

Silver in Iraqi Laws

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Abstract

To learn about one of the innovations that the ancient Iraqis contributed to the entire world, as the ancient Iraqis excelled in various sciences and knowledge and were pioneers in many civilizational achievements that elevated human life towards the better. Among the most important of these innovations is the use of silver in commercial transactions, which influenced the nature of economic life in the ancient world and was mentioned in ancient laws. We relied on studying the metal silver and its importance in commercial transactions through ancient Iraqi laws as an analytical framework for the prevailing laws of that time. The study results showed the importance of silver in commercial transactions instead of other perishable materials like barley. It also highlighted the value of this metal compared to other materials like barley, oil, and dates. Many laws mentioned silver in response to the negatives that existed in society at that time, stating that silver was paid as compensation in many cases.

Keywords: *Ancient Iraq, Silver, Iraqi Law.*

Introduction

Iraq is the cradle of the original civilizations known in the world and its civilization has been characterized by originality in many aspects, but the most prominent thing that distinguished it and the most influential throughout the ages is the innovation of writing and codification of the law. If it were not for writing, we would not have known anything about the law that governed the actions of individuals most of the life of society or we do not mean by law here just the law that we received written on obelisks of stone or a number of clay only, but we mean the provisions and legal rules that regulate the conditions of society in economic and social terms, and silver metal had an important and effective role throughout the ages as it was used in determining prices after barley, where the ancient Iraqis realized that barley does not provide the necessary flexibility for commercial transactions because of the difficulty of carrying and storing it and its exposure to damage, so it prompted the ancient Iraqis to search for an easy to carry alternative, so (silver) was the best choice for evaluating prices, and this is confirmed by the legal texts that you will know in our research.

Silver Language and Idiomatically

Silver and singular (silver) is a name attributed to silver, made of silver or containing a silver ring, silver utensils, () silver and silver and means the time of breaking it, or the rock scattered on top of each other (), (silver) seal of a book, and in the hadith "Allah does not favor Fak" and do not say it is preferred by joining the Yaa. And break up) the thing broke (and dispersed) the people (Vtfd) any difference Vtfdoa , and () everything dispersed is (Fadd) with two holes (), but (Fadh) broken Faa collected (silver) and silver is known.() And I loosened the thing, it is loose and scandalous: it was broken and divided, and its virtue and its virtue: what is broken from it;

You broke it, you broke it and in the hadith of Dhul-Kifl: It is not permissible for you to break the ring; E is a metaphor for intercourse and the opening of the ring and the seal if it is broken and opened and the thing is broken and opened: what you differentiate from it when you break it and shake the thing: it broke Some() chemical elements were named in Arabic languages in different names according to their presence in nature and silver was called several names of which were committees for its preciousness and likeness to

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Alujain () And the white came in the hadith, "I gave the treasure of red and white" are gold, silver, paper and paper (language in it), but the grating is pure silver or Hasalah: silver and its condition.()

Silver Idiomatically

Idiomatically, silver was known in the Sumerian language. (ku3. BABBAR. And he meets it with Akkadian(Kaspu) (), It is a word consisting of two syllables (Ku3.BABBAR) And I mean The first From the word (KU3) Pure and the second syllable BABBAR.) and means white ()governorSilver is a white element that can be withdrawn, knocked and polished from the most conductive materials for heat and electricity, and it is one of the psychological jewels that are used in the minting of money() And in the heat Because it is treated with fire to make ornaments from it because silver is one of the morphological elements that are found in nature in pure form, The silver metal Of the important minerals After copper and gold in the ladder of metals known to ancient man, The of indicators Historical () Silver was used In ancient Iraq generally in Several areas as recorded by clay panels and obelisks, If it had an important role in the economy of ancient Iraq and was used primarily in determining Prices and goods reported In laws Old Iraqi () Silver is mentioned in cuneiform texts and is characterized by many qualities, including:

- Precious Tuhhu
- 2-atru is very good
- Good Damqu
- White pisu quality mediation
- 5. Khalisa Qallalu

