Hammurabi’s Laws on Family Relationships

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Marriage in the Mesopotamia society was regarded as one of the most important institutions within the community, which explains the level of attention paid to observing the laws within marriage institutions. In the research conducted by Stol, different sources of first hand information, including records from the period preserved through history indicate that marriage served as the pinnacle of family units.[[1]](#footnote-2)The basis of the marriage unit was payment of dowry by the husband, which then gave him and his wife the authority to live alone within their desired area of residence. However, the research also asserts that the society at the time left room for divorce as was provided for in the Hammurabi laws, where the husband would gift her wife in the divorce process.

In essence, the research study helps create a link between the laws of Hammurabi on marriage, and the contemporary view of the institution in relation to family relationships. With the catholic church having been against divorce, the research help determine the extensive history of the concept of divorce and organization in the process. The research helps affirm some of the concepts to be used in the paper on the family unit from Hammurabi laws’ perspective, thereby contributing to higher credibility on the paper. In any case, history research is based on synthesizing facts from different sources to ascertain where the truth lies on certain issues. Stol helps build on the concept of families in relation to marriage and divorce.

References

Stol, Marten. "Women in Mesopotamia." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *38*, no. 2 (1995): 123-144.

1. MartenStol, "Women in Mesopotamia," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *38*, no. 2 (1995): 123. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)