

«No mother should be made to suffer harm on account of her child, nor any father on account of his child» that is, it is not permissible to cause harm to the mother because of her child, either by preventing her from breastfeeding him or by not giving what she is entitled to of maintenance, clothing or payment.

«nor any father on account of his child» by refusing to breastfeed him in a way that hurts the father, or by asking him for more than what is required of him, and other kinds of harm.

The phrase «the one to whom the child belongs» indicates that the child belongs to the father, because the child is a gift that is given to him, and because he is part of his earnings. Hence it is permissible for the father to take from the son's wealth, whether he agrees or not; this does not apply to the mother.

«and the same duty is incumbent on the heir» that is, on the heir of the child, if there is no father and the child has no wealth; the heir is required, like the father, to spend on the infant's maintenance and clothing. This indicates that spending on relatives who are in difficulty is obligatory for well-off relatives who are heirs.

«If they both» that is, the parents «decide on weaning» that is, weaning the child before the age of two years «by mutual consent» that is, if they both agree

«and after due consultation» that is, discussing the matter between themselves, as to whether it is in the child's best interests or not. If it is in the child's best interests and they both agree, «there is no blame on them» for weaning him before the age of two years.

This verse indicates that if one of them agrees to that but the other does not, or it is not in the child's best interests, then it is not permissible to wean him (before the age of two years).

«And if you wish to provide a wet-nurse for your children» that is, if you want to look for wet-nurses other than their mothers, without causing any harm