

## Life in the Sudan

### An Error Leads Traveler to Knowledge of Wisdom in Messenger's Teachings

By Bayyinaah Sharrieff

My first day in Abu Gimmery (the inspector Bashir's house) was really one of learning.

FATMA (my roommate at the University of Khartoum), and I divided the house work. I was to clean and she was to cook, since I did not know how to use their cooking facilities.

The wathing room had a slight dusty film on everything since it had not been used for approximately three weeks. I decided to start there and then work my way out into the adjacent bedrooms and the porch.

I assumed that the water was piped into the house from underground, and proceeded to use it liberally. I washed off the walls of the bathing room, the face bowl, the tub, and the shower stall, the floor, etc. One of Fatma's sisters worked with me. We then filled buckets of water from the bath tub taps and proceeded to wash off the very huge porch with was approximately 10 feet wide and encircled most of the large frame house. After an hour and a half of washing and scrubbing there was no water.

I did not know what was wrong. The only thought which came to mind was that perhaps the water pressure was off. This stopped the washing, so with wet sponges and rags we proceeded to dust and straighten the bedrooms.

I WENT OUT to check on Fatma in the kitchen, which was behind the house. She was stooping on the floor over a bowl and pounding garlic and other seasonings for the lunch with a pestle. I just watched her, for I did not know what she was preparing. After this she took a green leafy vegetable and put it thru a strainer. She added this to the meat and onions which she had outside boiling in water over a fire on one of those small tin boxes. She turned the box so that the open side was not facing the wind. This slowed down the cooking and she covered the pot so that it could cook well with

the simmering seasonings.

This is the teaching of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to us his followers—that we cook our food slowly and for a long time making sure that it is cooked well.

Fatma was preparing "Mulakiya." This is one of the most popular dishes of the Sudanese, next to the small red bean ("fool") which is the most popular.

I explained the water condition to Fatma as she cooked. She said that she was not familiar with the drainage system in the Gezira and that when her brother, Bashir, returned he would have the house attendant (who served a dual purpose of checking the workers and watching the house) check the water.

About 1 p.m. Bashir came home after inspecting the area of the Gezira, which was his job. He had visited the neighboring inspector's home, and informed him of Fatma's and my visiting his home. He extended an invitation for us to come for dinner the next evening.

I told Bashir about the water stoppage and mentioned the possibility of the pressure being low.

WE FOLLOWED HIM outside behind the house, where he checked the two large tanks which were in back of the house. He pulled a lever and only a large noise was heard. He turned to us with a smile, and explained that there were no underground water pipes in the Gezira. That the water which we used in the house was brought in by workers from the canals, and put into these large water tanks. This water was then pumped up to the reservoir on the roof which allowed water to flow easily from the roof down the pipes to the taps when turned on in the bathroom.

By not being conscious of the water system, I had used the water so freely that no water was left for us to bathe in.

I should have asked and checked into this before using so much water, but coming from the Western society, I took for granted that the water was piped

in as in America. Bashir and the attendant went to the canal which was about 400 feet away to fill some buckets to empty into the large tanks, that we might have water with which to bathe.

I REALLY FELT stupid. But now that I am a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, I know that I should not have made such a foolish mistake. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that when entering any given situation that observation is the most informative measure that we can take to learn that situation. He teaches us to survey, watch, then weigh and compare with that which we already know.

The Muslims may call to mind, "Moses goes in Search of Knowledge" (Holy Qur-an 18:60-82).

## Viet Nam V

(Continued from page 21)

told to them to be part of their duties—duties of American soldiers, fighting for their country. But, the freedom which fighting was supposed to protect, is evidently some of what the unit that makes "sure the dead's dead" has destroyed, on the battlefield.

The Black veterans find that, freedom—at home—has reservations which are not "rain-checked" for Black folks. And so, inescapably, the veterans start to remember things—things, other than the constant, swelling, desire to be out of the armed services; things that start with "Fighter by day . . ."

"VIETNAMESE people are good, in the daytime—you know, quiet, real quiet, admiring the Americans and going along with everything the soldiers say. But at night, them li'l scary people you saw earlier is now Viet

**HARRIEL'S HARDWARE & HANDYWORK**

Specializing in Rental Equipment

**NU-METHOD ANT & ROACH SPRAY**  
PRODUCT & SERVICE  
PROFESSIONAL WORK

No-Mrk-On Sale in Bottles & Cans At Local Supermarkets —