It is also noted that the Assyrian writer was used as a determinant of the syllabic word Akkadian (Kaspu) to denote the meaning of price and not what is meant by the meaning or term imitation of the word silver There are two formulations expressed in the Sumerian language. CAR, I DON'T WANT TO BE A BI) And he meets it with Akkadian Karu(m() It means the price as in the following proverbs:

CAR, I DON'T WANT TO BE A GOOD GUY. BI 2GUR.TA.AM)

Meaning (its price is a shekel□ of (silver) per 2 cores)

And the second formula (KI. LAM) is matched by Akkadian (Maniru)

(KI. LAM 2GUR a-na.1GiN(

(Price 2 cores per 1 shekel of silver) ()

Examples of the word silver in the following text include():

1-dali KÙ. BABBAR Ša 2SIL. A

(One silver pot of 2 sples)()

Silver and Its Types

Cuneiform texts mentioned to us metal Silver and its types According to the degrees of purity, including pure silver, polished, shiny, strong or hard () Silver was forged in many forms, like other metals and was taken in the form of pieces that determined their weights.() measured In Shekel* Silver was on Two: she Currency silver and industrial silver were described differently, and although the exact processes could not

be determined, the phrases and terms used in the definition of silver shine, and some glossy. It is mentioned in the text of Kabd and Kia* Polished silver hi-ta-at,) (sa-ru-pi-in). Refinery, That silver Mesu, it was known and can be translated as (silver that washes), and it is in the Sumerian language (KU. LUH.HA), Synthetic silver can be obtained through a continuous heating process, Prolonged() The texts mention to us the types of silver as follows.....

Good Silver Kaspu Damqamqu

As stated in the contract dealing with this contract as follows:

(Nabu-ahhesu-eribaK, 10GIN KUG-UD. SIG,Nabu - tapputu -alik, rabsaresi)().

Meaning: Nabu-Akhbash-Arb lend 10 shekels of good silver. At his age, Nabok-Tabot-Elk, Rabbi-Sh-Rish, Chief Court Officer (616 BC). ()

Pure Silver (Kaspu Masin)

As evidenced by a loan contract that addressed:

(Nur-sams 11GIN KUG. COME BACK TO HIM. U Assur-garua-nere)()()

Meaning: There is a person called ner-shamash who lends someone 11shekel of pure silver. In the year of Ashur-Kru-Nabr (640 BC).

Burnt Silver (Kaspu Qalin)

It was mentioned in a letter :

KUG. UD an-ni- u sa a-na LUGAL be-li-ia as-pur-an-ni sa ir-bi su-u la qa-li la ma-si.

This letter was sent to the king of Assyria Pan-Abli in which one of the officials of Assyria was called to report this silver, about which I am writing to my lord the king from the public income and which has not been burned or purified.

There is another reference to burnt silver in a court document from the archives of the goldsmith in Assyria that states the following:

(KUG . UD sa-ar-pu-u-ni"NUMUN-u-ti-iu-sal-lam)

Meaning: "Zeri will deliver the silver that he burned"

Silver is present in nature in large quantities and is in the form of platinum metals and this helped to merge silver with some other metals to make alloys, including made of merging copper and bronze with silver (), and when merging silver with gold, where an alloy is formed () Electrum* with small amounts of copper and other metals, and a natural alloy can be made through the process of merging silver also with mercury and this silver mixture is sometimes found in oxidation areas of silver deposits, and most Silver produced at the present time is a mixture of silver with copper, lead and zinc (), and silver as we mentioned a precious metal found in nature mixed with other metals .mixed with copper to gain more hardness () Silver was of great importance as Iraq is considered the cradle of ancient civilizations has gone through successive stages of gradual civilizational development until it reached a stage of maturity and prosperity, () Where ancient Iraq was able to move from caves to agriculture and was able to discover metals, including silver, which was used by the ancient Iraqis in religious and religious life The land of ancient Iraq does not contain silver and was obtained through merchants, wars and gifts, nor the importance of silver in ancient Iraq, it carried many qualities and strength and did not affect external factors, the ancient Iraqis used it in a number of aspects of daily life And economic (), was the main means of exchange in ancient times barley and not

