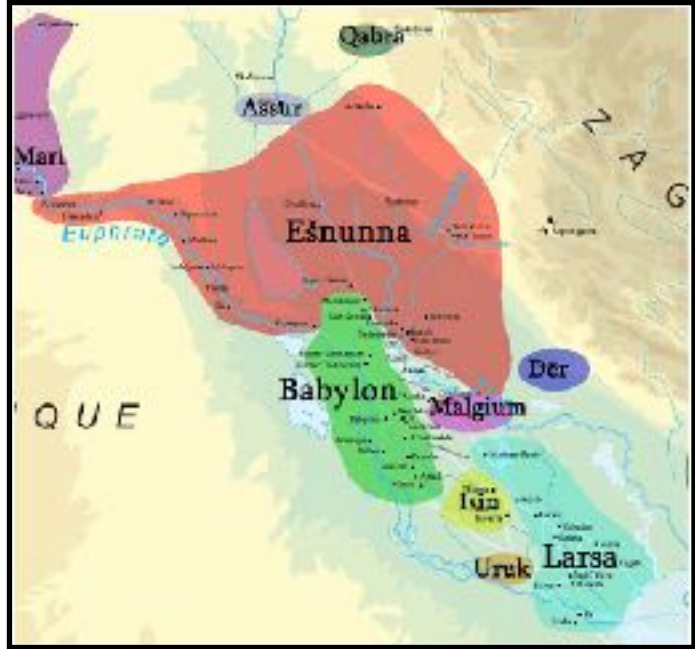


The *Laws of Eshnunna*



- Nobody may lend something to a man who has not yet received his inheritance.
- The price of 180 grains of barley is 1 shekel of silver, and the price of borrowing 1 shekel of silver is 36 grains of barley per year.
- The price of borrowing 300 grains of barley is 100 grains of barley per year.
- If a boatman is negligent and causes the boat to sink, he shall restore as much as he caused to sink.
- If a burglar breaks into a house that was guarded by a negligent guard, the guard shall be put to death for their negligence.
- If a dog that is known to bite bites a man to death, the dog's owner shall pay 40 shekels of silver.
It's the same for an ox that's known to gore.
- If a man slaps someone on the cheek, he shall pay 10 shekels of silver.

- If a man cuts off someone's nose or destroys someone's eye, he shall pay 60 shekels of silver.
- If a man knocks out someone's tooth, cuts off someone's ear, or breaks someone's hand or foot, then he shall pay 30 shekels of silver.
- If a man cuts off someone's finger or breaks someone's collarbone, he shall pay 20 shekels of silver.
- In the course of a brawl, if a man kills an aristocrat, then he shall pay 40 shekels of silver.

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Ten Questions about the ***Laws of Eshnunna***

1. According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, which is worse?
 - (a) Cutting off someone's nose
 - (b) Cutting off someone's ear
2. Keeping in mind your answer to question 1, do you agree with the *Laws of Eshnunna*?
Why or why not? Explain.
3. According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, which is worse?
 - (a) Cutting off someone's ear
 - (b) Breaking someone's finger
4. Keeping in mind your answer to question 3, do you agree with the *Laws of Eshnunna*?
Why or why not? Explain.
5. Consider what the *Laws of Eshnunna* say about what should happen to a negligent guard if a burglar breaks into a house that was guarded by the guard. Do you think that the punishment fits the crime? *Why or why not?* Explain.

6. According to two of the *Laws of Eshnunna*, what was the punishment for wrongfully causing someone's death?
7. Consider the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, and imagine that someone borrows 300 grains of barley for a year. Accordingly, answer the following two questions
- (a) According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, how many grains of barley would they owe in a year? In other words, if $P = 300$ and $t = 1$, then what is the value of A ?
(Hint: You cannot answer the question by solving the equation, because you don't know the value of r , so you have to find your answer by referencing the *Law*.)
- (b) According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, what is the interest rate? In other words, what is the value of r ? (Hint: Subtract your answer to question 7a by the value of P , and then divide the number you get by the value of P .)

8. In light of the simple interest equation $A = P(1 + rt)$, imagine that someone who wants to buy 180 grains of barley borrows exactly the amount of silver that they need to pay for the 180 grains of barley, and imagine that they do indeed buy the 180 grains of barley with the silver that they borrowed. Assuming that the lender is willing to accept payment *entirely* in the form of barley grains (rather than *only* as a combination of silver and barley grains), answer the following two questions.
- (a) According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, how many grains of barley would they owe in a year? In other words, if $P = 180$ and $t = 1$, then what is the value of A ?
(Hint: You cannot answer the question by solving the equation, because you don't know the value of r , so you have to find your answer by referencing the *Law*.)
- (b) According to the *Laws of Eshnunna*, what is the interest rate? In other words, what is the value of r ? (Hint: Plug in the values for A , P , and t , and then algebraically manipulate the equation to solve for the value of r . Alternatively, subtract your answer to question 8a by the value of P , and then divide the number you get by the value of P .)
9. Compare & contrast your answers to 7b and 8b. Is the interest rate for borrowing 180 grains of barley the same as the interest rate for borrowing 300 grains of barley? In other words, is the price of borrowing 300 grains of barley for a year the same as the price of borrowing 180 grains of barley for a year? Simply stated, is your answer to 7b the same as your answer to 8b? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.
10. Do you agree with what the *Laws of Eshnunna* say about lending to someone who has not yet received their inheritance? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.