

## On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

In following the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, I often reflect on the Muslim Sudanese women: with respect to their style of dress.

**THE HONORABLE** Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the garments of the Muslim woman must cover her body in a decent, clean, and loose fitting manner. Her legs and all the beauty of her body are concealed from the public and are for the enjoyment and pleasure of her family. She guards her body and knows that it is for her legal husband only. The loose woman is the one who prostitutes her beauty for all and anyone to see, not the woman of moral decency. It is such a shame that my Black Sisters here in America are following the styles of indecency of White America. Black Sister you will never get respect from decent societies as long as you continue to wear styles which reveal your body and form.

With my experiences abroad in both Muslim and non-Muslim societies, I must bear witness to this truth from the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The National dress of the Sudanese women, the tobe, is 10 yards of fabric. It is wrapped around the woman and draped over the shoulders and covers the head. Often times a part of it is lifted to cover the mouth. There are no pins, zippers or fastens to secure this garment. It is worn over a dress, and often slides and falls and needs adjustments. When worn it is a beautiful garment to look at, but not at all practical or functional.

I remember so vividly the fall season of 1964 when I was in the Sudan as a student at the University of Khartoum. The students were discussing the military government's actions in the southern Sudan, against government orders, when the government troops came to stop the discussion and used tear gas and weapons, many of the female students had to run to safety in their tobés. The garments proved to be very awkward. Many stumbled in their running in their own garments, and in the attempt to keep it wrapped fell down and were injured. My comments at that time were, that I would have let my tobe go, being that I was not a Muslim at that time nor was I fully aware of their reasons of moral decency for desiring to protect themselves from the eyes of the general public.

The new garments which the Honorable Elijah Muhammad

off-duty police officer happened by. The young men were hospitalized.

**THIS IS** only one incident among many that faces the Black Man each day, some publicized, and some not. The startling element of this incident is that the Black man yet, has not openly given credit to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, for teaching us the nature of the White Man, as referred to in the Bible, Revelations as the "Beast." The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah, teaches us that he was

has designed for the decency of the Muslim woman are not only attractive to the eye but also very practical and functional. We who wear them can run, jump, fall down and turn quickly and never have a fear of loosing our garments.

I have worn both the Eastern Muslim woman here in the west and I can bear witness to his far advancement over the Muslim cultures regarding the dress of the woman 100 per cent.

**IN** these fast moving times we must be able to move fast in body as well as mind. We thank Allah for such a Divine Leader and Teacher, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad who is equipping those who will give ear, to not only keep up with a pace but set the pace for both mind and body that we may once more take our rightful places.....