

Cites the Important Role Played by Parents and Families in Sudan Society

By Sister Christine

You may wonder why the parents and families play such an important role in the courting and marriage arrangements of the couple. I already have given quite a few reasons in previous articles on the helpful nature of their assistance through the love for their children.

THEY WISH happiness

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and peace to be within their families. The honor and respect of a family is the most important and valued factor in Sudanese society — not money, as is the case here in America.

The parents are very helpful, even after the coming of grandchildren. Often they keep their grandchildren for months and years. Sudanese families do not send their children to summer camps. The children visit family relatives and grandparents.

If any trouble should arise between the husband and his wife, the parents and families are the arbitrators. They will not hesitate to punish their own children if they are at fault. If one of the partners fails to perform his (or her) family duties, this is grounds for a divorce.

IF THE husband must travel or is away from home for any length of time, he leaves his wife with his or her family. If by chance she commits adultery, her family will disown her and may even kill her because she has brought dishonor to them and to their family name.

They might even murder her while her husband is

away, and upon his return tell him the reason she was killed. Although sorrowful, he most surely would thank them for saving him the pain of punishing her himself. I have never heard of a case where a family protected their daughter if they knew that she was an adulteress.

One finds practically no cases of adultery there. The fear of Allah's chastisement and death being the ultimate end, I imagine, prevents many people from indulging in such indecent and disrespectful practices.

IN THE Sudan, as in many original lands, the family unit is of the most importance. A man will take care of his son, provide him with all that he needs until he is grown and able to take care of himself.

This time may extend into the age range of the 30's until his training and education are finished and the man is

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capable of caring for himself. After reaching this stage, the son gives aid to his father and family. For example: if a man has six sons, each son may contribute, perhaps \$20 per month, to his father. The father therefore is able to care for those still dependent on him.

The families are much warmer and loving to one another than are the families here in America. It is an unwritten law there that the family will protect its mem-

bers from any outside offense and they know that their brother or sister wants for the other what they want for themselves.

THE MOTHER-in-law in the Sudan is nothing like the mother-in-law here in America. I imagine you have surmised this from what I have written on how the mothers and families help to pick the mates for their sons and daughters.

Our dear Messenger, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, also teaches us to do and want for our brother what we do and want for ourselves. He does this in order to bring about a unity in our previously divided black brothers and sisters, and to develop and keep a closely knit Nation of brotherly love which easily can be had through practicing the Will of Allah (the Islamic teachings.)

When one looks upon the

United States — from east coast to west coast, from the northern to southern borders — one will find a united brotherhood among the followers of the Honorable Messenger never before found among the black American so-called Negroes. This knowledge, which Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Farid Muhammad, gave to His last Messenger, Elijah Muhammad, has brought about this unity.

THE Honorable Messenger has shown us our line — previously unknown to us — in the evolutionary history of man and mankind on this planet Earth.

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