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## The Code of Hammurabi

Translated by L. W. King

When [Anu the Sublime](#), King of the [Anunaki](#), and [Bel](#), the lord of Heaven and earth, who decreed the fate of the land, assigned to [Marduk](#), the over-ruling son of [Ea](#), God of righteousness, dominion over earthly man, and made him great among the [Igigi](#), they called [Babylon](#) by his illustrious name, made it great on earth, and founded an everlasting kingdom in it, whose foundations are laid so solidly as those of heaven and earth; then [Anu](#) and [Bel](#) called by name me, Hammurabi, the exalted prince, who feared God, to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil-doers; so that the strong should not harm the weak; so that I should rule over the black-headed people like [Shamash](#), and enlighten the land, to further the well-being of mankind.

Hammurabi, the prince, called of [Bel](#) am I, making riches and increase, enriching [Nippur](#) and [Dur-ilu](#) beyond compare, sublime patron of [E-kur](#); who reestablished [Eridu](#) and purified the worship of [E-apsu](#); who conquered the four quarters of the world, made great the name of [Babylon](#), rejoiced the heart of [Marduk](#), his lord who daily pays his devotions in [Saggil](#); the royal scion whom [Sin](#) made; who enriched [Ur](#); the humble, the reverent, who brings wealth to [Gish-shir-gal](#); the white king, heard of [Shamash](#), the mighty, who again laid the foundations of [Sippara](#); who clothed the gravestones of [Malkat](#) with green; who made [E-babbar](#) great, which is like the heavens, the warrior who guarded [Larsa](#) and renewed [E-babbar](#), with [Shamash](#) as his helper; the lord who granted new life to [Uruk](#), who brought plenteous water to its inhabitants, raised the head of E-anna, and perfected the beauty of [Anu](#) and [Nana](#); shield of the land, who reunited the scattered inhabitants of [Isin](#); who richly endowed [E-gal-mach](#); the protecting king of the city, brother of the god [Zamama](#); who firmly founded the farms of [Kish](#), crowned [E-me-te-ursag](#) with glory, redoubled the great holy treasures of [Nana](#), managed the temple of [Harsag-kalama](#); the grave of the enemy, whose help brought about the victory; who increased the power of [Cuthah](#); made all glorious in [E-shidlam](#), the black steer, who gored the enemy; beloved of the god [Nebo](#), who rejoiced the inhabitants of [Borsippa](#), the Sublime; who is indefatigable for [E-zida](#); the divine king of the city; the White, Wise; who broadened the fields of [Dilbat](#), who heaped up the harvests for [Urash](#); the Mighty, the lord to whom come scepter and crown, with which he clothes himself; the Elect of [Ma-ma](#); who fixed the temple bounds of [Kesh](#), who made rich the holy feasts of [Nin-tu](#); the provident, solicitous, who provided food and drink for [Lagash](#) and [Girsu](#), who provided large sacrificial offerings for the temple of [Ningirsu](#); who captured the enemy, the Elect of the oracle who fulfilled the prediction of [Hallab](#), who rejoiced the heart of [Anunit](#); the pure prince, whose prayer is accepted by [Adad](#); who satisfied the heart of [Adad](#), the warrior, in [Karkar](#), who restored the vessels for worship in [E-ud-gal-gal](#); the king who granted life to the city of [Adab](#); the guide of [E-mach](#); the princely king of the city, the irresistible warrior, who granted life to the inhabitants of [Mashkanshabri](#), and brought abundance to the temple of [Shidlam](#); the White, Potent, who penetrated the secret cave of the bandits, saved the inhabitants of [Malka](#) from misfortune, and fixed their home fast in wealth; who established pure sacrificial gifts for [Ea](#) and [Dam-gal-nun-na](#), who made his kingdom everlastingly great; the princely king of the city, who subjected the districts on the [Ud-kib-nun-na](#) Canal to the sway of [Dagon](#), his Creator; who spared the inhabitants of [Mera](#) and [Tutul](#); the sublime prince, who makes the face of [Ninni](#) shine; who presents holy meals to the divinity of [Nin-a-zu](#), who cared for its inhabitants in their need, provided a portion for them in Babylon in peace; the shepherd of the oppressed and of the slaves; whose deeds find favor before [Anunit](#), who provided for [Anunit](#) in the temple of [Dumash](#) in the suburb of [Agade](#); who recognizes the right, who rules by law; who gave back to the city of [Ashur](#) its protecting god; who let the name of [Ishtar](#) of [Nineveh](#) remain in [E-mish-mish](#); the Sublime, who humbles himself before the great gods; successor of [Sumula-il](#); the mighty son of [Sin-muballit](#); the royal scion of Eternity; the mighty monarch, the sun of [Babylon](#), whose rays shed light over the land of [Sumer](#) and [Akkad](#); the king, obeyed by the four quarters of the world; Beloved of [Ninni](#), am I.

When [Marduk](#) sent me to rule over men, to give the protection of right to the land, I did right and righteousness in . . . , and brought about the well-being of the oppressed.

### Definitions

**Adab** - One of the earliest Sumerian cities.

**Adad** - The mesopotamian Weather God. He was the son of Anu and was derived from an earlier Sumerian God, Iskur.