



World History

Code of Hammurabi

Name: _____
Section: _____
Score: ____/5

Directions: As a class we will go through the Code of Law as set out by Hammurabi of Babylon (ca. 1772 B.C.E.). Once completed with the code you will answer the thought question at the bottom of the page (use the back if necessary).

1. If a man has borne false witness in a trial, or has not established the statement that he has made, if that case be a capital trial, that man shall be put to death.
2. If a man has stolen goods from a temple, or house, he shall be put to death; and he that has received the stolen property from him shall be put to death.
3. If a man has stolen a child, he shall be put to death.
4. If a man has caught either a male or female runaway slave in the open field and has brought him back to his owner, the owner of the slave shall give him two shekels of silver.
5. If a fire has broken out in a man's house and one who has come to put it out has coveted the property of the householder and appropriated any of it, that man shall be cast into the self-same fire.
6. If a man has taken a wife and has not executed a marriage contract, that woman is not a wife.
7. If a man's wife be caught lying with another, they shall be strangled and cast into the water. If the wife's husband would save his wife, the king can save his servant.
8. If a man has married a wife and a disease has seized her, if he is determined to marry a second wife, he shall marry her. He shall not divorce the wife whom the disease has seized. In the home they made together she shall dwell, and he shall maintain her as long as she lives.
9. If a son has struck his father, his hands shall be cut off.
10. If a man has knocked out the eye of a patrician, his eye shall be knocked out.
11. If he has broken the limb of a patrician, his limb shall be broken.
12. If a man has struck a free woman with child, and has caused her to miscarry, he shall pay ten shekels for her miscarriage. If that woman die, his daughter shall be killed.
13. If a builder has built a house for a man, and has not made his work sound, and the house he built has fallen, and caused the death of its owner, that builder shall be put to death.
14. If a slave has said to his master, "You are not my master," he shall be brought to account as his slave, and his master shall cut off his ear.



Thought Question:

1. The code of Hammurabi is often referred to as the "eye for an eye" principle. Explain and support this using specific examples from the text.