

The *Code of Ur-Nammu*



I, King Ur-Nammu of Sumer & Akkad, give the gods a monthly sacrificial offering of 21,600 *silas* of barley, 30 sheep, and 30 *silas* of butter! When the sky god An and the wind god Enlil gave Ur to the moon god Nanna, I made Namhani the governor of Lagash, and I returned Nanna's boat to Ur! Before that time, warlords controlled the fields, pirates controlled the seas, and rustlers stole livestock. By the command of the sun god Utu, and with the might of the moon god Nanna, I brought fairness to the land! I freed Sumer & Akkad from warlords and rustlers, and I freed the seas of pirates! I eliminated enmity, violence, and unfairness in the land! I standardized the units for weighing silver, bronze, and copper!

- If a man floods someone's field, he shall pay 72 *silas* of grain for every 10 *sars* of field that he flooded.
- If a man commits murder, he shall be put to death.
- If a man bears false witness to a crime, he shall pay 15 *shekels* of silver.
- If a man breaks someone's bone with a club, he shall pay 60 *shekels* of silver.
- If a man cuts off someone's foot, he shall pay 10 *shekels* of silver.
- If a man cuts off someone's nose, he shall pay 40 *shekels* of silver.
- If a man knocks out someone's tooth, he shall pay 2 *shekels* of silver.

Questions about the *Code of Ur-Nammu*.

Answer the following six questions.

1. According to Ur-Nammu, which is worse?

- (a) Cutting off someone's nose
- (b) Cutting off someone's foot

2. According to Ur-Nammu, which is worse?

- (a) Cutting off someone's foot
- (b) Falsely accusing someone of a crime

3. According to Ur-Nammu, which is worse?

- (a) Falsely accusing someone of a crime
- (b) Cutting off someone's nose

4. According to Ur-Nammu, which is worse?

- (a) Cutting off someone's foot
- (b) Breaking someone's bone with a club

5. The legal term "*Lex Talionis*" is Latin for "The Law of Retaliation". Yet rather than any retaliation whatsoever, it specifically means that the punishment for a crime must be as severe as the crime itself. In the *Code of Ur-Nammu*, which one of the laws is the most obvious/uncontroversial example of *Lex Talionis*? Find the appropriate bullet point, and state the "*if-then*" statement in full.