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On Life In The Sudan

By Jayyinah Sharrieff

When one is placed in a totally new environment, that one has much to watch, and learn of the environment. So it was with myself during my first weeks and months in the Republic of the Sudan. Being that I had lived all of my previous years in the white, Christian American society, it was a new environment for me to be in the Black, Muslim, Sudanese society.

ONE OF the factors which took me months to adjust was the work days of the week. The work week began Saturday and went through Thursday. Friday was the day when the men met at the Mosques and the women visited their families and relatives. There were no "week -ends" as I had been accustomed to in America. Saturday and Sunday

were like Monday and Tuesday.

There were no "sleep late" mornings. On Fridays like Thursdays everyone awoke and cleansed themselves, said their prayers at dawn, then sipped their morning tea, or coffee and made plans for the day.

Practically every Thursday evening, or Friday morning, I would leave the girl's hostel (dormitory) and go to one of the homes of my female colleagues. Everyone of them had relatives, if not members of their immediate family in the three city capital of Khartoum. The university provided buses to transport the girls to their homes, when their relatives were unable to take them. They were not allowed to take public transportation alone. Many of them took their garments home to wash them and prepare them for the next week. By Friday evening all of us would be back at the hostel.

AT FIRST a sort of "one day week end" did not make sense to me. I saw no sense in going home for a day. I questioned Fatima Kisha, a very close

Sudanese colleague of mine about the sensibility of having a "one day weekend." She told me, "we have no time to waste. We are an under-developed country, and we have not time for weekends.

We have to build up our country. It only takes a day to see our families and prepare our needs for the coming week. America is already built up. We have to build up." I had forgotten about her words until I became a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and heard him say, "In building a Nation, we have no time for vacations." And, this is indeed what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is doing. **BUILDING A NATION.**

I HAVE seen him work practically three years (while I have been here in America) and have heard others testify that they have seen him work practically 37 years, and he has taken no vacation. It takes a dedicated (divinely taught) man to stay on a job practically 40 years and never take time for a vacation. Think about it.