage And Family Law

- The largest category of laws.
- Parents were to **arrange marriages** for their children and both parties were to sign a **formal marriage contract**.
 - Consisted of a **bridal payment** by the husband, as well as a **dowry** paid by the bride's father.



THE LION OF BABYLON
<http://images.warnewsradio.org/lionofbabylon.jpg>

The Code of Hammurabi

Marriage And Family Law



BABYLONIAN MARRIAGE MARKET

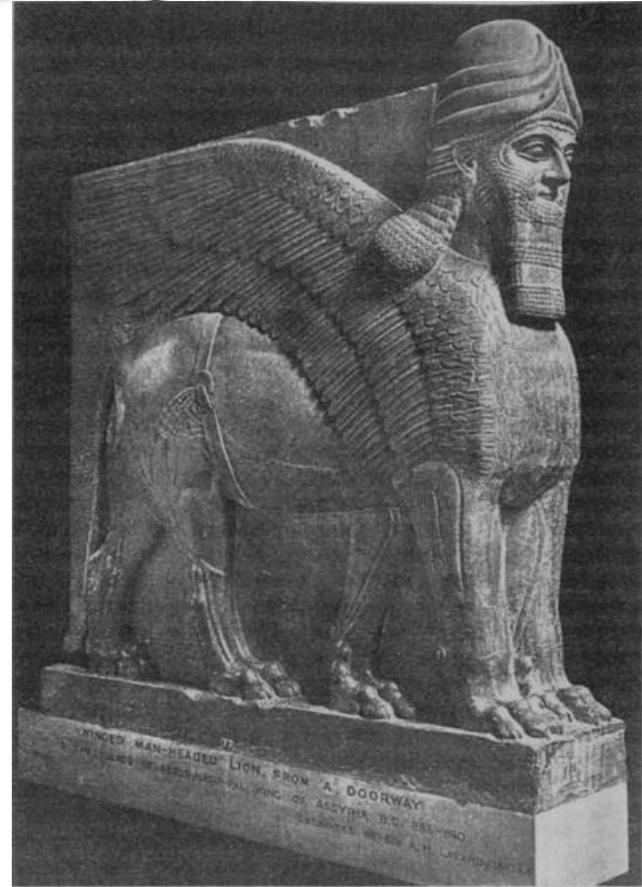
<http://bioephemera.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/07/babylon.jpg>

- Role of women.
 - Had very little in the way of legal rights when married.
 - Had some business rights, but not many.
 - When the husband died, his property (at least in theory) was transferred directly to her. The wife had the right to distribute the property as inheritance to her children as she wished.

The Code of Hammurabi

Marriage And Family Law

- Divorce.
 - The husband had most of the power over divorce.
 - The woman was expected to **fulfill her duties at home**, or else the husband could divorce her and keep the dowry.
 - However, if the woman had done nothing wrong and could prove it, then she could have the dowry returned.



BABYLONIAN SPHINX

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16653/16653-h/img/5.jpg>

The Code of Hammurabi

Marriage And Family Law

- Parental rights.
 - Parents had **total rights over their children and obedience was demanded.**
 - Could not disinherit their children arbitrarily, there had to be reason and it needed to be brought before a court of law.



STELE FROM THE ISHTAR GATE

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/germany/images/berlin/pergamon-museum/resized/ishtar-gate-cc-mshamma.jpg>



Hammurabi's Code

Activity

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #1

Accuse This Hammus



EUPHRATES RIVER

<http://www.ancientanatolia.com/Pictures/Images01/Pict0308.jpg>

Code 2

If any one bring an accusation against a man, and the accused go to the river and leap into the river, if he sink in the river his accuser shall take possession of the house. But if the river prove that the accused is not guilty, and he escape unhurt, then he who had brought the accusation shall be put to death, while he who leaped into the river shall take possession of the house that had belonged to his accuser.

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #2

The Debtor

Code 117

If a man be in debt and is unable to pay his creditors, he shall sell his wife, son, or daughter, or bind them over to service. For three years they shall work in the houses of their purchaser or master; in the fourth year they shall be given their freedom.

