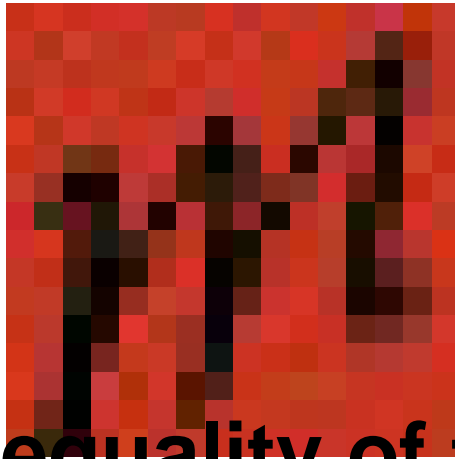


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XVI.7 On equality of treatment in the case of multiple wives

- The Spirit of Law - Book XVI. How the laws of domestic slavery relate to the nature of the climate -

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XVI.7 On equality of treatment in the case of multiple wives

From the law on plurality of wives follows the law on equality of treatment. Mohammed, who allows for four, would have everything equal among them : food, clothing, conjugal duty. This law is also established in the Maldives, where a man may marry three wives. [1]

The law of Moses even requires that when someone has married his son to a slave, and later he marries a free woman, he should diminish none of her clothing, food, and duties. [2] More could be given to the new wife, but the first wife must not have less.

[1] *Voyage de François Pyrard*, chap. xii.

[2] Exodus 21:10-11.