silver and then used silver and barley side by side as a means of exchange and now silver has become used as a price for valuable things such as the sale of real estate, houses, slaves and slaves until the end of Mesopotamia times barley for simple things such as wages and others and silver for precious things (,) It is not known specifically when the pricing of materials began, knowing that writing was not invented in prehistoric times, and that is the beginning of the emergence of prices and wages, as it was associated with the emergence of commercial operations, which began when specialization in production became common, which is the last stage of the development of the economic system, and in that period in ancient Iraq production was limited, so the need to exchange the needs of the ancient Iraqis emerged, and this method was known as barter (,), and there are a number of formulas dating back to the barter process, but the most commonly used is the formula (puĦum) means barter or exchange (,), of the materials used by the Iraqis in barter is barley, but barley and grains in general do not provide the necessary flexibility for commercial transactions because of the difficulty of carrying and storing them, and the possibility of exposure

Metals were the best option for price evaluation due to their lack of perishability and ease of division and carrying, such as gold, silver, lead and copper. The ancient Iraqis used silver in

Silver prices relative to other materials (barley, oil, dates):

Silver was used in determining prices, where silver had a clear role in economic activity in ancient Iraq, especially in determining prices for various materials such as barley, oil, dates and others (,), and prices in general fluctuate during the year, especially the prices of agricultural crops, they are high at times the date of harvest and at other times low or moderate that happens before or after harvest (,) Silver was easily divisible and for the second gathering without losing weight, so the ancient Iraqis helped to use silver in evaluating prices as well as preserving its potential(,), and by finding a letter dating back to the era of the Essen dynasty (1822-763) BC, the price of barley was known in relation to silver, which stated:

(Barley reached the price of one core for every one shekel of silver,

I spent 20 weights of silver

Price for the purchase of 72,000 balls of barley.(,)

It was also stated in the daily documents to determine the oil prices for silver, where it was Oils It is called by the term I-GIS And he meets him with Akkadi šamnu(m)(,) Since prehistoric times, the ancient Iraqis have known various types of animal and vegetable fats (animal and vegetable ghee).) (,). Where it occupied an important place in the ancient Iraqi society because of the large number of uses and the increasing demand for them, oils were one of the necessary foodstuffs in addition to being one of the main materials non The Sumerian term Duck Shagan (dug Sagan) Denotes a pointed base vessel using oil preservation and these vessels were often transported in a net-like bearing or basket attached to a pole (,), And put in this bowl different types of oils such as sesame oil The price of which differed in relation to silver in the period of King Sin Edinam of the Lhasa dynasty mentions in one of his texts about the price of oil as it says:

(6 grains of silver per one piece of oil)

During the reign of Sin – Kashid of the Warka dynasty, it is mentioned in a text:

(15 grains of silver per one piece of oil)(,)

Where the regular oil price in relation to silver as follows:

(Each one silver chip for every 4 and a half grains of oil),

With the exception of sesame oil, which was mentioned earlier, it was lost (the price was 27 pieces of silver per one of the oil).

As for the ratio of silver to dates, it is called in Sumerian zu-lum And he meets him with Akkadi suluppu() The palm tree was the most important tree, as it was the focus of economic life, as it was widely cultivated in the south, it is one of the slow-growing trees that do not give its fruit until after a period between 4-6 years, where the ancient inhabitants of Iraq benefited from its parts, so they used its fruit and extracted from it several types of liquor, molasses and vinegar, and they used the kernel as fuel and then fodder for animals, and the nuclei of dates were found in the layer of Cave Shanider, and this indicates that the nucleus discovered there resulted from the transport of dates From place to place () . Where after dates are a basic food item relied on by the inhabitants of Mesopotamia in their economic life, as it entered into many commercial transactions related to sale, purchase and barter, as the lists of offerings and offerings of the gods are almost not without this food item (). The prices of dates vary according to the type, precious dates are expensive compared to other types that were cheaper by Zuhdi and their prices in the season were usually lower and start to rise after that() Through the daily documents dating back to the city of Larsa, the price of dates is recorded as one piece of silver for every two dates dating back to this decade to the 36th year of Hammurabi's reign, as it says:

