

FROM THE TWELVE TABLES

TABLE I

IF ANYONE SUMMONS A MAN BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE, HE MUST GO. IF THE MAN SUMMONED DOES NOT GO, LET THE ONE SUMMONING HIM CALL THE BYSTANDERS TO WITNESS AND THEN TAKE HIM BY FORCE.

(When a man is summoned to court, he must go. If the defendant refuses in front of witnesses, the plaintiff has the right to take him away by force.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE II

HE WHOSE WITNESS HAS FAILED TO APPEAR MAY SUMMON HIM BY LOUD CALLS BEFORE HIS HOUSE EVERY THIRD DAY.

(A witness must appear in court. If he doesn't, someone will come to his house every third day and shout at him to come to the trial.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE III

ONE WHO HAS CONFESSED A DEBT, OR AGAINST WHOM JUDGMENT HAS BEEN PRONOUNCED, SHALL HAVE THIRTY DAYS TO PAY IT IN.

(When someone owes money to another, he has thirty days in which to pay it back.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE IV

IF A FATHER SELLS HIS SON THREE TIMES, THE SON SHALL BE FREE FROM HIS FATHER.

(A father has supreme power over his son. But if a father tries to sell his son three times, the son has the right to be free from his father's authority.)

I think this law _____ fair.

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TABLE V

FEMALES SHOULD REMAIN IN GUARDIANSHIP EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE ATTAINED THEIR MAJORITY.

(A female must remain with her guardians [father or husband] even after she has reached full legal age.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE VI

WHEN ONE MAKES A BOND AND A CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY, AS HE HAS MADE FORMAL DECLARATION SO LET IT BE BINDING.

(When one buys or sells property publicly, it is legal.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE VII

A MAN MIGHT GATHER UP FRUIT THAT WAS FALLING DOWN ONTO ANOTHER MAN'S FARM.

(If fruit falls from a tree onto another person's property, that person has the right to gather it and eat it.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE VIII

NO PERSON SHALL HOLD MEETINGS BY NIGHT IN THE CITY.

(No one in the city can have a group meeting at night.)

I think this law _____ fair.

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TABLE IX

THE PENALTY SHALL BE CAPITAL FOR A JUDGE OR ARBITOR LEGALLY APPOINTED WHO HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF RECEIVING A BRIBE FOR GIVING A DECISION.

(If a judge is found guilty of taking a bribe, he can be put to death.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE X

NONE IS TO BURY OR BURN A CORPSE IN THE CITY.

(For health reasons, no one is allowed to bury or burn a dead body within city limits.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE XI

MARRIAGES SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN PLEBEIANS AND PATRIKIANS.

(Marriages between ordinary people and wealthy people are not allowed.)

I think this law _____ fair.

TABLE XII

IF A SLAVE SHALL HAVE COMMITTED THEFT OR DONE DAMAGE WITH HIS MASTER'S KNOWLEDGE, THE ACTION FOR DAMAGES IS IN THE SLAVE'S NAME.

(If a slave commits a theft or damage to property on behalf of his master, the slave is the one held responsible for the damages.)

I think this law _____ fair.