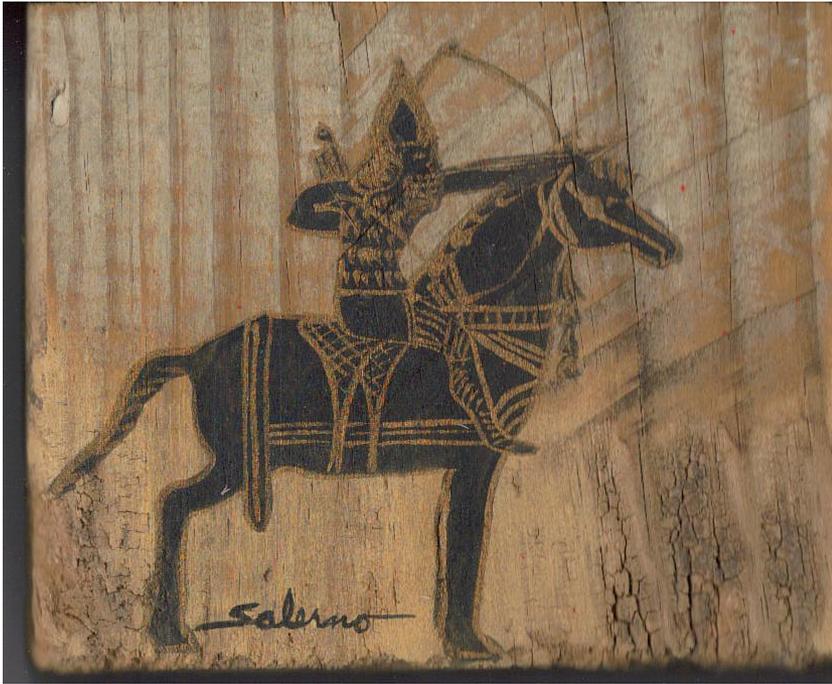


ENTERING THE ISHTAR GATE

<http://www.ishtar-athmar.com/images/ishtargatebig.jpg>

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #3

He's Your Son



BABYLONIAN ARCHER

http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3102/2290563608_4345ff0312_o.jpg

Code 185

*If a man takes in his own home
a young boy as a son and
rears him, one may not bring
claim for that adopted son.*

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #4

The Gabby Wife

Code 143

If the woman has not been careful but has gadded about, neglecting her house and belittling her husband, they shall throw that woman into the water.



HAMMURABI'S COURTROOM

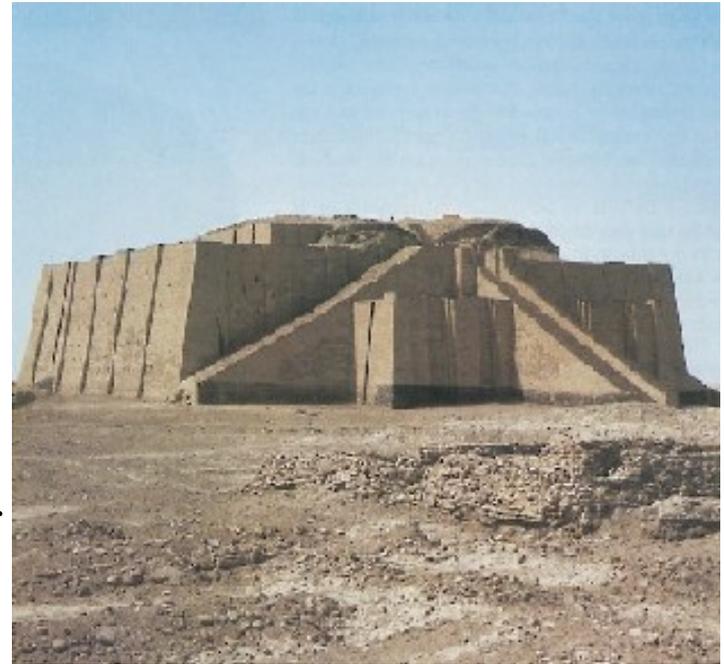
<http://www.rickriordan.com/hammurabi.jpg>

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #5

The Carpenter

Code 229

If a builder builds a house for a man and does not make its construction sound, and the house which he has built collapses and causes the death of the owner of the house, the builder shall be put to death.



SUMERIAN ZIGGURAT

<http://todoweb2002.iespana.es/ceramica/mesopotamia/ziggurat.jpg>

Code of Hammurabi: Situation #6

Rebel Bar



HAMMURABI

<http://www.odysseyadventures.ca/articles/ur%20of%20the%20chaldees/hammurabi.jpg>

Code 108

If bad characters gather in the house of a wine seller and she does not arrest those characters and bring them to the palace, that wine seller shall be put to death.