

# Table of Contents

**Introduction — 1**

**Map — 5**

**1 Her outward appearance — 7**

- 1.1 Phases of life — 7
- 1.2 The girl — 10
- 1.3 The virgin — 13
- 1.4 Women's clothing — 17
- 1.5 Cosmetics and beauty — 47
- 1.6 The language of women — 56
- 1.7 Women's names — 58

**2 Marriage — 60**

- 2.1 Preparations — 62
- 2.2 Age for marrying — 66
- 2.3 Regulations — 67
- 2.4 The betrothal — 72
- 2.5 The wedding — 93
- 2.6 Marriage and magic — 110

**3 The marriage gifts — 112**

- 3.1 General remarks — 112
- 3.2 The bride-price — 117
- 3.3 The dowry — 134
- 3.4 Gifts from the man — 145

**4 The family — 147**

- 4.1 Impotence — 148
- 4.2 Children — 152
- 4.3 The mother — 155
- 4.4 Bereavement — 159
- 4.5 Childlessness — 160
- 4.6 Repudiation of a childless wife — 163

**5 A second wife — 165**

- 5.1 A slave-girl — 168
- 5.2 Initiating the transaction — 170

## **VI — Table of Contents**

- 5.3 The second wife in the Old Assyrian period — **182**
- 5.4 The second wife in later periods — **188**
- 5.5 The position of the second wife when the first wife is ill — **191**

### **6 Concubines — 193**

### **7 Marriage between equals — 200**

### **8 Marriage to a slave — 205**

### **9 Divorce — 209**

- 9.1 In Babylonia — **210**
- 9.2 In Assyria — **216**
- 9.3 In the Neo-Babylonian period — **220**
- 9.4 In Syria — **223**
- 9.5 Motives for divorce — **223**
- 9.6 Predictions — **230**
- 9.7 Reconciliation — **232**

### **10 Adultery — 234**

- 10.1 Women who initiate adultery — **235**
- 10.2 Were both lovers treated equally? — **239**
- 10.3 Caught in the act — **243**
- 10.4 Punishment — **244**
- 10.5 Accusations of adultery — **245**
- 10.6 The Mother of Sin — **250**
- 10.7 An adulterous princess? — **250**

### **11 Rape — 254**

- 11.1 Slave-girl — **255**
- 11.2 Unmarried girl — **258**
- 11.3 Married woman — **261**
- 11.4 The locations — **263**
- 11.5 In myths — **264**
- 11.6 The right of the first night — **265**

### **12 Incest — 268**

- 12.1 Promiscuity — **268**
- 12.2 Incest — **270**

- 13 The widow — 275**
- 13.1 Poor widows — 278
- 13.2 Arrangements made for widows in wills — 282
- 13.3 Powerful widows — 284
- 13.4 Remarrying — 288
- 13.5 Cohabiting — 290
- 13.6 Widows with children — 292
- 14 Levirate marriage — 296**
- 15 Women's rights of inheritance — 300**
- 16 Women-trafficking under the guise of adoption — 304**
- 16.1 The Old Babylonian period — 304
- 16.2 Nuzi — 306
- 17 Women robbed of their freedom — 311**
- 17.1 Security for a man's debts — 311
- 17.2 The woman as guarantor — 319
- 17.3 Imprisoned for murder — 323
- 17.4 The sale of children in time of need — 324
- 17.5 Dedicated to a temple — 326
- 17.6 Prisoners of war — 331
- 18 Women and work — 339**
- 18.1 Working outside the home — 341
- 18.2 Weavers — 344
- 18.3 Grinding flour — 350
- 18.4 Women as musicians and singers — 353
- 18.5 The female innkeeper — 363
- 18.6 Scribes — 367
- 18.7 The female doctor — 371
- 18.8 Wailing women — 372
- 18.9 Women involved in childbirth — 375
- 18.10 Business women — 381
- 18.11 Women's seals — 387
- 18.12 Women as witnesses — 389
- 19 The witch — 391**

<b>20</b>	<b>Prostitution — 399</b>
20.1	Where she worked — <b>399</b>
20.2	Dressed for work — <b>405</b>
20.3	Slave-girls — <b>409</b>
20.4	The risk of pregnancy — <b>410</b>
20.5	Forced into prostitution — <b>413</b>
20.6	Marriage — <b>414</b>
20.7	Social esteem — <b>416</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Temple prostitution — 419</b>
21.1	Internal evidence — <b>419</b>
21.2	The <i>kezertu</i> — <b>422</b>
21.3	Devaluing old titles — <b>426</b>
21.4	Income — <b>426</b>
21.5	Goddess and whore — <b>427</b>
21.6	A wild celebration — <b>435</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Her physical life — 436</b>
22.1	Physiology — <b>436</b>
22.2	Menstruation — <b>438</b>
22.3	Diseases — <b>441</b>
22.4	The old woman — <b>451</b>
22.5	Dead and buried — <b>456</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>The court and the harem before 1500 BC — 459</b>
23.1	The Sumerians — <b>461</b>
23.2	Ebla — <b>464</b>
23.3	Funerals — <b>471</b>
23.4	The Old Akkadian period — <b>475</b>
23.5	The kingdom of Ur III — <b>476</b>
23.6	The Old Babylonian period — <b>487</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>The court and the harem after 1500 BC — 512</b>
24.1	Babylonia — <b>512</b>
24.2	Assyria — <b>514</b>
24.3	Nuzi — <b>518</b>
24.4	The Hittites and Egypt — <b>519</b>
24.5	Ugarit — <b>526</b>
24.6	The Neo-Assyrian period — <b>529</b>
24.7	The Neo-Babylonian period — <b>548</b>

- 24.8 The Persian period and later — 552
- 24.9 Arab queens — 554
- 25 Priestesses — 555**
- 25.1 The high priestesses — 555
- 25.2 Priestesses in Mari — 578
- 25.3 Priestesses in the Old Assyrian period — 580
- 25.4 Priestesses after the Old Babylonian period — 581
- 26 Old Babylonian convents — 584**
- 26.1 Words for a ‘nun’ — 586
- 26.2 The *nadītu* — 587
- 26.3 Inauguration — 590
- 26.4 High status — 594
- 26.5 Duties — 597
- 26.6 Care in old age — 600
- 26.7 The demise of the convent — 601
- 27 Married holy women — 605**
- 27.1 The *nadītu* of Marduk the god of Babylon — 605
- 27.2 The holy woman, the *qadištu* — 608
- 27.3 The *kulmašītu* — 615
- 28 Soothsaying — 617**
- 28.1 Dreams, prophecy and ecstasy in Mari — 620
- 28.2 Prophecy in Assyria — 623
- 29 Women and worship — 627**
- 29.1 Offerings for the dead — 628
- 29.2 Making intercession — 631
- 29.3 The woman and her goddess — 638
- 29.4 The mourning for Tammuz — 640
- 30 The Sacred Marriage — 645**
- 30.1 Poetry — 647
- 30.2 The reality of the situation — 650
- 30.3 The function of the ritual — 652
- 30.4 The Assyrian period and later — 655
- 30.5 The demise of goddesses — 657

**31 The Middle Assyrian law-book about women — 662**

**32 The value placed on women — 683**

32.1 Positive views — **683**

32.2 Negative views — **685**

32.3 Women compared with men — **690**

**Bibliography — 692**

**Indexes — 693**