

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

One of the most interesting and wonderful things which I shall never forget and shall always hold dearly in mind of the Republic of Sudan is the blending beauty of the peace of nature: The level plains in the afternoon sunset.

THIS IS the time after the heat of the day when the family, having rested, meets and sips hot mint flavored tea with milk (a refreshment which relaxes the senses). This is a very quiet time of the day: early evening around 5:00. The sun is declining, setting, and its rays, beautiful colored rays of orange and lavender and red, stretch far on the western horizon and cast the same with a glow on all that it touches. Beauty...Peace...Quiet.

The mind has few if any, interruptions here. Many are the times that I have relaxed on an inclined couch or in a large lounge chair on the lawns within the high walls which surround the girls' hostel, and sipped this special hot tea and just thought. The mind cannot but help appreciate an opportunity to explore self and nature without noisy interruptions.

Sometimes I would walk along the Blue River Nile behing the University of Kartoum and watch the beautiful setting suns rays streak the sky casting their reflections on the fast moving waters below... beauty unmarred by mankind.

THE MIND, bathed in such an atmosphere of peace and beauty could not but think of the beauty of nature and the power of the One who created the heavens and the earth. Often the scent of jasmine would fill the evening air adding more grace to this atmosphere of peace.

The American society builds up so many tall concrete buildings which become dulled by the weather that one in its cities has to look far up or drive far out of the city to see the beauties of nature without noisy interruptions. Everyone is rushing in the American society, as you all know: rushing to make money and tripping over one another to do so, falling, often resulting with fatal casualties.

The American society is the complete opposite of the society of the Republic of the Sudan. A short visit to the capital, Kartoum, would prove this statement. I did not fully absorb the extreme differences between the two until I left the Sudan and went to Europe. The contrast between the two is extremely sharp. And, having enjoyed the peace of Islam in the Sudan, felt sharp pains when again in the western Christian society.

Reviewing my life in the two societies made me realize that if I wanted a peace of mind I could only find it in an Islamic society.

I MET followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad while studying French in Paris, France, and saw peace in the midst of the noise and confusion of the western society. They extended peace in words and wisdom and directed me to one of my own kind (a Black born in America) who guides others in peace in America. That one I came to

and am thankful to Allah (God) to be with. He is none other than the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. His teachings and guidance bring peace of mind to all who follow him. He teaches us of our real God, Whose proper Name is Allah, Master Fârd Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever, Who extends peace with knowledge. He teaches us of the Holy Qur-an (our Bible), which supports his guidance and the truth of the Bible... "And He (Allah) shall extend peace unto you (the Believer) like rivers" (Isaiah-Bible).