

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

January 2023 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Power and Justice in the Ancient World

This reading group will explore the relationship between power and justice in the ancient world, focusing on Egypt and Babylonia in the second millennium BCE. In the first week, we'll examine laws and wisdom texts to gain an understanding of the Egyptian and Mesopotamian views of justice and the behavioral expectations designed to prevent the wealthy and powerful from abusing their status.

The following two weeks will explore power and justice through two narrative tales. The second week is devoted to the "Poor Man of Nippur," a Babylonian tale of a wronged man seeking revenge and justice against the mayor who wronged him. Participants will read the story as well as watch the performance of the tale produced by Assyriology students at the University of Cambridge. The third week centers on "The Eloquent Peasant," a tale from Middle Kingdom Egypt that describes the efforts of a peasant to receive justice after an official conspired to confiscate his donkeys.

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:

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Week 1 Power and Justice in Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Society

"The Ideological Basis for Social Justice/Responsibility in Ancient Egypt" by Scott N. Morschauser in *Social Justice in the Ancient World* edited by K.D. Irani and Morris Silver

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wcnp9qoxqciqo3p/Social%20Justice%3AResponsibility%20in%20Ancient%20Egypt><https://www.dropbox.com/s/wcnp9qoxqciqo3p/Social%20Justice%3AResponsibility%20in%20Ancient%20Egypt.pdf?dl=0>

“Social Justice in the Ancient Near East” by Raymond Westbrook in *Social Justice in the Ancient World* edited by K.D. Irani and Morris Silver

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zszpywjef8rkip6/Social%20Justice%20in%20the%20Ancient%20Near%20East.pdf?dl=0>

“Social Reform in Ancient Mesopotamia” by Benjamin R. Foster in *Social Justice in the Ancient World* edited by K.D. Irani and Morris Silver

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/txn4occjku8nf3g/Social%20Reform%20in%20Ancient%20Mesopotamia.pdf?dl=0>

Optional

Instructions for Merikare (ancient Egypt)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o29uq9veysqycq4/Merikare.pdf?dl=0>

Instructions of Any and the Instructions of Amenemope (ancient Egypt)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o6tunh90fvmoz06/Any%20and%20Amenemope.pdf?dl=0>

CTH 272: Reprimand of dignitaries (Hittite / ancient Anatolia)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g42f04cuhu8czel/Hittite%20Instructions.pdf?dl=0>

Week 2 Ancient Mesopotamia: The Poor Man of Nippur

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pf75xcc4ih4qu9m/Poor%20Man%20of%20Nippur.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYoFInJLoE>

Week 3 Ancient Egypt: The Eloquent Peasant

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nvjix84nn9u7hsb/Eloquent%20Peasant.pdf?dl=0>