**Law 195**

“If a son strikes his father, his hands shall be hewn off.”

Law 195 of the Code of Hammurabi is completely outlandish and unfair, the treatment of the convicted was brutal. This law states that if the son of a man, hits his father, than the son’s hand in which he hit his father with shall be cut off with an instrument like an ax or a chisel. The Canadian criminal code states that “Everyone who commits an assault is guilty of (a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years;” The Canadian criminal code protects people from being assaulted however the punishment in Canada is imprisonment not exceeding five years whereas in Mesopotamia under King Hammurabi’s rule, a person would lose both of their hands. This would be a massive deterrent today and especially in the time of the Babylonian empire. If someone were to lose both their hands they would be crippled for life, these people could not perform many jobs they could not write, farm, hunt, build, create art or mine for minerals. Not only would these people not be able to work which would cause them to be a burden on society they may also face death due to the amputation of limbs. Since modern medicine and antibiotics did not exist, if someone were to lose a limb most likely their wound would have been infected which could culminate in a person’s death. This harsh punishment would have been put in place as a deterrent so that people would understand that breaking the law in Mesopotamia would result in eternal suffering. The law protecting people from assault is necessary in any society however the punishment for such infraction should focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution