

## On Life In the Sudan

# Guidance of Messenger Reflected in Eastern Customs

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

The personal care which a patient receives in the hospital in Khartoum, Sudan is intense. And, there is a beautiful relationship between the nurses and patients. The patient feels a personal interest from his nurse.

**THE NURSE**, being Muslim, regards the patients as sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers, cousins, etc. They look to the patients with love and try to meet all of the individual needs of their patients. This is a relationship which can only be had in Islam, for the patients, knowing that their nurse is striving to be righteous (the act of the Muslim), trust their nurses. It is like one large family, and in a sense, it is. They are all Black. They are all Sudanese, and they are all Muslims.

They do not address the patient as Mr. and Mrs., or Miss. They refer to them as uncle, or aunt, or brother, or sister. They greet one another with a smile.

Medical school is six years in the Sudan, including pre-medical training, with an additional two years of housemanship. Beginning with the fourth year, the students are assigned patients and practical experience is added to theoretical. These medical students are highly respected in the Sudan.

**THE FOOD SERVED** in the hospital is simple. Beans, the red bean, is the main staple in the Sudan. Addis (another small dry bean) is also served, and prepared like the small white bean used by the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad in making soup.

At that time, I was not a Muslim, nor was I in the knowledge of my true self. I thought this bean was not enough nourishment for the patients, but now that I am a Muslim and a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, I know that this small white bean, or the small red bean is the best thing which we can eat.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we can have much longer lives if we eat only bean soup, milk and whole wheat bread, which is at least 24-hours-old.

**THE HONORABLE** Elijah Muhammad has pointed out in the book of Malachi 4:6 in the Bible, the last Messenger is to prepare the children to meet their fathers. He has taught us that this

means to prepare the Black man in America to be able to go into the society of those in the east and live in that society. We came from that area in the east where Muslims still live today. Only Islam has been in that area.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us the term "father" is used here because they have been longer in the knowledge of Islam than have we here in America. They are old in the Knowledge of Islam. We, who are here in America are not. We may be classified as "children in the knowledge of Islam. Children in the knowledge of the most high," as is stated in the Bible. In order to exist in such a society, we have to be conditioned to do so.

We have been away from our natural society, or righteousness, for many years, so the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us. We have been away from it so long that we have to be taught what righteousness is. We are being prepared by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, to respect, love and live in a righteous society.

**DURING MY STAY** in the Sudan, I was ignorant to the above stated facts. I refused to eat the bean, and avoided the addis whenever I could. Other Americans, whom I met in the Sudan also refused to eat this bean and the addis. This would be the general reaction of the average so-called American Negro, but not that of the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, who now rely on that small white bean as the main staple of their diet.

Is this not preparing the children to meet their fathers?

The fact that every follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad considers and refers to every other follower as a brother or sister is another way of preparing us to meet with our "fathers" in the East.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we are all brothers in the faith that submit to Allah and His Messenger. The Holy Quran backs up this statement in Surah (Chapter) 49:15. These teachings of Islam are universal.

(to be continued . . .)

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