

Finds Eastern Islamic Laws Related to Rules of Muhammad's Followers

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

A few days later another young man came asking for me at the girls' hostel of the University of Khartoum. I again put on the tobe (the national dress of the women in Sudan) and came out to meet him. I had anticipated one of my colleagues of the university, but found a young man I had never met.

HE WAS smiling and spoke English in a way that he thought Americans spoke English. He said that he knew I was a stranger in the Sudan, and that I probably was lonely and missed the loose and free life in America. There was a girl with him, who appeared to be a Sudanese. However, she was not in a tobe but a short dress.

They invited me to a party that evening and told me they would be back later to take me to the party.

The guards watched me closely. They came about 8:30 that evening and took me to a small beautiful home, the garden of which was surrounded by a high wall. Jasmine bushes encircled the wall.

ROCK and roll music was playing low and there were approximately six girls there in sleeveless dresses sipping cokes and rum, and drinking alcoholic beverages. Everything was very quiet.

I did not see this type of atmosphere any other place or with any other people in the Sudan except with this small group of outcasts and the foreigners.

The homes in the Sudan are very far apart, and the members of the party spoke in a whisper. They knew that they were doing something of which the Islamic society and perhaps their relatives would not approve.

I LEARNED that those at the party were mostly Christians.

There also were a few Muslim Sudanese who had been educated in Europe and America at this party. They were attempting to bring some of the Western culture to their own society.

I remained at the party past the closing time of the girls' hostel, and when I returned, the guards questioned me for a long time. They wanted to wake the house mother rather than let me in. It took much talk and after some persuasion, they permitted me to enter the gate.

The next morning I was told to report to the men's warden. I was very much afraid, because I knew that I should not have been outside of the hostel after 10 p.m., unless I was at the library.

THE MEN'S warden was very stern. He informed me that I had been reported for coming in late and for having men come for me at the girls' hostel. He told me that women are not to be out after dark unless they are with their families or at the library.

He warned me of the bad company I was keeping and told me that when a girl has men coming to her and following her that she is the equivalent of a prostitute. He said that he did not doubt my good character, but that I was no longer in a Christian society, but in an Islamic society.

Furthermore, he told me if I wanted to be respected and have a reputation of a good character, I must conform to the general code of ethics of their society. He also warned me that I would lose my scholarship to the university and I would have to move from the hostel if any other such reports were made to him.

THE Honorable Elijah Muhammad has established rules and regulations similar to those which I have just mentioned to govern our society and keep it a respected society.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad warns the female believers that they are not to be out on the streets at night. If they are out in the evening, they must be with either a blood relative or their husbands. This is the law in the East. If and when she wants to go out during the day, she must go with another sister.

The same law exists in the Nation of Islam here in North America. Unless it is absolutely necessary, the Messenger directs that the female should not be out alone on the streets even in the daytime.

ONE NEED not search this American society to realize that it is a dangerous society, and realize that it is for our protection and safety that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has asked the female members of our nation to stay in their homes at night and not come out at dark unless escorted.

As in the East at the University of Khartoum, I broke a law and my case was turned over to the men's warden, so it is in the Nation of Islam here in the wilderness of North America for the followers of the Messenger. When a female breaks a serious offense of the law, her case is turned over to the male captain to enforce the law.

I have been here in America in the Nation of Islam for practically one year (it will be one year April 16) and as I continue to observe the laws the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has given us to govern a nation, I realize more and more the close relation of these laws to the laws of the Muslims in the East.

BUT, THEN, Islam is the universal order of things. The laws of the universe are in accordance with the Islamic law. It is in accord then, that the Islamic laws under which I lived in the Sudan are also in existence here in the wilderness of North America with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah.

To be continued

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