

For and About You

By Harriett Muhammad

DEAR HARRIETT: As I have read many of your articles, I feel that you are capable of giving an unbiased opinion in my case. I am 22 years old and married five years. I have always tried to give my wife and three children the necessary things they want and need in life.

I work hard every day and bring my money home, and all I ask of my wife is simply moral support. She will not shoulder her responsibilities at home, or with the children and me.

Five years is a long time and I cannot be happy with this kind of a life. I'm sure that if the right woman came along, I would leave my wife. What are your suggestions?—**UNHAPPY HUSBAND**, Cleveland, Ohio.

DEAR UNHAPPY HUSBAND: I suggest that you have a heart-to-heart talk with your wife and tell her just what it is that dissatisfies you. Let her know you are serious and that you are thinking about leaving. It's far better to give her a warning now than to keep your deep feelings to yourself, assuming that she knows her faults and can't or won't do anything about them.

If she knows that it is up to her to change in order to save her marriage, both of you then will be able in the future to find out what it takes to reach a mutual understanding.

DEAR HARRIETT: I'm not the kind of woman who gripes a lot, but I find myself of late feeling resentful towards my husband. In the past few months he has been bringing home several friends who have been sponging on us for food — continuously. He pays for the food, but nevertheless we have had to let other things go unattended because of the extra high food bill.

I have dropped a few words about their never inviting us over, and little remarks like that. However, he turns it off by telling me he's feeding them in order to help them.

Maybe you may think I'm heartless, but I don't see why we should always "help

them" — they never return the favors in any way. I'm beginning to resent my husband and his friends because I feel his friends are just using us for a restaurant!—**THE COOK**

DEAR COOK: Tell your husband how much money has been spent in the past few months on extra food. Tell him you are losing respect for him because he is allowing his friends to spoil the peace of your home. Ask him if he had ever considered the possibility that his help may be hurting in that he is nursing dependency. Suggest that he help by trying to straighten out his friends so they won't have to live off of him, but fully able to support themselves.

Talk with him seriously and ask him to give you some consideration. It may be that your husband has been so busy entertaining

that he hadn't thought about the consequences of his helping hand.

ATTENTION: "Lady in Waiting," Newark, New Jersey! Please send me your name and address and I will see that you get the requested information on how to "Walk on Fourth Orange Avenue."

ATTENTION, "Very Concerned," Atwater, Calif.: I will send you an answer directly to your address. Rest assured, your problem will be kept confidential.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.
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