300GUR ZU. LU. U

KI. LAM 2GUR a-na 1G_{IN}

KU. BI 2 1/2 MA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. BABBAR

That is: (300 cores (of) dates, the price is two currants per 1 shekel of silver, the price is 2/1 of us of silver)

Silver Prices For Gold

Gold and silver were used in barter and as a measure to evaluate prices and things and determine the corresponding goods, and determine the weights of silver in the unit of weight known at the time, which is the shekel, which is equal to 8.4 grams at the present time and silver prices Old as it is Nowadays it varies from time to time and throughout the ages()Also, the prices of materials were not stable throughout the old periods, but prices often rose. Obscene rise and caused some economic crises ()rule The use of gold and silver as a main material in economic dealing, but There is no reliable evidence yet on the value of silver before the Akkadian period, The ratio of gold to silver was equal to 5-7 to 8, as it was mentioned in one of the cuneiform texts about the rates of gold in relation to silver in the second dynasty of your, as it was mentioned in the text from 4: 5-6 at the rate of 15 shekels of silver compared to 1 shekel of gold:

(NIS in gold, equivalent to 7 NIS of silver)

The changes between the ratio of gold and silver are due to the abundant availability of gold, especially in the time period between the Larsa dynasty and the Hammurabi breed, and that the devaluation of gold will not have a significant impact on prices, which are priced in terms of silver and not gold.() In some periods of the Old Babylonian period (2000-1595 BC), silver fluctuated in value due to The rise of gold The oldest document telling us about the value of silver in relation to gold dates back to the rule of King Sin-Ednam *Sin-Adinam(1849-1843 BC) in Larsa.

A sharp drop in the price of silver against gold is noted as it was a ratio of ten to one. (), During the reign of King Rim-Sin* Rim-Sin(1822-1763 BC), it is noted a significant rise in the price of silver relative to gold by 1:9 to 1:3 and this means that gold became abundant in the middle of the Old Babylonian era()In the reign of King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC), gold for silver was between 6 to 2/5.1 shekels, in one of the letters received requests submitted to people, and I paid the price of this order in gold, which was priced at 2/5.1 times the price of silver, where it says in Message Text:

(2 of us of gold vs 11 of us of silver

1 of us of gold vs 2/5.1 of us of silver)

In the Middle Babylonian period, the price range was narrower than in the third dynasty of your, as shiny gold was distinguished by a ratio of silver 1:4. About Gold Types() Silver was mentioned in the economic texts of the Middle Babylonian period (Kashi) within the special economic texts of Aqarquf* (Dorkorikalzo) less than gold, as it was brought through trade from the country of Elam and from Anatolia, which was feeding the country of Assyria, and gold became the usual means of exchange temporarily instead of silver in Babylon during this period was getting large quantities of gold() The price of silver relative to gold in the ancient Assyrian era, which is the contemporary period of the Old Babylonian, was a price ranging from 1:9 to 1:7 () One of the cuneiform texts dating back to the ancient Assyrian era referred to the valorization of silver metal for an individual, pointing out that every seven shekels of silver is equal to a shekel of gold, and therefore in this text A clear indication of the valorization of silver metal Through another metal, which is gold, it says:

(..., although your gold is not worth 7 shekels of silver, I was able to sell it 7.5 shekels per shekel...) The()
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination

In the Neo-Babylonian period (627-539 BC), prices and wages generally rose, with the ratio of silver to gold ranging from 1:9 to 1:14. () Also, prices ranged between 1:6 and 1:17 () .

Silver In Laws

It is a set of provisions and rules set by the kings in ancient Iraq in order to address the economic and social aspects, as the kings in ancient Iraq boasted of setting these laws, because they are just laws and the purpose of developing these laws is to spread justice in the country.() And given the importance of silver in ancient Iraq and its material value, it was mentioned in the laws in most of its articles, silver and its prices were determined, so the law was It is a set of general rules Abstract binding on individuals in a particular society whose application includes a penalty, Represents the Reforms of Or Ka Jena (2355) BCE he Seeds of the law In ancient Iraq Which came as a reaction to the negatives that prevailed in the era before the ruler Orcagina, in which the rulings varied, the most important of which were related to cases in which the story was paid as compensation, such as divorces. (), as stated:

A man who wanted a divorce had to ask his wife

To pay the governor five shekels of silver and one shekel to the minister .

