

For And About You

By Harriett Muhammad

This is the second in a series designed to answer questions presented by an 18-year-old concerning love and marriage.

You asked, "What are the advantages and disadvantages of being married?"

One of the main advantages of marriage, it makes your being with and living with your man a socially accepted and desired act. As long as you live among people you will be obliged to follow certain social rules or find yourself a social outcast from those who do follow these rules. Most societies of the world do not approve of "free love" and sexually free women are scorned.

Another advantage, the children you birth will have an identity—a name—a father that they can legally claim. They will not have to wear the stigma of illegitimacy.

Thirdly, if you have a good husband you will be able to blossom into full womanhood. Most women find pleasure in being able to please and the one who should draw such response from her is her husband.

Also, a good marriage provides love, protection and companionship. And looking at marriage from an economic point of view, a married woman has it much easier than an unmarried woman—if she's fortunate, she will not have to work to help support the household; if she does have to work, she is adding her check to her

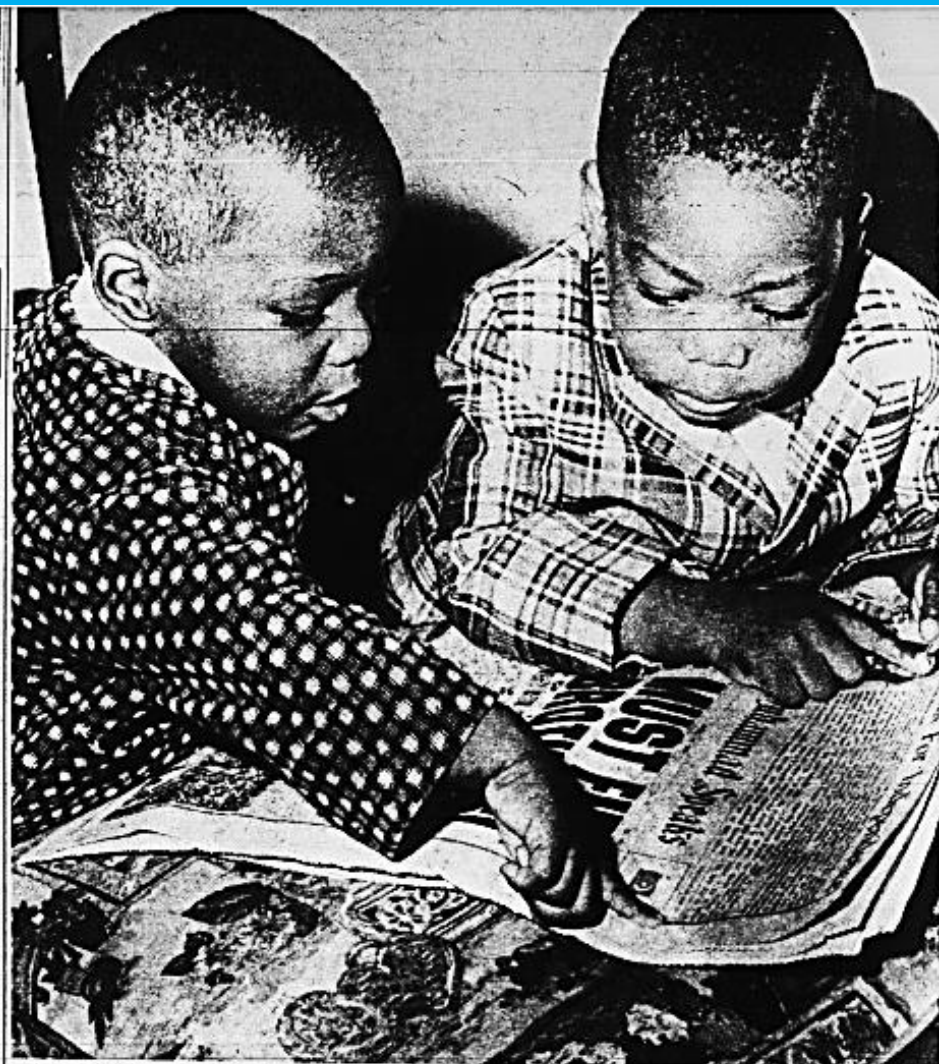
husband's and thus making things better economically—if she has a husband who is not doing his duties as a provider, she has legal channels through which she can obtain assistance.

I cannot think of any real disadvantages of being married, for all of the ills or mistreatments that can befall a married woman can befall an unmarried woman too. And even in the WORST of conditions and situations a married woman has it over an unmarried one, for she has legal recourse.

Next you asked, "How do you know if you are really ready to get married?"

When you WANT to get married you are well on the way. If you still say "marriage has its good points BUT . . ." you had better wait until the BUT naturally goes away.

To be ready for marriage, you have to be mature physically, but more important mentally. Usually, but not always, your body is ahead of your mental attitude towards the responsibilities that marriage brings. Herein lies the majority of problems that teenagers face today. They are ready sexually for marriage, they are given many opportunities to enjoy sex, they are told that



MUHAMMAD SPEAKS fascinates the two sons of Minister Karriem, as (l. to r.) one-year-old Hassan does a little reading for his two-year-old brother, Rachman, in their Baltimore, Md., home. They are the future

subscribers to **MUHAMMAD SPEAKS** and followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Inseted is the proud father, Baltimore's Minister Karriem.

sex play is socially sanctioned, up to a "certain point." But when they take advantage of the opportunities their parents and society give them, when they contact VD, when they produce babies, THEN they really understand the distance be-

tween their physical and their mental maturity. A very painful way to learn "readiness" indeed.

So, you can tell whether you are ready or not to get married by whether you are willing to accept the responsibilities and duties that ac-

company the privileges granted in marriage.

(To Be Continued)

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.
Harriett Muhammad
Box 390
308 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024