

Hammurabi's Code of Laws Excerpts

1. If a man weaves a spell and puts a curse upon another man without justification, he who cast the spell shall be put to death.
2. If a man has put a spell upon another man without reason, the accused shall go to the holy river. He shall plunge into the holy river, and if the holy river drowns him, his accuser shall take possession of his house. But if the river prove that the accused is not guilty, and he escapes 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.
3. If a man has lied or threatened a witness in a murder trial, that man shall be put to death.
4. If he has tried to bribe the witnesses, he shall himself receive the sentence of that case.
5. If a man has stolen the goods of a temple or palace, that man shall be killed, and he who has received the stolen thing shall be put to death.
6. If a man has stolen livestock or ship, whether from the temple or the palace, he shall pay thirty times the value of the stolen goods. If he be a poor man, he shall render ten times the value. If the thief doesn't pay, he shall be put to death.
7. If a man has kidnapped the son of a free man, he shall be put to death.
8. If a man put out the eye of another man (of his equal), his eye shall be put out. (An eye for an eye)
9. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value
10. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.

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