



Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia

By Jean Bottéro

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Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia, based on articles originally published in *L'Histoire* by Jean Bottéro, André Finet, Bertrand Lafont, and Georges Roux, presents new discoveries about this amazing Mesopotamian culture made during the past ten years. Features of everyday Mesopotamian life highlight the new sections of this book. Both gourmet cuisine and popular cookery used fish, meats, fruits, vegetables, and grains, available fresh or preserved (through methods still used today), and served with beer and wine. While feelings toward love and sex are rarely found in personal writings or correspondence, myths, prayers, and accounts of an acceptance of a wide range of behaviors (despite monogamy, prostitution flourished) argue that both were considered natural and necessary for a happy existence.

Under law woman existed as a man's property, yet stories show that wives frequently used beauty and wits to keep husbands in hand, and a wife's financial holdings remained her property, reverting to her family at her death. Women were allowed to participate in activities that could increase this wealth and some, pledged to the gods and shut away in group homes, were nonetheless able to participate in lucrative business ventures. Also included are accounts of the exceptional life of the queen and the women of Mari, the story of the great Queen Semiramis, and chapters on magic, medicine, and astrology.

The concluding section offers a fascinating in-depth comparison of ancient Sumerian myths and stories similar to those found in the Hebrew bible. The new information found in *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia* makes a significant contribution, one that deepens our knowledge and understanding of this great, ancient civilization.

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Editorial Review

Review

A popular work for understanding Mesopotamian social life... Written in a vigorous and interesting style with much useful information.

(Mark W. Chavalas *Religious Studies Review*)

The book covers many interesting topics not typically addressed in general texts such as cuisine, love and sex, women's rights, and the idea of sin. The book is written for the novice in the field, but it does not simply skim the surface or summarize the authors' longer works; rather, it makes accessible much interesting primary source material that is normally only found in scholarly book sand journals.

(Linda Bergstein Scherr *Religious Studies Review*)

In *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*, Jean Bottéro displays his immense learning, total command of the field, as well as a profound awareness of approaches used by scholars in other historical periods... This book is a well-rounded and appealing introduction to Mesopotamian civilization.

(Amélie Kuhrt, University College, London)

Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Long:

Often the book *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia* will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Robert Hicks:

The reason? Because this Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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