

Hammurabi's Law Code:

Directions:

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.

Your judgement:

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.

Your judgement:

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.

Your judgement:

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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 the property of the local temple, and that his brother was tending it while the priest was meeting with the king

Your judgement:

Remaining in the role of Babylonian judges, cast judgement on the following cases. In this case, there is no law listed which outlines how you should deal with the problem. You must decide how the Babylonians would deal with this, based upon the law you do know and their moral and value system. For each judgement, provide a brief rationale for why you made your judgement in the way that you did...

A)Turok's prize bull broke out of its enclosure and ran rampant through the streets of the town. Before Turok was able to get it under control, it trampled and gored the five-year old son of the local priest. The child died three days later.

Your judgement:

B)Hanan bought a slave from a slaver passing through his town. It turned out that the slave had run away from Ashwar, his rightful owner. What will be your judgement on Hanan and the slave?

Your judgement:

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C) Azriel kidnaps the daughter of a commoner and rapes her. Before he is caught for this offense, he also rapes a slave-girl belonging to a fairly wealthy merchant. How would he be punished for each offense.

Your judgement: