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Paternal power in ancient Rome: moral and law aspects

Most noticeably interpenetration of legal and ethical norms in ancient Rome is expressed in the institutions of family law. We consider the paternal power, its moral and legal aspects. It is shown that the Roman patriarchal family is based on the close intertwining of moral, sacred and proper legal standards. Over times moral norms are replaced by legal norms. At the same time the right to take into account the content of the norms of morality and it implements the principle that the law cannot require is immoral. This principle is embodied not only in the relationship of the family, but also in all other spheres of the legal life of the Romans. You could say that throughout its history the Roman law embodied the moral ideal of the era: «Ius est ars boni et aequi», and this the very "good" is nothing else than the requirement of morality.

Key words: ethics, law, justice, Roman law, paterfamilias, patria potestas.

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