

The 42 Laws of Ma'at

There are many translations and I am sure that if you are familiar with them, you may have a different interpretation. But I feel that literal interpretation of “divine” word is what gets us in a whole lot of trouble. Ma’at is not for one group or another. It just is.

It is the spirit behind these 42 statements that must be acknowledged. They have been called the “negative confessions” meaning they are affirmations of what one has not done in living by Ma’at.

Again, I do not claim to be an Egyptologist and have never translated a scroll or papyrus that has the Laws of Ma’at written out. This is a working, living document for me. As my knowledge grows and I learn more of the original wording, I will update this document. In the meantime, this is the best way for me to attempt to live according to the Laws.

In my desire to live a productive and positive life under the laws of Ma’at, I have grouped them in to 3 categories. The Laws of Person cover how I should conduct myself. We often talk about showing others compassion but we often forget that we are also guardians of ourselves. The Laws of Community reflect on my interaction with people, animals and nature. The Laws of Divine represent my honor of the Netjer.

Laws of Person

1. I have not polluted myself.
2. I have not multiplied words exceedingly.
3. I have never magnified my condition beyond what was fitting.
4. I have not behaved with arrogance.
5. I have not envied or craved for that which belongs to another.
6. I have not spoken scornfully.
7. I have not stopped my ears against the words of Right and Truth.
8. I have not burned with rage.
9. I have not acted with insolence.
10. I have not avenged myself.
11. I have not exhibited sloth, but have labored more than what was required of me.

Laws of Community

12. I have not done iniquity.
13. I have not robbed with violence.
14. I have not stolen.
15. I have not made any to suffer pain.
16. I have done no murder nor bid anyone to slay on my behalf.
17. I have not trimmed the measure.

18. I have not spoken lies.
19. I have not caused the shedding of tears.
20. I have not dealt deceitfully.
21. I have not acted guilefully. I have not set my lips against anyone.
22. I have not been angry or wrathful without a just cause.
23. I have not lusted nor defiled the spouse of any person.
24. I have not laid waste to the land.
25. I have not caused terror.
26. I have not done that which is abominable.
27. I have never uttered fiery words.
28. I have not judged hastily nor harshly.
29. I have not stirred up strife.
30. I have not been an eavesdropper.
31. I have not wronged the people.
32. I have done no harm nor have I done evil.
33. I have not worked treason.
34. I have not filched food from the mouth of the infant.
35. I have done no hurt unto man, nor wrought harm unto beasts.
36. I have not worked grief.
37. I have never fouled the water nor polluted the land.

Laws of Divine

38. I have not defrauded offerings nor have I added unto.
39. I have not robbed the Netjer nor have pilfered what is meant for them.
40. I have not transgressed nor have I vexed or angered Netjer.
41. I have never cursed the Netjer.
42. I have not disregarded my duty to honor the Netjer.