

Tells of Sudanese Courting Customs; Based on Restraint, Courtesy, Modesty

By SISTER CHRISTINE

An interesting topic of the Sudanese society is one dealing with marriage. Those of you familiar with Islamic societies know that there is no mixing of single women with men as here in the western society.

THERE ARE no parties where people go and dance in the manner that the average person does here in America. When the Sudanese have parties, celebrations, or feasts, one will not find couples dividing and separating themselves from the crowd. If two people of opposite sexes wish to converse they will do so only in the company of older relatives.

The type of music one

Aid Tanzania Census Close Bars, Clubs

DAR ES SALAAM — All bars, night clubs and other such places of entertainment were ordered closed throughout Tanzania for 24 hours to encourage people to stay home for the first national census in 10 years.

THE LAST census in 1957 estimated the total Tanzanian population at 8,788,466 but it was believed the figure was near the 12 million mark.

finds at such a gathering is of a different quality than one finds here at a party held by so-called Negroes. It is a type of music which will not upset ones character. It is gay, happy, pleasant and peaceful music, not sad or blue music.

If I may have the liberty to draw a comparison between the Sudanese music found at such a gathering to a western equivalent, I would say that light music, and ballads of a pleasant sort, even a waltz of the west would be found in the same strata of the said Sudanese music.

THE EDUCATIONAL systems are such that girls and boys, from the age of seven, are taught, if not in separate buildings, in separate class rooms. It is not until one enters the University that one finds both men and women instructed in the same class rooms.

There are no private meetings of male with female (dating), there as we are familiar with here in America. It is only within the family unit that one will find young people speaking with one another and this is not very often; for the girls are kept inside the home unit, when not at school.

The home generally has a large walled-in garden and/or court. As I have mentioned in previous articles,

the girls are taught their duties concerning the home and learn how best to schedule her time. The boys on the other hand spend most of their time with men-only. The boys go out with their fathers and brothers and have much contact with outside communities. They are taught their duties of manhood. They learn their responsibilities to their society and to their family. In short they learn the "ropes" of their surroundings.

THE QUESTION THEN is how do the young people meet, and how does a man choose a wife, and vice-versa?

The Sudanese male and female alike know the duties that each must perform in marriage in order to have a harmonious home life. This being the case a man looks for that which pleases his eye, when looking for a wife. You see there is no question of the woman not performing her duties of keeping the house clean, cooking and preparing tea, and keeping up his laundry. Failure to do these things, brings dishonor to her and to her family, most likely ending in a divorce.

The Sudanese women are generally quiet and soft spoken. Seldom will one find

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a loud, rough speaking Sudanese sister.

The bachelor may see a girl who attracts his eye, on her way to school, or at a social gathering. If interested, he investigates as to who she is, where she is from, and her family background.

He is interested in the educational history of the girl, her character, and her financial position. He is also interested in whether or not her family is known to be good, kind-hearted people, and if they adhere to the principles of Islam.

IN SHORT A TRUE and exact investigation of the girl is carried through. After this is done and if the man is still interested and feels that the girl is of the quality and standard he wishes of his wife, he sends his mother and sister or some female members of his family to make an appointment to visit the girl and her mother.

(To Be Continued . . .)