

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

One of the most remarkable characteristics of the Sudanese youth which I admired immensely was their desire and dedication to develop their country.

Being a student among them practically two full years gave me much opportunity to learn and understand and appreciate their desire; for, I too had similar desire, "to learn so that I could help my people."

This was my first experience being among all Blacks in a Black institution. I had formerly attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan where the number of Blacks to whites was about 1 of 100. And that whenever we had the chance, we had parties with neighboring University Black students and went to watch or participate in sports.

Life in an American university was so different from life in this university in the Black predominantly Islamic society. I do not believe that these Muslim

students even thought of having a lot of parties and playing sports. The University was a place of learning. It had no gymnasium nor art theaters.

The theaters were educational lecture halls. There were no dramatics, nor art, nor music courses of study at the University. The university faculties were in the sciences, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, biology, zoology, engineering, history, law (Islamic, and civil) and the languages.

I remember questioning some of my female colleagues about the absence of a gymnasium and faculties of practical arts and music. They looked at me as if I were crazy for asking them such a question and replied, "This is a university. One does not come to a university to play music, to draw pictures, dance, or to play sports." This is not something that they would study. These are things that they could do on their own.

One of them repeated, "this is a university," and looked at me as if to say, "how could you even think of asking us such a question?" I told them that such courses of study and degrees were offered in America. They could not imagine this. They took their studies very seriously and worked very hard at them so that they would be active in

developing their country.

It was not until I heard the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad wherein he stresses the need of technical knowledge and the pursuit of it to develop and bring forth our Nation, the Nation of the Black so-called American Negro, that I remembered this incident.

We do not need to idle our time and energies on sport and play. We need to join our energies and pursue courses of study which will aid us in building an establishment for our own Black kind, independent of the white man. These are the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and if we think about them, and consider them, we should see a beautiful life for ourselves and our offspring.

to be continued...

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