

bequest. Consonant with the wife's improved status was the fact that she could under certain circumstances annul the marriage. According to the di-til-la documents marriage might be concluded also before a court. The bride price and the marriage gift are both to be found in the Code of Hammurabi; but the former was probably a result of the influence of Semitic immigrants, who transformed the social composition of the population toward the end of the Sumerian period. Marriage in the Middle Assyrian period seems to have corresponded in status to that under Sumerian law. The engagement no longer consisted of the payment of the bride price but of the presentation of engagement gifts (zubullû), while the tirhatu became a marriage gift. Little is known of the Hittite marriage. Traces of marriage by abduction are indicated, while, on the other hand, there seems to have existed an engagement corresponding to that in the Code of Hammurabi, comprising the payment of a bride price (kušata). Among the Subar<sup>a</sup>æans marriage was a primitive affair. Not only was a bride price paid with sums fixed by law, but the bride's father like a vender guaranteed the eviction of the bride. For Marriage under the neo-Babylonian law further research is needed. The bride price no longer existed, and it is doubtful whether there was a marriage gift; but the wife's dowry (nudunnû) played an important part. This consisted not merely of her marriage outfit (house furnishings) but was ordinarily a capital fund (money, land and slaves) which remained the wife's property and which was inherited by her children after her death. Its proceeds were used by the household and managed by the husband. The mulugu of Subaræan law, which often involved the partial return of the bride price, was a similar institution. The Code of Hammurabi provides for a dowry (seriktum) similar to the neo-Babylonian nudunnû, whereas, peculiarly enough, only the nudunnû is mentioned in the documents, being looked upon rather as merely a marriage outfit.

The Middle Assyrian code provides for a marriage without a common household,