

Says Seemingly Strict Islamic Laws for Muhammad's Followers Lead to Success

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Many of the so-called Negroes in America feel that the laws governing the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad here in the wilderness of North America are too strict. But, the observance of the laws established by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for his followers will be our success.

THE PEOPLE in the Republic of the Sudan are not born in a society of low and loose morals among people of evil practices as are we, the so-called Negroes of North America. They are born and raised in a society that observes the laws of Islam. For them, obedience to the laws of Islam is natural. They do not feel that one can be too strict in observing the laws of Islam.

I lived in the Islamic society at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, 22 months, where I not only observed, but also lived the life of a Muslim. The laws then seemed very strict to me. However, within the Islamic limits of the society one can observe the

smooth, peaceful and harmonious texture of an Islamic society.

For example, going to the marketplace with a Sudanese family in the Sudan, one need not worry of being cheated—not by the Muslims. One can have confidence that what he has purchased is of a quality equivalent to and equaled with the amount of money one exchanges for the purchased item.

IF YOU are not a Muslim, there are those who will cheat you. If a foreigner or a non-Muslim goes to the marketplace in Sudan, and intends to purchase some merchandise, he can expect to pay for his purchases a higher price than the native Black man there.

The Muslims are one family—very much united. If a foreigner leaves one merchant to go to another merchant with intentions of bartering to get the merchandise at a cheaper rate, he is unable to do so. The price he was told by the first merchant is passed quickly by word to the others.

I went many times with my female colleagues to the marketplace. When I did so, I was told to wear the tobe (national dress), and to keep my mouth closed. Sometimes we would have very little money, but if we went to the natives, and not to the Indian Greek or Egyptian merchants, we would get very good buys.

WHEN A female Sudanese is in the company of a male, one scarcely will know she is present, for she is silent. She moves slightly. The fabric of her dress and tobe are soft and, therefore, silent. She keeps her head slightly bowed, never looking up to invite the glances of a male. She does not look into the face of a male other than her husband. Even when in the marketplace, she is silent.

She is generally with a male member of her family, especially at the night. However, during the day she is often with her mother or another female relative. She moves smoothly and not in a way to attract the attention of a male.

If she sees someone she knows across a street, or nearby, she

will walk up to that person or she will move to the person quickly and speak. But she would never call out in a loud voice to her friend.

IN THE Sudan, one will not see young women standing around the streets or parks unescorted during the day or night. Occasionally, one will see a lone woman in the marketplace, but never lingering or walking idly around. She is there to buy just what she wants and immediately leaves after her purchases are completed.

She does not pay for the articles herself; her husband pays for them. This is done to avoid any contact or possible evil or flirtation between the merchant and the woman. She does not carry any of the articles. Either a younger child or the accompanying man carries them. She is a very modest person, and when men see her walking on the street, they do not dare step on her dignity.