

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

I was very much embarrassed about my being taken off of the train to Wadi Halfa and being placed on a train back to Khartoum, Sudan, with a police escort. When I returned to the campus, the other students said nothing to me concerning this incident. They acted as if it never happened.

THE WHITE family (the father of whom was the World Bank representative to the Sudan) spoke constantly of the "backwardness" of the Islamic society: That it was against progress and modern scientific achievements. This family brought me in contact with other Americans in the Sudan who hated its society, because of the limitations placed on their immoral behavior. They all led me to believe that the Muslims were against the natural relations between man and woman. They did not want to see me, a Black born in America, in harmony with the Blacks in the Sudan. They told me that one, 21 years of age should be independent and not guarded. The white English house mother at that time also sympathized with my complaints against the university's administration. She criticized the Islamic society as being backwards when compared to the Western Christian society.

When I mentioned this to one of my Muslim Sudanese female colleagues, I was told that they could not go on such a trip without some of their male relatives. I told them that I was used to going off by myself and traveling alone. They were surprised to know that in Western societies the woman goes in the streets at night without a male relative as a guardian. They found it hard to believe that young women traveled from one part of the country to another without the same.

I thought that they were exaggerating at that time, for I was

not a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and I did not stop to consider that women of the better societies do not go out in the night alone. They are usually in their homes, or if they go out, they are with a male member of their family. This occurs in societies where women are highly respected. It is only in societies where there is no regard or respect for the woman that they are seen walking on the streets in the night alone without a male escort (guardian).

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad instructs his female followers to stay off of the streets in the night. There is no real reason for them to be out in the night. He is doing this as a way of bringing respect to our women; making them respect themselves. He teaches us (the woman) not to travel alone. Always

travel in two's or be escorted by a male member of the family. This is also for the protection of the woman.

These teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad are universal in Islam. The decent women of the world are generally always escorted when they go out by a male relative. I bear witness to this being Truth for I have lived in the Muslim society in the Sudan, and have spent one year traveling in Christian Europe.

The Holy Qur-an teaches the woman to stay in her home and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is directing his followers to do the same.

We cannot thank Allah enough for teaching one of our own kind (The Honorable Elijah Muhammad) that he may in return teach us how to be respected by the "Nations of the World."

View Chemical Absence In Brain Of Schizophrenic At Stanford

Researchers studying the world of schizophrenics say that the main problem stems from the absence of an essential chemical—serotonin—which cuts off the dream producing mechanism in the brain. Because of the absence of serotonin, the schizoid lives in a world of fantasy, which apparently will not turn off with any consistency, and this is at the center of his mental tragedy and his emotional grief.

From his dream lab at Stanford University, Dr. William C. Dement, professor-principal researcher-of psychiatry, said that both dreams and man's basic drives—sex, hunger, aggression—derive from the same special nervous system in the brain, which "energizes" these motivational behaviors.

Dr. Dement published his findings in Stanford's medical alum-

ni association journal. In the journal, he suggested that using this new drug, he prevents the brain from producing serotonin; and he is then able to cause a kind of admixture of normality and abnormality in the cats he experiments with, similar to the admixture observed in human schizoids. Through this injection, he causes his cats to hallucinate, attack other cats and behave in a variety of ways.

He said:

"Sleep periods provide a safety value for this drive system by allowing it to discharge harmlessly through sensory pathways, which, in turn, may be what gives rise to dreaming. The serotonin neurons in the brain are assumed to inhibit and regulate both aspects of this drive discharged (dreaming or behavior)."

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