

# Life in the Sudan

## Muslim Men In Sudan Must Be Able to Care for Bride

(The Gezira—continued)  
By Bayyinah Sharrieff

While sitting in the sitting room of the home in El Housh, I noticed that there were no pictures on the walls. The home was decorated with beautiful Qur-anic inscriptions. The average home in the Sudan has pleasant pictures of scenes of nature (landscapes) and Qur-anic inscriptions.

**WHEN ONE ENTERS** a Muslim Sudanese home, one feels the peace of warmth and comfort.

There were small wooden tables placed intermittently in front of the couches. There was a beautiful china cabinet filled with china and glassware, etc. A buffet and a large dining table with 10 chairs were also in the room. All of this furniture was made of mahogany and beautifully polished.

It seemed so surprising to find such beautiful furniture and trimmings in a home made of dried mud brick, the walls of which were washed in a chalk paint which would rub off on one if one touched it. One would not imagine finding such an interior in such a poor looking village.

**WE WERE BROUGHT** cold lemonade, and soon the room was full of young women. There were no men present.

All of these women were from one family. In fact, the whole village was from one man in the beginning. There were aunts, nieces, cousins, and more cousins. All of them looked very young, between the ages of 16 and 20.

As usual they were surprised to learn that I was born in America. They had not been exposed to much formal education. A few of them had gone to the girls school in Wad Medani (a grade school). But, the majority or none had been taught by their mothers, at home, the necessities of the woman's role in their so-

ciety (home economics and care of husband and family). All of them, however, know the Holy Qur-an, seemingly verbatim. They were all very pleasant and friendly and made us all feel very welcomed.

**I TOLD THEM** of the Blacks in America. They wondered about our lives and our clothing. They questioned the Black American women going uncovered in public. When did women marry? Did the man in America have to provide for the woman the same as in the Sudan?

Did we receive gifts of gold from our fiances when we were engaged? Why did not the young married couple live with the parents of either the girl or the young man when they first married? Why did we live away from our parents? They had seen some films on American life, and they were full of questions. They were very alert.

The Muslim Sudanese man cannot marry a Muslim girl, educated, and of a good family unless he can prove to her family that he is able to provide and care for their daughter on an equal or better level than had her family. He must have a place (home) provided for her with modern cooking facilities and good furniture. There are no installment plans or "buy now—pay later" plans in the Sudan.

**EVERYTHING** that he has in the home is paid for in full before deliverance. He must also be able to give his wife to be (fiance) gifts, which include gold jewelry. Considering all of the preparation that a Sudanese Muslim man has to make, it is easy to understand why the average educated man in the Sudan does not marry until he is in his 30s. For, after obtaining an education, he must work to save money for the purchasing and setting up of a home for a wife.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has given similar instruc-

tions to his followers. He teaches that the man must establish a good home adequate to fulfill the needs of his family according to his means (Holy-Qur-an 33:33).

But, he also instructs the Muslim man to make that home a palace for her, putting all that she needs within its' walls so that she has no desire to want

for what is on the outside.

This type of provision shows a deep respect for the wife which makes it easy for her to submit to her provider.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad instructs the Muslim man "to act nice by her so that she will act nice by you."

(To Be Continued)

