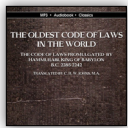


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## The Oldest Code of Laws in the World

### *Hammurabi, King of Babylon (1703 – 1758)*

Read by: D. S. Harvey      Language: English  
 Length: 1 hour and 36 minutes      Style: Solo  
 Genres: Non-Fiction, Law      Translator: C. H. W. Johns

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
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*The Code of Hammurabi* is a codification of the laws enacted by Hammurabi, the king of Babylonia and is one of mankind’s oldest known writings. It was inscribed on a stone stele, or monument, in approximately 1754 B. C. and was discovered by archeologists in 1901. The code was inscribed using cuneiform script in the Akkadian languages into a diorite stele that stands 7.4 feet tall. A small portion of the code is considered missing. Famous for the concept of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” the code itself consists of 282 laws. Criminal offenses are described in detail with associated physical punishments that are quite harsh and vary according to gender and social and economic status. It was one of the first codes of law to emphasize physical punishment of the perpetrator as well as among the first to establish

a presumption of innocence. Previous codes had focused on compensation to victims. Nearly half the code addresses contract issues such as prices for services and liabilities for damages or non-performance. About a third of the code consists of matters relating to household and family relationships such as marriage, divorce, paternity, inheritance, and reproduction. Several pertain to military service. Only one pertains to judicial conduct. The monument is on display in the Louvre in Paris; replicas are displayed in numerous institutions throughout the world.

**Hammurabi** (c. 1810 - 1750 BC) was the sixth king of the first Babylonian dynasty and range from c. 1792 B.C. to c. 1750 B.C. He inherited the throne from his father, Sin-Mubaliit, who abdicated due to poor health. During his reign he conquered Elam and the city states of Larsa, Eshuuna and Mari. His conquest of Assyria brought nearly all of Mesopotamia under his rule. He is also known as the creator of the code of Hammurabi which he claimed to have received from Shamash, the Babylonian God of justice. In his lifetime Hammurabi was considered a God. After his death he was revered as a great conqueror and a model ruler who spread civilization and forced all people to pay obeisance to Marduk, the national god of the Babylonians. His reign became the frame of reference for Mesopotamians concerning all matters in the distant past. Many kings in the Near East claimed Hammurabi as an ancestor. Over time his military accomplishments became de-emphasized and his role as a law giver became his primary legacy.