

## On Life In the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrief

I never thought seriously about the importance of owning land nor of developing any land to produce the necessities of life until I lived in the Sudan during my student years at the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

**TO BE** Black in a country which Blacks own is a wonderful feeling. The reality of possession brings the reality of responsibility, when one knows and is aware of the value of that possession.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we must have land to "do for ourselves," i.e., provide the necessities of our lives. All that we see which is on the earth is either sustained by the elements of the earth or a combination of the elements of the earth. The large concrete buildings which we see here in this civilization were constructed from a combination of the elements of the earth. The material for our own clothing is either from a plant of the earth or an animal or insect which eats of the earth. The shoes which we wear are either of an animal which eats of the earth or are made from elements of the earth.

**I NEVER** stopped to think about these things until I saw Black men cultivating crops

along the banks of the Nile River in the Sudan.

Every year after the flooding of the River Nile over its banks, men come to plant crops in the freshly nourished soil along the banks of the Nile. This is done yearly and has been done for many centuries.

In the Western society there is so much movement and everything is done on a large scale in commercial centers that one raised in a commercial area does not really value the source of the materials which are used in these centers. Nor does one feel any reason to guard or protect with all one's ability something which is not really theirs.

**WITH POSSESSION** comes responsibility. And when one realizes full responsibility, one protects and guards and respects this possession.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we must have land "to call our own." With "our" land we must guard it for this is in accord to the nature of man, i.e., to protect that which is his.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is building a nation for the Black man: One which is their nation by nature. The nation owns land which is being cultivated to produce the necessities of life.