

Achievements of Babylonia

"The First with Laws"

Hello fellow colleagues, professors, ladies and gentlemen. I am professor Vivian Lowe, qualified at the University of Michigan. I have traveled around the world many times,



participating in archaeological excavations in Rome, Greece and Italy. Of all, I was most intrigued with my visit to Mesopotamia, seeing what is left of the four ancient civilizations. In my many years of studying I have come to the conclusion that the Babylonians were the most accomplished by far. Although the Assyrians have fought their battles, and the Akkadians with their first empire, and the Neo-Babylonians with their week, day, and hour, I still say the babylonians were surely the most accomplished with their first code of laws.

Hammurabi was the Babylonians first king. He wasn't any old king, because he created the first set of laws. From 1750-1792, the people of the babylonian empire followed his laws.



Hammurabi's laws were never questioned, because he supposedly got his advice from the gods. And who would argue with the mighty gods?

Nobody! Once written, his laws never changed, because they were written in stone. His steles with their laws inscribed on

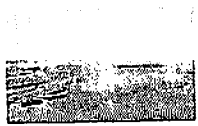


them stood in temples for people far and wide to see. Hammurabi's code was

very detailed, and explained marriage, divorce, payment for work, and more. Also, his laws

described the punishments for stealing and causing injury. For example, if a builder sells a poorly built house to a man, and it collapses and kills him, the builder could be killed! Even though these laws may seem harsh to us now, his temple stayed in order.

Secondly, agriculture, trade, and the arts flourished. There was fertile soil for all. The Babylonians kept a clean and full irrigation system, due to their location near the Euphrates river.



Babylonians could grow enough food for their families, friends, and plenty extra. Trade was very common, and was the center of the Babylonian conoy. People brought materials from far away, using the Euphrates river to travel by. Arts were also a Babylonian special. People wrote historical poems that still live to this day. Also, life in babylonia was very fair, and women had more rights than in other empires. Even slaves were treated better and could buy their own freedom.

I know you could be thinking, what about the other empires? What did they accomplish? Well, they definitely didn't do as well as Babylonians. The Akkadians, for instance, made up lame traditions. son shouldn't rule after his father! What if he is a lunatic? Trust me, you wouldn't want a loony weirdo to possibly rule your empire, would you? Also, Akkadians made the government say yes, or go bye-bye! how would he get input from others? He wouldn't! And the Assyrians? They would stick the heads of their enemies on sticks like trophies! Thats the work of bloodthirsty cowards! Gross gross gross! Anyway, why conquer more land than you could rule? After a while, the Assyrian empire diminished completely. Neo-Babylonians, on the other hand, weren't that great. Nebuchadrezzer, their king, was really

selfish. He robbed his kingdom of plantlife, just to please his wife! The poor Neo-Babylonians had to travel to see their beloved plants! Babylonia was definitely the most accomplished empire, Right?

As you can see, Babylonia was the most accomplished of all the empires. If hammurabi hadn't created the first set of laws, we may not be in the place we are today. All of the lawers now, fighting for justice and peace, should thank hammurabi for inspiring laws through the ages. Also, women had more rights than in other places around the world, similar to the U.S. in present time. We still have a ways to go, but Babylonia gave us an ancient head start.

By: Vivian Lowe #C-16