

On Women and the Natural Laws of Islam

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Let us consider the role of the woman by nature. She has the instinct to care for and attend to that life which she carries and brings forth into being, (by the grace and mercy of God, whose proper name is Allah). She is not physically structured to do hard labor.

I HAVE heard the Messenger, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, speak of the natural way of the woman to please and meet the desires of a man. "Man makes woman." If he wants a slender woman and says so his wife will try to lose weight to meet with his desire. If he wants a heavy woman, she will try to gain weight to meet with her husband's desires. She is by nature made to please and compliment a man.

My dear Sisters (Black women of America) if you are seeking the right religion for yourself you must consider the natural way in which you are made and then look for that religion with which your natural instincts and functions coincide. "He (Allah) it is who created you from a single soul, and of the same did He make his mate (woman), that he might find comfort in her. So when he covers her she bears a light burden then, moves about with it. Then when it grows heavy they both call upon Allah, their Lord." (Holy Qur-an 7:189).

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad instructs the woman to take her natural place in the home, to clean it, make it cheerful and pleasant to the eyes and feelings of her husband and family. The Messenger says that she is a man's glory. The Holy Qur-an instructs us that the Believers are "they who say our Lord, grant us in our wives and our offspring the joy of our eyes."

In general women of Muslim societies do not work. It is the man's duty to provide for his wife and family in a Muslim society. To have a wife work in the Sudan is an insult to the family, unless she is working solely with young women in the capacity of a school teacher in a girls' school. Often they are employed in their fathers' stores to do bookkeeping, but not to meet and serve the public. "Men are the maintainers of women, with what Allah has made some of them to excel others and with what they spend out of their wealth. So the good women are obedient guarding the unseen as Allah has guarded" (Holy Qur-an 4:34).

"LODGE THEM where you live according to your means, and injure them not to straighten them. And if they are pregnant spend on them until they lay down their burden. Then if they suckle for you, give them their recompence and enjoin one another

(Continued on page 26)

Explains Customs of Women in Sudan

(Continued from page 20)

er to do good . . ." (Holy Qur-an 65:6).

The Sudanese women stay in their homes as they are instructed by the Islamic teachings.

The homes in the Sudan have two entrances; front, and a side or a back entrance. The front entrance is for visitors, guests, and the men of the family. The side entrance is for women and children and is never locked. However, no man will enter the side entrance, for the women are generally at ease and relaxed at this entrance in the garments which they wear beneath their tobes. Their heads and arms are not covered and to avoid a breaking of the law and an embarrassment, the men do not use this side entrance. Often the females of the family have visitors and this is where the female visitors congregate. The women usually visit before 12:00 noon.

NO WOMAN will open the gate of the front entrance of a home in the Sudan. A female visitor will always use the side entrance (if she is not with her husband). A male visitor will always come to the front entrance. If no one acknowledges his presence, he will assume that the man of the family is not at home and will leave. There are no door to door

salesmen in the Sudan. And, no man visits another man's home before 5:00 p.m. for they know that men generally work from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., six days a week, and rest from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Men, boys and male servants are the only ones to open the front doors in Islamic homes.

Most homes do not have door bells at the large high gates. Therefore to announce his presence the visitor will clap his hands loudly, or knock at the metal gate. This is the procedure in the Islamic society in the Sudan and in general, and is the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

"O you who believe enter not houses other than your own houses, until you have asked permission and saluted their inmates. This is better for you that you may be mindful. But if you find no one therein enter them not, until permission is given to you, and if it is said to

you, go back, then go back this purer for you. And Allah is Knower of what you do." (Holy Qur-an 4:27, 28).

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad teaches us, as the Holy Qur-an instructs us that Islam is the natural religion of man the Black man. That is the religion with which our natures blend. Read the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and then think of the natural way in which we were created, consider our instincts, and then know that that which the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us is the teachings of Islam, which Allah, Who Came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever, gave him.

**FREEDOM,
JUSTICE and
EQUALITY
WE MUST HAVE**

