

12 TABLES

MARRIAGE

- **Table XI: Intermarriage of Plebeians (commoners) and Patricians (upper class) is prohibited**
- **Table XI: Soldiers must delay marriage until completing training.**
- **Table IV: Husbands can divorce wife by instructing her to take her belonging and leave.**

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GENDER ROLES

- **Table V: Women, even though they are of full age, because of their levity¹ of mind shall be under guardianship**
- **Table IV: Father has authority over children's lives**
- **Table V: The personal property of a woman who is under guardianship of a male relative shall not give away her property without approval from her male guardian.**
 - **“acquired by prescriptive right unless they are transferred by herself with the authorization of her guardian”**

**levity¹- lack of seriousness,
lightheartedness**

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PROPERTY

- Table VII: If rain water damages ...If a steam conducted through a public place does damage to a private person the said person shall have the right to bring an action ... that security against damage may be given to the owner.
- Table VII: Fruits falling from one's trees onto neighbors land can be kept by the neighbor.
- Table VII: A slave is promised freedom in someone's will—but only if he gives 10,000 donkeys to the heir. Even if the heir has sold the slave to someone else, the slave can still become free by giving the donkeys to the new owner...
- Table VI: Verbal promises binding

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TRIALS

- **Table I:** If one of the parties does not appear, the magistrate shall adjudge the case, after noon, in favor of the one present.
- **Table I:** If someone is accused and called to go to court, he must go. If he does not go, he may send a witness to stand for him. If he does not come or send a witness, he may be captured and forced to come to court.
- **Table I:** If the defendant attempts evasion or takes flight, the plaintiff shall lay a hand on him.
- **Table II:** If a person needs evidence or a witness, he may go every third day to the doorway of the person and call for him.

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DEBT

- **Table III:**
- **1. Thirty days shall be allowed by law for payment of confessed debt and for settlement of matters adjudged in court.**
- **2. After this time the creditor shall have the right of laying hand on the debtor. The creditor shall take the debtor into court.**
- **3. Unless the debtor discharges the debt or unless someone offers surety for him in court the creditor shall take the debtor with him. He shall bind him either with a whip or with fetters of not less than fifteen pounds in weight, or if he wishes he shall bind him with fetters of more than this weight.**
- **4. If the debtor wishes he shall live on his own means." If he does not live on his own means the creditor who holds him in bonds shall give him a pound of grits daily. If he wishes he shall give him more.**
- **5. ... Meanwhile they shall have the right to compromise, and unless they make a compromise the debtors shall be held in bonds for sixty days. During these days they shall be brought to the praetor" into the meeting place on three successive market days, and the amount for which they have been judged liable shall be declared publicly. Moreover, on the third market day they shall suffer capital punishment or shall be delivered for sale abroad across the Tiber River.**
- **6. On the third market day the creditors shall cut shares. If they have cut more or less than their shares it shall be without prejudice.**

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DEBT DEFINITIONS

- CREDITOR: PERSON OR THING THAT IS OWED MONEY
- DEBTOR: PERSON WHO OWES A SUM OF MONEY
- DISCHARGES: RELEASE, SEND OUT
- BIND: TIE OR FASTEN TIGHTLY
- FETTERS: CHAIN, PRISONER RESTRAINT
- PRAETOR: A ROMAN MAGISTRATE

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INHERITANCE

- Table V: Reckless spenders can't manage his possessions. Nearest male relative has authority over such insane individuals.
- Table V: Estate of one without direct male heir goes to nearest male relative in lineage.
- Table VI: Open and continuous land use for 2 years grants ownership claim

12 TABLES

CIVIL RIGHTS/LIIBERTIES

- **Table IX: No law shall be passed against a private person without a hearing.**
- **Table IX: The penalty shall not exceed the offense.**
- **Table IX: No one shall be executed before he has been convicted.**

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PUNISHMENT

- **Table VII:**

If a slave or a child in a household steals something or damages property, the head of the household (the father or master) is responsible.

The head of the household has two choices:

- Pay for the damage or theft, or
- Give the slave or child to the injured person for punishment.

- **Table VII:** If someone takes something that does not belong to them by falsely claiming it is theirs, the case can be taken to an official. The official will appoint **three people (arbitrators)** to review the case.

- If those arbitrators decide the person was wrong, the person who took the item must **pay twice the value of the loss caused by using or taking the item.**

- **Table VII fine, fetters, flogging, retaliation in kind (talio), civil disgrace, banishment, death, slavery**

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PUNISHMENT DEFINITIONS

- **Delicts: Violation of Law**
- **Arbitration: Third party who helps make decisions in disputes**
- **Fetters: Chains**
- **Flogging: Beating repeatedly with a whip or a stick**
- **Civil Disgrace: Public shame**
- **Banishment: sent away from territory and not allowed to return**