

EVIDENCE : LAW_0001_EN

Title	'On the murder of Eratosthenes' (speech by Lysias)
Subtitle	Athenian Law
Author	Unknown
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Revenge & Justice, Gender Roles & Patriarchy
Character(s)	None
Language	EN

Excerpt

LAW ON ADULTERY. 'When a husband catches his wife in the act of adultery, he shall no longer be permitted to cohabit with her. If he does so, he shall be punished with *atimia**. Similarly, a woman caught in the act of adultery is forbidden from attending national religious ceremonies. If she does so, she may be subjected to any kind of treatment, *up to – but not including – death***, with impunity.'

* *atimia* : comes from the ancient Greek *ἀτιμία* and literally means 'deprivation of honour' or 'loss of civil rights'.

** *The law prohibits killing an adulterous woman – even though it permits violence, humiliation, expulsion, and religious and social sanctions.*



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