

HAMMURABI'S CODE

Cleopatra, one of history's great leaders, worked tirelessly to bring prosperity to her people.

Nearly 2,000 years before her time and over a thousand miles away, there was another king named Hammurabi who ruled the ancient civilization of Babylon and also sought to ensure the welfare of his subjects.

To promote fair governance and justice, King Hammurabi established a set of 282 laws that were inscribed on a stone monument located in the temple of Marduk in Babylon.

Hammurabi's Code outlines clear rules and expectations for various aspects of daily life, including commerce, property, marriage, labor, and crime. In the introduction to his code, Hammurabi states that the purpose of these laws is to establish "truth and justice" and prevent the strong from oppressing the weak.

Experts have described Hammurabi's Code as "a moral and political masterpiece," crafted by a "wise lawgiver" and based on the principles of reason.

Just or Unjust?

Here are some of the laws in Hammurabi's code. Justice means giving each person what he or she deserves.

Do you believe each law is just or unjust? Why?

If a farmer borrows money, then the storm-god Adad devastates his field and his crops do not grow, he will not have to pay back the money that year.

Just or Unjust	Why?
If a man build	s a house and it falls on the owner

causing the owners death, the builder shall be put to death.

Just or Unjust	wny: