

## On Life In the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

While a student at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, I had the opportunity to assist Dr. Adams, an archaeologist, who at that time was a UNESCO specialist and director of Sudan Antiquities Service in Nubia. He was to help salvage all of the possible materials of the Nubian area which would be flooded and thus destroyed by Lake Nassar (the resulting lake build-up created by the construction of the Aswan Dam). Approximately 24 expeditions were in the region between the first and second cataracts (steep water falls of the Nile). More than 700 sites have been recorded in one 50 miles reach of the Nile above and below Wadi Halfa (the Nubian area).

One of my major reasons for going to the Sudan was to study archaeology and thus study the history of the Black man along the Nile River.

**DURING 1966** the Sudan Antiquities department of the government of the Sudan with UNESCO were constructing a large Museum to house the great number of finds which were being brought up the Nile to Khartoum from the Nubian excavations. There were representatives from many European countries working together in different fields at the Museum. East Germany had an architect who floated the stone blocks from two temples across the Nile on oil drums, thus saving much money in transporting the temples to Khartoum, where they were reconstructed on the grounds of the Museum with a model replica of the Nile with a reflecting

glass bottom passing between them as an exact setting of their positions at Nubia.

Being that most of the materials were found in the sands of the dry deserts of the Sahara, the finds would practically decompose upon exposure to too much humidity if not specially treated.

Mrs. Adams, an anthropologist, assisted Dr. Adams in his work. The two of them lived in Nubia approximately 6 years doing research on that area. They worked to verify the existing theory that Christianity was in the Nubian valley before Islam. This was assumed and then verified by their calculations that Islam came with Muhammad in

the 6th Century after the death of Jesus. And, that it did not come into the Sudan until the 14th century. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that Islam was the religion of Abraham. This statement is backed up by the Holy Qur-an. Islam was the religion of all of the prophets, and we know for a fact, and history bears us witness that Abraham lived a long time before Jesus. Islam is still the religion of the Nubians today. The fact that they use some signs similar to the cross to decorate their doors and gates helps the archaeologist to prove that Christianity came before Islam. Dr. Adams' research was such that it would prove such ideas. He worked mainly with the Coptic finds and accounted most of the beautiful sherds (broken fragments of clay and shells, etc.) beads, and other materials which we found to that era of Christianity.

Why was it so necessary for the western world to try to prove Christianity older than Islam? Dr. Adams had been working on such stipulations since 1959. He was to return to America in 1966 for one or two years then go either to Axum (an old city of Ancient Ethiopia near the Red Sea) or Nubia for more excavations. His work was for the purpose of writing history. "History of the Black man. Why was it so important for the white man to write our History: So that he could teach you that which he wanted us to know. If he could prove that Christianity was before Islam then he could elaborate on the false strength of Christianity, and try to prove its dominance.

With the Black man in America moving towards Black pride, the white man knew that the Black man would be searching for more knowledge of his Black history.

**THE HONORABLE** Elijah Muhammad has pointed out to us that the white man has been our teacher for the past 400 years. He has taught us only what he wants us to know. This is why we have been subservient to him for these long years even after given so-called freedom.

That white man, Dr. Adams was also trying to disprove the teachings of the Honorable Eli-

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jah Muhammad; that Islam is the religion of all of the prophets and the laws of the universe. By establishing enough documentary proof the white historian had hopes of convincing the Black student of that which would continue to keep him looking to the white worlds for the better civilizations and society.

I was to travel with Dr. and Mrs. Adams by train to Wadi Halfa (the city at the borders of Egypt and the Sudan). I was

very excited about this trip for it was to be my first excavation. I went to the student warden and informed him of my trip so that I could get a free train pass, which I was told would be given to me to travel anywhere I wanted in the Sudan. The warden questioned me as to whom I would be with and for how long. I had to get a written statement from Dr. Adams giving the details of the intended trip. I also

reported to the women's warden and informed my instructors of the length of time that I would be away. This was January of 1966. The Edd (the Muslim holiday after Ramadan) was just over and the students had just returned from their vacations.

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