

Describes the Meaningful Authority and 'Spheres of Influence' in Sudan Homes

By **SISTER CHRISTINE**

During my stay in the Sudan, I never once saw or heard a female raise her voice to a male. Nor do I remember seeing or hearing a man raise his voice to his wife or an older woman. I have only heard a father raise his voice when reprimanding his children.

SHOUTING or arguing before children tends to divide the children and forces them to side with one of their parents—dividing the love a child holds for its parents. Children often associate fear with hate.

It is considered "low brow" for one to shout in the Sudan.

In the Sudan, no one ventures to enter the sphere of the man's reign in any way.

In practically every household there is a chair which is the father's favorite and one which only he uses. The children are taught not to play in their father's chair, nor with any of his belongings. All objects representing him are respected.

EVEN WHEN the father is absent from his home, no one will occupy his chair unless he is never to return. When this situation arises, the chair will be filled only when another male takes on the family. This chair is a symbol.

"The home is a man's castle" . . . and his chair his throne. From the throne of the king came the orders by which the kingdom and the king's subjects were to be governed.

If we bow to authority, then we must respect that one from whom the authority comes and that place from which it comes.

IN THE Sudan the heaviest meal is had at 2 p.m. At

5 o'clock afternoon tea is served and it is at this time that we find families visiting other families.

In general, on my first visits to Sudanese families, I had tea with the whole family. I always was seated besides my female friend, and the male members of the family sat on the opposite side of us.

Tea was never served until the father was seated, after which time things revolved around him. No one spoke unless asked by the father. There was no idle talk in separate little groups.

IT IS THIS time (tea time) when the father finds out what each member of his family has done for the day. He finds out what his children did in school. Generally, he has them bring their school work to him so that he may see their progress.

In many families, the father is illiterate. This fact, however, does not prevent him from questioning them on their lessons. If he is unable to understand what his children must learn, he calls another child, or relative living in the household, who is literate, to review the child's lessons and progress.

If the children need school equipment or clothing, etc., the wife mentions this fact to her husband at this time—after he drinks his tea and is relaxed.

AFTER THE review of the day's progress, the family may go riding, visiting, to a cinema, or even to a park. Seldom will one find children on the streets after dark.

Financial matters are dis-

cussed in private—between husband and wife but not before the children, other relatives, friends, etc.

Both marriage partners have their spheres of influence—as with the earth and the moon, each body has its orbit in which it must rotate. The moon rotates around the earth and the earth and the moon both make their orbit of obeisance, (submittance) around the sun.

IT IS VERY important that the woman realizes the orbit in which she is to rotate.

The Honorable Messenger, Elijah Muhammad, has shown his followers, both male and female, their respective spheres of influence. His teachings of our duties as men and women make us to see and realize the natural laws of nature to which we must comply in order to have universal harmony in our homes and in our Nation of Islam.

Hits Weak Open Housing Plan

LOUISVILLE—A proposed open housing ordinance has been attacked by 11th ward alderman, Mrs. Louise Reynolds, who said it lacked enforcement powers. "For this ordinance to be acceptable to me," she said, "it would have to be amended to provide strong criminal and civil penalties." Sponsors of the proposed ordinance are trying to lull Negroes into a false sense of security, the alderman added, not many months after open housing demonstrations were conducted in this city.

David A. X (Bradley) & Aldean S. X (Bradley)

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