

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is a wise Leader and Teacher.

HIS WORKS reach, as you saw in this newspaper "MUHAMMAD SPEAKS" last week, November 8, 1969, from large massive farm schemes of cattle (beef and dairy), vegetable, wheat and poultry, including their processing, preservance and their preparation for your table, to the exchange of goods in independant businesses and further to the computerized printing press.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has brought to reality in such a short time that which many have been saying in words for many years. Yet in spite of the very busy schedule which such businesses and farming schemes demand, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad takes time to think of the comfort and safety of the many females who follow his instructions. He had designed a very beautiful and practical garment for his female followers. One which will enable them to have more freedom in their movements and yet cover modestly their

persons. This is a wise leader.

Living in the Republic of the Sudan from 1964 through 1966, I witnessed the pitiful result of women being dressed in garments which restricted their movements and thereby proved a handicap to them during their revolution. When the military government was being forced by laboring and professional classes of their peoples through strikes and demonstrations to give up their control, they resisted by violent supression. It was necessary for the people to run and fight in self defense.

THE GARMENT of the Sudanese women (tobe) is a very beautiful draped fabric which covers their bodies keeping in accord with the Islamic teachings of modesty for the woman. However, in times where speed and quick actions are necessary, it proved to be detrimental to many women who wore it. Many of my Sudanese female colleagues fell and tripped in their garments and were beaten and trampled on by mobs of people. Many of them could not have the freedom of quick movements for fear of becoming exposed by their garment slipping off. This was a terrible sight to see young women brutally injured simply from the restrictions of a garment.

America is going through a revolution now, so teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Anyone who will stop and think about this statement will verify it by just observing the changes which have taken place in its society. The relationships of tension between Black and white, between the laboring and the ruling classes, are in such a turmoil that violence is erupting in nonsequential intermingling intervals and may really explode into a major disaster, as the Messenger teaches us of Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image with feet of iron and clay.

All praises are due to Allah for blessing us with such a wise Leader and Teacher, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, who thinks of everything, even to the practicality of the style of our garments, keeping in accord with Islam.

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