**Excerpts from the Code of Hammurabi**

**229**

If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

**230**

If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.

**231**

If it kill a slave of the owner, then he shall pay slave for slave to the owner of the house.

**196**

If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

**197**

If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

**198**

If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

**199**

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.

**200**

If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.

**201**

If he knock out the teeth of a freed man, he shall pay one-third of a gold mina.

**142**

If a woman quarrel with her husband, and say: "You are not congenial to me," the reasons for her prejudice must be presented. If she is guiltless, and there is no fault on her part, but he leaves and neglects her, then no guilt attaches to this woman, she shall take her dowry and go back to her father's house.

**143**

If she is not innocent, but leaves her husband, and ruins her house, neglecting her husband, this woman shall be cast into the water.

**144**

If a man take a wife and this woman give her husband a maid-servant, and she bear him children, but this man wishes to take another wife, this shall not be permitted to him; he shall not take a second wife.

**145**

If a man take a wife, and she bear him no children, and he intend to take another wife: if he take this second wife, and bring her into the house, this second wife shall not be allowed equality with his wife.

**146**

If a man take a wife and she give this man a maid-servant as wife and she bear him children, and then this maid assume equality with the wife: because she has borne him children her master shall not sell her for money, but he may keep her as a slave, reckoning her among the maid- servants.

**147**

If she have not borne him children, then her mistress may sell her for money.

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**148**

If a man take a wife, and she be seized by disease, if he then desire to take a second wife he shall not put away his wife, who has been attacked by disease, but he shall keep her in the house which he has built and support her so long as she lives.

**149**

If this woman does not wish to remain in her husband's house, then he shall compensate her for the dowry that she brought with her from her father's house, and she may go.

**209**

If a man strike a free-born woman so that she lose her unborn child, he shall pay ten shekels for her loss.

**210**

If the woman die, his daughter shall be put to death.

**213**

If he strike the maid-servant of a man, and she lose her child, he shall pay two shekels in money.

**214**

If this maid-servant die, he shall pay one-third of a mina.

**5**

If a judge try a case, reach a decision, and present his judgment in writing; if later error shall appear in his decision, and it be through his own fault, then he shall pay twelve times the fine set by him in the case, and he shall be publicly removed from the judge's bench, and never again shall he sit there to render judgement.

**6**

If any one steal the property of a temple or of the court, he shall be put to death, and also the one who receives the stolen thing from him shall be put to death.

**8**

If any one steal cattle or sheep, or an ass, or a pig or a goat, if it belong to a god or to the court, the thief shall pay thirtyfold; if they belonged to a freed man of the king he shall pay tenfold; if the thief has nothing with which to pay he shall be put to death.

**23**

If the robber is not caught, then shall he who was robbed claim under oath the amount of his loss; then shall the community, and . . . on whose ground and territory and in whose domain it was compensate him for the goods stolen.

**48**

If any one owe a debt for a loan, and a storm prostrates the grain, or the harvest fail, 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.

On a sheet of notebook paper consider the following questions:

1.) a. How do rules 229-31, 196-201 reinforce the idea of class hierarchy in Babylonian society?

b. What do the laws say about value of freed men (former slaves) and slaves relative to others in society?

2.) a. How do rules 142-49, 209-10, 213-14 reflect gender inequality in Babylonian society?

b. Are there examples of fairness toward women in the law? Explain your answer.

c. Are women of the same class treated equally? Why or why not?

3.) a. What do you think rules 5, 6, 8, 23, and 48 say about the relationship between citizens and the State.

b. Is it a fair relationship or is one side favored? Why or why not?