**Английский язык 2 курс**

**02.11-06.11**

**THE BIRTH OF LAW**

**1. Read and translate the text:**

Rules and laws — and the conventions or customs from which they are descended — have been a part of human life ever since our ancestors first began to live in large and settled groups. But our knowledge is vague of laws that were in effect before the invention of writing in about 3500 B.C. The earliest known legal text was written by Ur-Nammu, a king of the Mesopotamian city of Ur, in about 2100 B.C. It dealt largely with compensation for bodily injuries, and with the penalties for witchcraft and runaway slaves.

One of the most detailed ancient legal codes was drawn up in about 1758 B.C. by Hammurabi, a king of Babylonia. The entire code, consisting of 282 paragraphs, was carved into a great stone pillar, which was set up in a temple to the Babylonian god Marduk so that it could be read by every citizen.

The pillar, lost for centuries after the fall of Babylon in the 16th century B.C., was rediscovered by a French archaeologist in 1901 amid the ruins of the Persian city of Susa. Hammurabi's words were still legible. The pillar is now in the Louvre museum in Paris. The laws laid down by Hammurabi were more extensive than any had gone before. They covered crime, divorce and marriage, the rights of slave owners and slaves, the settlement of debts, inheritance and property contracts. There were even regulations about taxes and the prices of goods.

Punishments under the code were often harsh. The cruel principle of revenge was observed: an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, which meant that criminals had to receive as punishment precisely those injuries and damages they had inflicted upon their victims. Not only murderers but also thieves and false accusers faced the death penalty. And a child who hit his father could expect to lose the hand that struck the blow. The code outlawed private blood feuds and banned the tradition by which a man could kidnap and keep the woman he wanted for his bride. In addition, the new laws took into account the circumstances of the offender as well as of the offence. So a lower-ranking citizen who lost a civil case would be fined less than an aristocrat in the same position — though he would also be awarded less if he won.

Nevertheless, Hammurabi's laws represented an advance on earlier tribal customs, because the penalty could not be harder than the crime.

**2. Find English equivalents (see the text) and learn them by heart:**

1) правила и законы; 2) часть человеческой жизни; 3) жить большими оседлыми группами; 4) изобретения письменности; 5) самый ранний известный юридический текст; 6) компенсация за телесные повреждения; 7) наказание за колдовство; 8) беглые рабы; 9) самый подробный древний правовой кодекс; 10) был вырезан на большом каменном столбе; 11) среди руин; 12) слова все еще были разборчивыми; 13) они касались преступлений, разводов и браков, прав рабовладельцев и рабов, урегулирования долговых, наследственных и имущественных договоров; 14) правила о налогах и ценах на товары; 15) жестокий принцип мести: око за око и зуб за зуб; 16) преступники; 17) получить в качестве наказания; 18) травмы и ущерб; 19) жертвы; 20) смертная казнь; 21) убийцы, воры и клеветники; 22) кодекс объявил вне закона; 23) частная кровная месть; 24) запретил традицию; 25) похитить и удерживать женщину; 26) новые законы принимали во внимание; 27) обстоятельства правонарушителя и правонарушения; 28) проиграл гражданское дело; 29) собой шаг вперед по сравнению с прежними племенными обычаями; 30) наказание не могло быть более суровым, чем преступление.