

On Life In The Sudan

Brotherhood of Islam

/ By Bayyinah Sharrieff

One of the most remarkable characteristics which I found of the Sudanese people in general was their unity: Their togetherness. And, this was beautiful.

WALKING on a street in town one will see, at prayer time, many men bowing and prostrating in unity in prayer to Allah, the Almighty God. Showing their submittance and humbleness to that one Divine Supreme Power.

In the suk (market place) one will see shop owners and their customers drinking hot tea or cold lemonade seemingly discussing the daily affairs and events of their surroundings. It is a peaceful society.

The Sudanese do not, in general go shopping individually as do people of western societies and cultures. They go in pairs or in small groups, usually consisting of family members. One even seldom sees a Sudanese walking alone on the streets.

Living in the girls' hostel at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, I had the opportunity to observe closely this unity among the female Sudanese. They helped and assisted one another as if they were blood sisters. When one had foods or fruits sent to her from her family, she would distribute it to those in her area, making it possible for

many of the girls to share in her pleasure. She would not be content if they refused her offer, or neglected to join her in enjoying her things. They worked closely with their studies. We girls in that hostel lived as members of one family. And, this was no special hostel. It was normal for them, for they had been raised to share their things, and selfishness of materialistic possessions was nil. Whatever they had was available to whoever had a need or a desire for it.

WHEN AND if any foreigner or alien element entered their environment they were united. They collectively observed it and then collectively accepted or rejected it. They were like one vein, yet there was variety in their degrees of concentration. Observing them closely, I realized that this vein was Islam.

People tend to associate and befriend those with whom they share common interests, habits, motives, etc. The Sudan is such a large country, 1/3 the size of the U.S.A., yet its people in the north act as one organ to foreign elements, why? Islam. They were united in one life, by Islam.

Unlike the western society (Christian, American) in which I had been raised, the Islamic so-

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ciety of the Sudan was very closely knit. The Sudanese people all seemed to know if not one another personally, of one another's family. The Sudanese people lived largely by the laws and rules of their religion (Islam). This was unlike the Christians I had known and observed in America. There was theft, murder, and adultery, and indulgence in immoral and indecent vices of all types in America. There was not trust in America between Americans. Where was the brotherhood which Christianity was to establish? In America it seemed absent.

Theft in the Sudan was hardly "heard of." One could and would leave expensive items and possessions unlocked and not think of being robbed. Murder: One heard no cases of murder without a justification in the Sudan. If and when one broke or violated a restrictive law of Islam, he would be dealt with according to that law which he broke. A murderer would be killed.

INDULGENCE in immoral vices was against the laws of Islam, and was not tolerated. The people themselves enforced these laws of morality, through the teachings of Islam.

This was a beautiful society. How could not one help but think of peace and paradise to be in a condition wherein theft, murder and immoral indecencies are void?

This is what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is trying and

striving hard to establish here in the midst of an evil society (America) wherein are done all of the evils and vices which the scriptures state, "thou shalt not do". The Honorable Elijah Muhammad instructs us that the Black man in America are all of one family. He has been teaching this for over 38 years. This is finally taking effect on the Black man in America. And, although he does not want to acknowledge the origin of this fact, he accepts it now as truth and refers to one another as "Brother and Sister." Yet a unity through a realization of the family, the extended family has come to the mind of the Black man in America (thanks to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's continuous efforts). This is a prelude to the society of peace leading to paradise. A paradise on earth while you are alive. Is this not what we all desire to have?

CHAPTER 49 of the Holy Quran teaches us that "the Believers" (those who believe in the doing of good) "are all brothers". Islam is equated to good, for it is an Arabic word meaning submittance to the Will of God, which is goodness.

By following the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad (Islam), one does away with theft, murder and indulgence in immoral vices.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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