

By Baiyyinah Sharrieff

After being at the University of Khartoum a few weeks, I tried to get some of the female students to go out with me in the night to walk along the river Nile, or around the campus. But, they always refused to go with me.

THEY WOULD not go out at night unless they were escorted by a member of their family. They said that no girl from a good family would walk alone in the night on the streets. They could not use the excuse that they wanted fresh air, because there was a spacious garden within the girl's hostel.

The Sudanese Muslims are like one family. The name of the family (i.e. their honor and pride) is one of the most essential factors in the life of a Muslim Sudanese.

IF THERE are problems within their families, they do not like to have a foreigner or one who is not of their religion interfere in their affairs. Even if there are problems within the individual family they try to solve them among themselves. If they are unable to do so, they seek the assistance of the older members of their family. But whatever the problem, it is all kept within the one family unit.

The name, the respect, and the honor of the family depend on the individual members of the family. It is very important to be referred to as one from a good family.

MONEY does not affect the rating of a family name, (i.e. having a good or a bad name.) The family name depends on the conduct of the individual members of the family; their generosity, their contributions to the Mosque (not necessarily financial contributions, but the donation of their time, and efforts). The cleanliness of the family, as also the politeness of the members of the family are important factors in determining the status of a family, and brings respect to the family.

The reference of family name is not limited to the immediate family members, it extends to the uncles, aunts and goes back to the grandfathers. Therefore to keep a good name, the family knows that peace is an important factor to keep everyone in unity, and thereby protect the family name. The actions of one will reflect on the entire family. This being the situation in the Sudan, a girl will not do anything before she considers the outcome of her intentions; that is whether or not if put into action her intentions would affect her family name. They realize that they are being watched. They know that their actions will be reported, if they are not in accord with the right, and good of their Islamic society, to their family.

WE SHOULD all stop and think about our actions before we do anything, and realize that what we do reflects on the whole Muslim family (the Nation of Islam). The Muslims are one. We work together for the success and achievements of our entire family. We sacrifice for the success and achievements of our family. There is a purpose in our referring to one another as Sister, and Brother. We care for our family members as we care for ourselves. Our actions reflect not only upon us, but on the Muslims who make up our Nation (family). We are constantly being observed, much as my female colleagues in the Sudan.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that Islam is the religion of the righteous. He teaches us to love those who submit to the Will of Allah, and are of the original Asiatic Black man (black men) as brothers.

HE REMINDS US, "The Believers are those only who believe in Allah, and His Messenger, then they doubt not, and struggle hard with their wealth and their lives in the way of Allah, such are the truthful ones" (Holy Qur-an 49:15) He teaches us not to "find fault



STEVE MOORE, 21-year-old student at Carolina State in Orangeburgh, is shocked by the horror of the recent camp where three black youths were slain by white troopers who came

with your own people" (Holy Qur-an 49:11), and not to "spy," nor let some of you backbite others" (Holy Qur-an 49:12). The Holy Qur-an compares this with the eating of the flesh of a dead brother.

THE MESSENGER, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, instructs us that "the Believers are brethren so make peace between your brethren and keep your duty to Allah that mercy may be had on you" (Holy Qur-an 49:10)

Brothers and Sisters, let us consider our actions and keep in mind that what we do is being observed by many. Let us remember our family name.

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