

On Life In the Sudan

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Look Up

By Bayyinah Sharrleff

As the sun was setting in the west spraying shades of orange, pink, lavender and purple rays across the sky, Fatma, her two sisters, Bashir (their brother) and I went up the stairs to the roof of the house, Abu Gimmery (Bashir's home in the Gezira).

THERE WAS such a beautiful sight from so high above the ground. We could see past the small forest which surrounded $\frac{3}{4}$ of the house, over the level plains of the Gezira which appeared to be striped by the canals which irrigated the crops. We could see over to the next inspectors area. Wherever a wooded area with thick vegetation appeared, we knew that this was the location of an inspector's house.

Every now and then we could see the silhouettes of camels in the distance loaded with bails of cotton on their way to the cotton gin.

The roof had been swept by the house attendant and comfortable reclining chairs were arranged in a slight semi-circle. There were a few low serving tables between some of the chairs.

Bashir explained our bearings. And after walking on the roof viewing our surrounding scenery, we settled down looking in one direction across the plains to a wooded area.

In the small forest around the house we could see the fast slight movements of small creatures, which I later learned to be monkeys. In the Gezira there is a large quantity of monkeys.

Bashir had brought up his OUD (A musical instrument from the lute family having 4-6 pairs of strings. This instrument is very popular in the east). He had also brought up his short wave radio.

Many people in the Sudan, especially those with high school and higher educations, have short wave radios.

WE LISTENED to the local news and the national news. Then Bashir turned to the British broadcast so that I could here the national news in English.

In the Sudan, I found that the

average educated person is well informed in world events, and takes a direct interest in the countries wherein a people are oppressed by another people.

I found that the students were very weary of Americans. They, having kept up with the happenings of underdeveloped countries, like their own, had seen how the American dollar could come into their country and the American man exploit their country, giving wealth to a few who were already wealthy, and leaving the poor, poor.

Many of the educated persons there were not satisfied with their government, nor of it's direct control, and therefore listen to tactics employed by other peoples to help inform them of ideas to liberate their people and improve their status (the status of their country). The Sudanese are very nationalistic.

After discussing some of the current events, the university students and national events, Bashir played his OUD.

Churches in S. Africa Criticize Their Nation

JOHANNESBERG, South Africa—"If we work to reconcile Christianity with so-called 'South African way of life' . . . we shall find that we have allowed an idol to take the place of Christ," declared the South African Council of Churches recently.

THE COUNCIL called upon South Africans to live by Christian principles "even if this be contrary to some of the customs and laws of the country."

Africans, however, observed that this sort of "humanitarian" statement sounded good, but that the Christians who control South Africa carry out the same Nazi-like extermination policies regardless of the frequent moral condemnations of apartheid.

They challenged those whites who endorse such statements to support their sentiments with action, pointing out that a militant, concerted white effort could quickly throw South Africa into chaos and render it vulnerable to Black African liberation armies now training for the inevitable struggle.

THE MOON AND STARS were now very bright in the sky and no clouds were hiding their bright glow. There is a beautiful peace in the skies of the country, and a more beautiful peace and attraction to the stars and moon in the skies over the deserts.

We sang. And I was shown some of their local dances, wherein the females dance separately from the men. During periods of rest, I was questioned about my religious beliefs. At that time I thought that I had no religious beliefs.

They were discussing the mercy and love of God (Allah). They were relating the beautiful decorated sky with the wonders of God's creation, and of His Mercy to give abundantly. They discussed and praised God (Allah) in a way not done in the western societies. They did not wait for one day a week to remember God, nor did they wait until evening to pray.

They all seemed to have a peace of mind which I never witnessed before living in the Sudan among the Sudanese. But then these are the teachings of the Holy Qur-an; "that there is no fear for a Believer, nor shall they grieve." The Sudanese are a very patient people.

If they are asked about their health, their reply is "El Hamdu Illah" (All praises are due to Allah), if they are well. When they are asked if they expect to do something in the near future, their reply is, "in Sha Allah" (be it the will of Allah).

THEY MAKE a reality of the teachings of the Holy Qur-an:112 which are repeated daily up to five times a day by Muslims all over the world . . . "Allah is He of whom nothing is independent, but upon Whom we all depend."

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been teaching this to his followers and to those who do not follow him for the past 38 years. "that Allah is all independent," and that we are dependent upon Him and that nothing happens but by the will of Allah. With this a reality, there is small wonder that the Believers have a peace of mind. (to be continued)