



After all this psychohistorical psychohistory that we love, let's now return to historical authenticity. One of the main empires, as we have already mentioned, was the **Babylonian**. Its name derives from *babw* or *bawille* which means "Gate of the Gods". Their culture was influenced, as we said before, by the other empires and peoples that were around. But Babylon stands out among them for the grandeur of its architecture, its palaces, its pyramidal temples called **ziggurats**, for having one of the seven wonders of the classical world - its **Hanging Gardens** - and for being the first to record their laws in writing through the **Hammarabi code**. However, its reputation has been severely tarnished by numerous unfavorable references in the Bible, including the famous **Tower of Babel** myth, tower which, by the way, is a Ziggurat.

Babylon had moments of splendor during the **Hammarabi** or **Nebuchadnezzar II** reigns. They came to occupy the territories of other Sumerian cities, the kingdom of Akkad, Phoenicia... and were also conquered and subdued numerous times by Hittites, Kassites, Assyrians, etc. They had a fleeting resurgence - the **New-Babylonian Empire** between 612 BCE and 539 BCE - and finally fell to the Persians.

Now it's time to play this record. Below you can read some texts that will give you slight insights on the themes the artists have been inspired by. They are reliable texts - not the Yon Danksen's crazy stuff - written by **Barbara Böck**, a **CSIC** (Spanish State Agency for Scientific Research) scientist. She's internationally recognized as one of the leading specialists in Assyro-Babylonian literature, magic, religion, and medicine and we have had the privilege of collaborating with her. Thanks, Barbara. And of course, thanks to the artists for this great music.

Have a nice trip!

*History copy of the Hammarabi code written on a 2.25 m high basalt stele, c. 1792-1750 BCE*