

# For And About You

By Harriet Muhammad

**DEAR HARRIETT,** I am twenty-four years of age, married and have a wonderful husband. We have been married for four years with no children. My problem is this: my husband loves children and so do I, but he refuses to have any because he said that there is a bad war going on, so why should the black man continue to have children in this world with such bad troubles around us.

**WHY HAVE** children, he says, in this civilization for the government to send to war.

Could you please ease my mind and that of my husband's because I want lots of babies and now is a good time for me to start my family.

Mrs. J. R., Miami, Florida

**DEAR MRS. J.R.—**If your husband has taken a firm stand on the issue of not having children, then it should be up to HIM to change his own mind. If you try to change his mind for him, you may get your babies at the price of a real husband, and they may have to grow up without his guidance.

**A MAN CAN** be ever so wrong to others in his convictions but ever so right to himself. So if you as his wife destroy his convictions, you may destroy his manhood. Also, you may gradually lose respect for him yourself, as we women sometimes find that being able to "handle" a man leads us to not wanting him, especially if we can tamper with something that we know he holds dear.

Get some other man that your husband respects to discuss things with him in order to enable him to see and weigh other sides of the issue as to whether or not he

should have children, since he loves them so. I and many others can sympathize with your husband's not wanting to send his children to fight and die for a country in which they are not treated as first class citizens.

**BUT THERE IS** much more to life than worrying about how and when you are going to die. Joining the armed forces is still to some extent a matter of choice—you do not HAVE to serve by fighting, you know. The choice, however, would not be your husband's—it would be the free choice of his children if this be the case.

But if he would rather deprive himself of the pleasure and rewarding experience that a family can provide just to avoid a situation that may never arise—that's his concern.

**DID YOU EVER** discuss with him the possibility of adopting children whose existence is no longer a matter of conviction? You could be instrumental in making life more livable for them as well as yourselves. If you go through life preparing for death—you've never lived.

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

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