In another text: (The husband must compensate his wife with a sum of silver,

This is different if she is early or married). ()

Silver is also mentioned in reforms in marriage ceremonies, for example when a husband pours oil on his bride's head, as stated in the Orcagina Law: “

If a man pours ... Zeta takes

The governor is five shekels of silver.",

and (Mah_sange) gets one shekel.

of silver, abgal takes one shekel of silver.()

Silver in the Law of King Urnamu (2100-2050 BC): The Urnamu Code is the oldest legal document in ancient Iraq after the Urucagina reforms(). It was found in 1952 written on a cuneiform tablet preserved in the Museum of the Orient in Turkey. It is a sun-dried disc, light brown in color, with an area of (20 × 0 names). More than half of his writings have been destroyed, and the ancient scribe divided this tablet into eight, there are four fields in the face and four in the back, and each field contains Forty-five numbers (), however, these discovered texts are not original, but rather copies issued by the writing schools of Nippur

and your, and date back to two or three centuries after the death of Urnamu, that is, between 1800 and 1700 BC(), and researchers have been able to read it and identify its introduction and conclusion, which means that this law is classified according to the correct method of law. However, only twenty-two articles can be translated and are written in Sumerian.()Urnamu, the founder of the third dynasty of your, was the first to make laws in ancient Iraq(). The first group includes articles 1 to 12 relating to personal status. The legislation stipulates that whoever marries a virgin and then divorces her must pay her from us in silver. He married a slave girl and then divorced her, he must pay her half of us in silver, and obligated the father of the fiancée to return double the gifts he took, if he broke his promise and married another man(), and one of the legal articles indicates that if a man rapes his mother by force, he must pay compensation of (5) shekels of silver, which is a compensation paid to the owner of the nation

As stated in the following text:

TUKUM. BI GEME LÙ.Ù A.NU

GI4. A NÍG.A.GAR.ŠE LÙ IN.

OKAY, I DON'T WANT TO BE A MA A BÍ.IN.GI4 5Gín kù babbar ì.LÁ. E

Meaning: "If a man forcibly removes the virginity of another man's mother, he pays 5 shekels of silver."()

Some of the legal articles in your growth law include the process of compensation when a man divorces his wife to pay one shekel of silver if he divorces his wife, as stated in the following text :

TUKUM. BI lù.Ù DAM NITAD

AM.A.NI IN. TAG4. CROWN4 1MA.

I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS THE FIRST TO BE A GOOD GUY. BABBAR ì.LÁ.E.

Meaning: (If a man divorces his main wife, he pays 1 of us silver) ()

In Article 7 of the Urnamu Law, the amount of divorce is set at half of us and 30 shekels of silver if the woman is a widow.()

Silver was also used in the law to broadcast Ishtar in false accusation and other topics, as it was stated in Article (33) that if a man accuses a girl early in having a sexual relationship with a man and proves the opposite, he must pay a fine of ten silver shekels, as stated in the following text:

1GIN KU. BABBAR I.LA. E(

Meaning: (weighs ten shekels of silver)()

It is also stated in one of the legal articles that if a person does not own a slave to serve him, he must pay 15 shekels of silver, as stated in the following text:

TUKUM. B SAG NU. TUKU 15

Gín kù. BABR ì.LÁ. E

Meaning: (If he does not have a slave, he pays 15 shekels of silver)()

Silver is also mentioned in the Eshnuna Law (1850-1900) of Article (6) has stipulated the penalty for a thief who is caught in flagrante delicto where he pays ten pieces of silver as stated in the following text:

sum-ma LU i-na nu-la-a-ni

GIŠ MA la sa-at-tam is-sa-ba-at

10 GIN Kù.ABBAR I.LA. E

That is: (If a man is caught (seized) by trick a boat that does not return (to him) weighing ten silver slugs)

