

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

When I first went to the Republic of the Sudan, the wall enclosing every yard and house bothered me. Being that I was raised in a western Christian society, I felt that a wall around me restricted me. These walls were very high, over 7 feet. They were constructed from the same materials which made the house.

THE MOST common home in the three city capital of Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman was constructed by sun dried mud brick. The walls were covered with a smooth mixture of the mud and clay which gave the wall a better finish. None of these types of homes seemed lasting, for they fell down gradually. It seemed as if the materials of which it was made was seeking to rejoin its own by returning to the earth. It is the common people in the Republic of the Sudan who have such homes. There are some very beautiful homes made of stucco, and concrete with tiled floors and verandas. These of course are more lasting, and are painted of many colors. These are owned by the more educated peoples in the Sudan.

With time, I learned to appreciate these walls for they provided privacy. We females could walk around in the yards, without being fully covered and not worry about anyone seeing us. We could run and exercise within the wall. We ate outside of the kitchen within the wall in the open air, reminding me of picnics in America — (on tiled floors). I never found a Sudanese home wherein anyone outside of the cook ate in the kitchen. Food was served on the

veranda, or in the yard.

Children played where their mothers knew they were safe and could easily see them, within the wall. In the afternoon, after the heat of the day, tea would be had by the members of the family both male and female as the events of the day were discussed in full in the privacy of the wall. And in the night beds would be rolled from their rooms to the adjacent verandas so that one could sleep in the open air under the beautiful semi-desert sky; the dark night broken by the natural lights of the stars, and the reflecting light of the moon within the confines of the wall.

There was no limit to what could be done within the walls. In actuality, the wall brought freedom to those within, contrary to my first impressions.

Remembering the wall has made me reflect some on the laws of Islam (the laws of the nature in which the Black man was created—so teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. The laws have been labeled restrictions by many who are not Muslims. Similarly to the way I regarded the wall in the Sudan, many regard the Muslims—restricted. However if those who do, would examine the Muslims they will find people who are extremely content and at peace within themselves.

We, who follow the Honorable

Elijah Muhammad have been shown how we can have happiness and prosperity without destroying our health or bringing us mental fatigue. We do not partake of alcoholic beverages. Yes, this is a law in Islam, yet it keeps us physically sound and well aware of what we are doing at all times. Alcohol dulls the senses as does the use of narcotics, which is also forbidden in Islam.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the use of such drugs is against our nature. If nature meant for us to partake of these drugs and spirits, then we would not have the after effects which are detrimental to our well being. He has also pointed out to us that our bodies would have been equipped with the necessary channels, such as a chimney for smoke if such drugs were in agreement with our nature.

We, as Muslims have better enjoyment which is not ending. We learn of a better way to enjoy life.

WE DO NOT spend our time in sport. We do have amusements and entertainment, but these are done in the proper manner in the proper places. Sunday, July 27, 1969 there will be a parade in Chicago of the Muslims. After which there will be entertainment and refresh-

(Continued on page 24)

CHICAGO NEW YORK

616 EAST 71ST STREET
PHONE 481 1668



On Life in the Sudan

(Continued from page 19)

ments at the Salaam Restaurant.

See for yourself the Muslims, followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. See if they look deprived. See if they look sad and unhappy. They are strong, well bodied and well abled persons.

The laws of Islam are for our better health both mentally and physically.

Like the wall in the Sudan,

once within the wall, I saw the freedom of expression and the joy of unity of the family: So it is with Islam, once within the knowledge of Islam there is no limit to joy and happiness.

**WESTSIDE
DETROITERS
CLARK
SERVICE STATION**