

## On Life in the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

During my first year as a student at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, the number of female students had increased so much from the previous year that rooms which normally accommodated two girls held three, and rooms which accommodated three, held four. Living quarters were crowded, and consequently additional living quarters were sought.

A lovely home with a huge garden adjacent to the hostel was vacated as well as a house across the street from the hostel so that additional living quarters could be had for the ever-increasing number of female students at the university. Between the girls' hostel and the newly acquired home adjacent to it, a long building of five rooms was built to house 10 students. Other students were placed in the house after it was converted into a temporary dormitory, while a three story hostel was being built.

When the notice was put up that the first 10 girls to sign their names would be given the first choice of rooms in that five room building, the English house mother thought that there would be a rush for the rooms. She had told her Christian student "pets" of the rooms first, hoping that they would be the one to get the new rooms. There was, however no rush for these rooms. In fact the assistant to the house mother, had to ask the girls who were living in crowded conditions to live in the new attractive rooms. I signed up to live in one of these rooms with a Christian (Coptic) girl for one semester.

One day one of the Muslim Sudanese girls told me (not

knowing that I had signed up to live in one of the rooms) that this building was very "stupidly" built, and that it was thrown together in a hurry. She went on to say, that the building was facing the wrong direction, and that it would be very hot. She told me that its windows were on the east side of the building and the doors opened on the west side of the building. She said that the homes had to be built facing the north-south direction to get a nice cool breeze and that the windows could open to the east for the sun light, and to the north for the wind. She explained that there would be hardly no breeze (air-conditioning) in the rooms and that the sun rays would beat down on the roof of the building all day. The others who were with us at that time all agreed with this one who spoke. They knew that these rooms would be hot and uncomfortable and therefore were in no hurry to live in them.

I lived in one of these rooms and it was indeed very hot.

I did not think of the importance of comfort to which a home is built or the directions of one's position in a home with respect to the poles until I heard the Honorable Elijah Muhammad mention that for a more comfortable sleep our heads should be to the north when sleeping or to the east. He explained that the earth is inclined  $23\frac{1}{2}$  de-

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## Life in Sudan

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grees from its axis and therefore if the head is to the north it is a slight bit higher than the feet and allows for a more comfortable and sound sleep. If the head was in a southerly direction, the feet would be higher than the head.

This also makes me reflect on the fact that the majority of the bedrooms of the kings in Europe faced the east: as do the old churches in Europe. When pondering upon this, one cannot help but reflect on the chapter in the Holy Qur-an entitled "the Cave," wherein it mentions the position to which the caves opened, not admitting the sun rays and keeping its inhabitants in darkness. One who has heard the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad cannot also help but reflect on the history of Moses going into the wilderness to civilize the white man (devil) who lived in these caves.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we must take nature in accord with our daily lives, and, as I stated last week, observe its functionings. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad also teaches us that this light is symbolic to the Truth, and that the dawn is the beginning of the light. Light chases away darkness, thus making us capable to see that we need not stumble any longer in darkness. So it is with the truth. "When



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Truth is present, falsehood must vanish." We the Muslims awake at dawn, and give praises and seek guidance from Allah, Master Fard Muhammad (to Whom praises are due forever). We are in the Dawn of the knowledge of Truth. Master Fard Muhammad has brought this Dawn to us by raising from among us a man to deliver a Message, which if followed, will guide us "into all Truths." This man is the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. If you have doubts, study that which he has made available to the public, and the direction of the light will Dawn on you (smile).

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