

An Abbreviated List of the Code of Hammurabi (Some of the laws)

1. If anyone brings an accusation of any crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged, he shall, if it was a capital offense charged, be put to death.
2. If anyone steals the property of a temple or of the court, he shall be put to death, and also the one who receives the stolen item from him shall be put to death.
3. If anyone steals the minor son of another, he shall be put to death.
4. If any one takes a male or female slave of the court, or a male or female slave of a freed man, outside the city gates, he shall be put to death.
5. If anyone receives into his house a runaway male or female slave of the court, or of a freedman, and does not bring it out at the public proclamation of the major domus, the master of the house shall be put to death.
6. If anyone breaks a hole into a house (breaks in to steal), he shall be put to death before that hole and be buried.
7. If anyone is committing a robbery and is caught, then he shall be put to death.
8. If fire breaks out in a house, and someone who comes to put it out casts his eye upon the property of the owner of the house, and takes the property of the master of the house, he shall be thrown into that same fire.
9. If a chieftain or man is caught in the misfortune of the king (captured in battle), and if his fields and garden is given to another and he takes possession, if he returns and reaches his place, his field and garden shall be returned to him, and he shall take it over again.
10. If anyone owes a debt for a loan, and a storm destroys the grain, or the harvest fails, or the grain does not grow for lack of water; in that year he need not give his creditor any grain, he washes his debt-tablet in water and pays no rent for this year.
11. If anyone opens his ditches to water his crops, but is careless and the water floods the field of his neighbor, then he shall pay his neighbor corn for his loss.
12. If anyone hands over his garden to a gardener to work, the gardener shall pay to its owner two-thirds of the produce of the garden, for so long as he has it in possession, and the other third shall he keep.
13. If conspirators meet in the house of a tavern-keeper, and these conspirators are not captured and delivered to the court, the tavern-keeper shall be put to death.

14. If anyone fails to meet a claim for debt, and sells himself, his wife, his son, and daughter for money or gives them away to forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them, or the proprietor, and in the fourth year they shall be set free.
15. If a man is taken prisoner in war, and there is sustenance (food) in his house, but his wife leaves house and court, and goes to another house; because this wife did not keep her court, and went to another house, she shall be judicially condemned and thrown into the water.
16. If anyone is captured in war and there is not sustenance in his house, if then his wife goes to another house, this woman shall be held blameless.
17. If a man is taken prisoner in war and there is no sustenance in his house and his wife goes to another house and bears children; and if later her husband returns and comes to his home, then this wife shall return to her husband, but the children will follow their father.
18. If a man wishes to separate from a woman who has borne him children, or from his wife who has borne him children, then he shall give that wife her dowry, and a part of the field, garden, and property, so that she can rear her children.
19. If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount of her purchase money and the dowry which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.
20. If a son strikes his father, his hands shall be hewn (cut) off.
21. If a man puts out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out. (An eye for an eye)
22. If he breaks another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
23. If a man knocks out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out. (A tooth for a tooth).
24. If a man strikes a freeborn woman so that she loses her unborn child, he shall pay ten shekels for her loss. If the woman dies, his daughter shall be put to death.
25. If a builder builds a house for someone, and does not construct it properly, and the house, which he built, falls in and kills its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
26. If it kills the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.
27. If it kills a slave of the owner, then he shall pay slave for slave to the owner of the house.