

The Code of Hammurabi

Phase One:

Answer the following questions which relate to the primary source material that you have read. Record your answer in your notes

- 1) What does the Code of Hammurabi tell us about the class structure in Babylon? Make specific reference to at least three of the laws listed to back up your response.
- 2) What can be said about the Babylonians attitudes towards:
 - a) family?
 - b) property?
 - c) the value of human life?

Again make reference to at least one law from the Code of Hammurabi to support each comment.

- 3) What value and morals appear to be most important to the Babylonians?
- 4) Does it matter to the Babylonians if an action is deliberate or accidental? What does this tell us about their society?

Phase Two:

Imagine that you are a tribunal of Babylonian judges. You must cast judgment on each of the following individuals. What will your final verdict be? Support each verdict with reference to the specific law that applies in each situation.

- A) Ishak, in a fit of rage, threw a cooking pot at his father. The pot struck Ishak's father in the head, and a shard of pottery put out his father's eye.
- B) One night, Taras came across a young girl being set upon by thieves. He rescued her and brought her into his home until she recovered. The next day, the crier announced that a slave-girl of Shawas, a wealthy merchant, has run away. Taras did not make the connection between the announcement and the girl he had helped. Shawas found the girl in Taras' house and had Taras arrested.
- C) Sinnaveh's house collapsed on night, with the result that Sinneveh, a commoner, had both legs broken. Gildas, the builder, is brought to trial.
- D) Ashok, who had fallen on bad times, took a pig from the home of his brother and killed it to feed his family. Ashok did not know that the pig was property of the local temple, and that his brother was tending it while the priest was meeting with the king.