Article 43 specifies the compensation paid by anyone who bites a man's nose, cuts his eye, pulls out his tooth, cuts off his ear, or slaps him, as the compensation is

(To bite the nose according to the eye of us one of silver

And the tooth and the ear half of us are silver

and slapping ten shekels of silver) . ()

Article 48 states that the wages of the vehicle, its driver, and the bulls it is drawn are determined in barley and silver, as it states (In the case of renting the vehicle and using its tyrants and driver for a short period of time per day, such as the rental is from morning to noon, the rental rate is estimated with barley, but in the case of paying the agreed rent in silver, the lessee has the right to use the vehicle throughout the day).

The word silver rose in a number of ancient Iraqi laws, including the law of Hammurabi within Economic loans for the process of increasing profits and re-producing agricultural production continuously in those areas, and the loan is returned at the time of harvest as mentioned in the Hammurabi Law, Article I)

šum-ma a-wi-lum i-na ŠIBIR

Kù.BABBAR-Šu ù MÁŠ-Šu I.LÁ. E

Meaning: (If a man borrows silver..... The time of harvest weighs his silver and its redemption)()

Silver is mentioned in Article VII of the Code of Hammurabi, which stipulates the following:

(If a man buys or receives, for example, the trust is silver or gold)

Or a slave or his mother or an ox or a sheep or a donkey or anything else

From the hand of a man's son or a man's slave without witnesses or contracts

This man is a thief and must be executed)()

The legal article indicated Previous To that any man He gave something Whether it's a precious metal, a slave or... His mother or any animal from the man and when there were no contracts or witnesses, the man was considered a thief and was punished by death().

It is also mentioned 112 of the Code of Hammurabi that if silver or other materials are given to a man with the intention of delivering them in a specific place and the latter does not fulfill that, the punishment for that man is to pay five times what was delivered to him as follows:

If a man is engaged in a commercial voyage and gives silver, gold, precious stones or anything he owns to another man and deposits it in his transfer, if that man does not receive what is to be transferred and seizes it, the owner of the property must prove to that man that he has not received the movable property, then that man must pay to the owners of the movable property() five times what was handed over to him.

Article 122 of the Code of Hammurabi, especially in cash deposits such as silver, gold and other necessities, also mentions the method of creating silver, gold or any other thing that is required to be before witnesses or conclude a contract between the depositor and the depositor as stated in the following text:

(If a person deposits silver, gold or any other thing)

with another person in front of witnesses and then the depositor denied the deposit

They must prove it against him and pay twice as much as what I deposit().

According to the legal article (113) of the Code of Hammurabi, it is stated that a man who takes a guarantor from a man without having silver or grains as a debt must pay a fine of one third of the silver to each person who detains him, as stated in the following text:

(If a man does not have grain or silver (as debt) with another man,

But he held someone as a guarantor (she returns to the other man),

He must pay (as a fine) one third of the silver mana to each person he is detained)

The Assyrians left few laws, which is not commensurate with the fame and greatness of the Assyrian state and its kings and their many achievements. This deficiency is due to the preoccupation of the Assyrian kings with military and civil work, which distracted them to some extent from paying attention to administrative and organizational aspects, including the issuance of laws. Some attribute this deficiency to the fact that the Assyrians ruled a vast empire that included different peoples and nations with different cultures and customs. He was unable to accept any laws that all the peoples of the empire could accept. But the most likely view is that the Assyrians relied on previous laws, especially the law.nun Hammurabi, and what confirms this is that a copy of the legal passages was discovered in the library of King Ashurbanipal() It is mentioned in the Assyrian laws about silver in Article (30) of the first tablet and the text is as follows:

"If a father brought the gift of marriage to the house of the father of his daughter-in-law and the girl was not given to his son yet, another son of his died, and the wife lived in her father's house, he had to give the wife of his deceased son to his deceased son to his son, who gave the gift of marriage to an aunt and had the right to force his son, if he was not satisfied with that, he was entitled to recover all the silver and gold and things that could not be eaten, but the food is not claimed."

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