

## **Marriage in Mesopotamia in light of Cuneiform Texts**

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Families in the Mesopotamian society are based on strong relations, such as marriage, which is accepted by traditions, customs and laws. Many marriage contracts were authenticated on muddy boards (tablets).

Marriage is a social, legislative and legal union between a man and a woman, its aim is to produce children, to establish a family and create social, economic relations that will have an effect on the future. The impact of these relations will affect many of the families that have a direct relationship between the husband and the wife.

The economic situations, the social status and the intellectual aspects of the Mesopotamian society have contributed to identifying the marriage system. Although there is no sufficient information about the first aspects of marriage in Mesopotamia, it may be affected by different phases which affect also primitive unions before they were civilized.

Through studying the legal items and analyzing the daily documents of marriage, it is revealed that its rules were developed and made complicated in Mesopotamia and they did not differ from the rules of marriage in the Eastern communities of our present time.

Marriage has specific rituals according to customs and traditions. Marriage rituals differ according to those prevalent in each community; depending on the environmental circumstances and the social and culture aspects of the community.

The agricultural communities are similar to the community of Mesopotamia; marriage in the rural community is a necessary demand up till now, aiming at bringing children to the world or motivating women to help men in their work, such as sowing the land.

