**Here are some of the laws of the Twelve Tables**

* If you’re called to go to court, you must go. If you don’t show up, you can be taken to court by force.
* If you need a witness to testify and he won’t show up, you can go once every three days and shout in front of his house. If the court has said you owe money, you have 30 days to pay. After that, the person to whom you owe money can grab you and bring you to court. If you still do not pay, and no one at the court that day will pay for you, you can be bound in chains that weigh at least 15 pounds or more. You wear those chains until you pay. On the third day, the people to whom you owe money can decide to accept less than you owe them. If you pay, the case is settled and your chains are removed.
* A space of two feet and a half must be left between neighboring buildings
* When a man's land lies adjacent to the highway, he can enclose it any way that he chooses, but if he neglects to do so, any other person can drive an animal over the land wherever he pleases.
* Should a tree on a neighbor's farm be bent crooked by the wind and lean over your farm, you may take legal action for removal of that tree. If it’s your tree, it’s your fruit, even if it falls on another man’s land.
* If the theft has been done by night, if the owner kills the thief, the thief shall be held to be lawfully killed. It is unlawful for a thief to be killed by day unless he defends himself with a weapon. Even if he’s armed, unless he uses the weapon and fights back, you cannot kill him. Even if he resists, first call out (so that someone may hear and come up.)
* A person who had been found guilty of giving false witness shall be hurled down from the Tarpeian Rock.
* No person shall hold meetings by night in the city.
* Putting to death of any man unconvicted is forbidden. (One exception – a thief in the night on your property.)
* A dead man shall not be buried or burned within the city.
* (Marriages) should not take place between [plebeians and patricians](http://rome.mrdonn.org/plebs.html). (This law was changed as time went on. But when the Twelve Tables were first written, it was a crime to marry outside your class.)