

8416 - Difference in spending on two wives, and spending on children of one wife from a previous marriage

the question

I am married to two wives. I am not quite sure how to be fair towards them regarding financial issues. They both live in different houses. One has 2 children from a different marriage, and the other has one son from our marriage. Do I have a financial obligation towards those children who are not mine? The two households spend different amounts of money on basic necessities (food, electricity, gas, transportation....), how can I be fair towards both and that is the case?

Detailed answer

Treating wives equally with regard to spending money and time is waajib (obligatory), unless one of them agrees to forego some of her rights in favour of the other. It is also waajib to treat the children equally, but you do not have to spend on the children from a different marriage unless there is no one to spend on them, in which case their expenses are an obligation on all the Muslims, of whom you are one.

If their accommodation differs in terms of basic necessities because one of the families is larger than the other, there is nothing wrong with that, but the additional spending involved should be related to the larger number of individuals concerned.

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