***Hammurabi***



Hammurabi was born in 1810 BCE, Babylonia, and died in 1750 BCE Babylon. He is known for writing the Code of Hammurabi while on the Babylonian throne. The code of Hammurabi has many rules such as; “If any one ensnare another, putting a ban upon him, but he cannot prove it, then he that ensnared him shall be put to death”. Most of the rules of the “Code of Hammurabi” involve “a death sentence” somewhere, such as the said example. Thus this is most likely a concept of retributive justice in which the penalty fits the crime.

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It's the "eye for an eye" guideline that is most frequently remembered in our time. As luck would have it, that stricture is mistakenly presented as a barbaric mandate. Its intent and reality was just the opposite. What [Hammurabi] targeted was the widespread practice of overreacting, over-punishing one's enemies. What Hammurabi decreed was that if a person cut your eye out, you could not kill his entire family or burn down his village. The punishment, retribution, had to correspond to the injury. If a man poked your eye out, the most you could do was poke his eye out. It was a powerful step towards fairness.

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