

Sudanese Male Students Point Up The Respect in Which Women Are Held

By Sister Christine

In the Sudan and among the Sudanese I learned many aspects of femininity, including those of character, appearance and grooming. I also came into a knowledge of the respect one receives by being feminine.

LET ME CITE an example. The University of Khartoum has two main gahawas, cafes, where one can purchase cold drinks. Between classes, the students go to these gahawas. In general practice, the females go to one side to purchase their cold drinks, and the men students to the other side.

A remarkable thing, I believe, is that the female students drink up to three cold drinks a day—without paying a penny for their drinks. The boys (who sell the drinks) generally will not take the money from the females.

Many times a male student paid for my drink, and I seldom knew him. I could not even recognize him if I wished to thank him. I

would hear a man on the other side offering to pay for my drink and when I placed my coins on the counter, the boy refused to take them, saying that it was taken care of.

THIS MAY seem a small thing not worth mentioning, but let's look into it.

This happened every day, not just during my first weeks at the university, and not just once a day, but often up to three times a day, as I have mentioned. This was not only the case with me, but with practically every girl at the university.

When I questioned my friend, Fatma, I was told that this gesture was done for us because we are females and that this was a way of respect that the female students received at the university.

THIS ACT of buying cold drinks for the females was done by the male students without so much as even a desire to receive in return a thank you. This was a small

way of showing us that they were pleased to have us at the university.

The girls did not try to take advantage of this situation. They each had money whenever they went to buy a cold drink, and every time placed it on the counter; few times it was taken.

Often we would send a small boy, who collected the bottles, with money to purchase our drinks and bring them to us. This enabled us to pay for them ourselves.

THE BOYS paid for our drinks not only through respect but also, I believe, as a means of reassuring us of our security.

In America the so-called Negro males, in general, expect the females to pay back for the slightest things they might do for them.

An important thing to remember is that the females never stood around waiting for a man to pay for their drinks, nor did they try to take advantage of and use a male student just for his acts of generosity.

There are many examples

There are many examples I should like to give concerning the deep respect that women get in an Islamic society. I wish for our women to bear in mind that the women are respected not only because they are women, but also because of their mannerism.

OUR DEAR Messenger, Elijah Muhammad, through his teachings, has brought our women a high amount of respect from the men within the Nation of Islam. I am proud to witness and to receive this respect, as I am sure are our women.

The Messenger also instructs the women through his teachings the meanings of femininity and the actions

(Continued on page 19)

Sudanese Males Show Respect For Women

(Continued from page 18)

of femininity. Our women are, I am sure, also very grateful to the dear Messenger for bringing to us teachings in all the ways of life. We are grateful to him for giving us basic rules by which to live.

In the Islamic society, both men and women have instructions, rules, which they must follow. Each respects the other for performing his duty, fulfilling these rules, according to the rules of Islam.

(To be continued)