

# Patrician and plebeian



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Patrician or Plebian: Does It Really Matter? Demetria Veniceia Fellow Romans when we were a republic, there were two major social classes. They were the Patricians and Plebeians. The Patricians were the wealthy and owned most of the land and they held most of the power. The Plebeians were the rest of the republic such as the farmers, artisans, and merchants. The Patricians thought they were the mightiest and greatest of all Romans because of their ancestry, they thought they were better than anybody else and that they have the authority to make laws in Rome.

The Plebeians were just citizens who were thought to be inferior and had the right to vote. Luckily, the Patricians had some decency and allowed the Plebeians to form their own assembly and elect officials called Tribunes. Tribunes protected the right of Plebeians and made sure that the Patricians were using their power in the law making process fairly. An important contribution from the Tribunes was the twelve tables, like the Ten Commandments, they were rules that were the basis of our Roman law.

What happened to democracy? Will there ever be equal rights for all? Even though the Patricians have given the Plebeians a bit more rights, Plebeians feel that they should be equal to the Patricians. Social class, wealth and ancestry should not determine Romans place and power. Every Roman should be able to do whatever they want as long as it is not going against the law. All Roman citizens should be able to run for office and all should be able to have the opportunity to become a citizen of Rome.

Our Roman government is not being run with integrity and wisdom. Maybe a woman should be in charge for once. It would be great for the empire of

Rome and it would be a great change in our society. Could this ever be possible? No matter whether Patrician, Plebeian, man, or woman all Romans should be treated equally with respect and kindness. Our survival and success depends on our working together as one. Most importantly it is imperative that we Romans to unite!