

Wife:

(Looks sadly at her husband.) At first we were happy, but when I opened the wine shop, we began to fight. *(Looks angrily at her husband. Her voice becomes harsh.)* One day we had a fight, and I spit in his face. He claimed I was flirting with male customers. Obviously I had to be nice to the men who frequented my shop if I hoped to make money.

Judge 1:

(Looks at the audience.) Members of the Assembly, it is time for you to decide this case. You must decide whether this husband should be granted this divorce from his wife and, if so, whether he must pay her anything. In making your decision, consider these laws from the Code of Hammurabi that you have before you:

1. If a man has put away (divorced) his wife who has not borne him children, he shall return her dowry and pay her the marriage portion she brought from her father's house.
2. If the wife of a man has made up her mind to leave their house to engage in business and has acted the fool, neglecting the house and humiliating the husband, the court shall rule against her. If her husband has said "I put her away," he shall put her away, she shall leave, and he shall not pay her anything for the divorce.
3. If a woman hates her husband and has said "You shall not possess me," the court shall inquire into her record. If she has been economical and has no vice, and her husband has greatly belittled her, the court shall rule in the wife's favor, and she will take her marriage portion and go back to her father's house.

Judge 2:

Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the evidence and have read the laws. You must now judge the case.



- What is the legal problem in this case?
- What business did the wife open?
- How well did the wife perform her duties at home after she opened her business?
- What dowry did the husband receive?
- What did the wife do when the husband accused her of flirting with customers?