

Life in the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Before going to Fatma's brother's home (Bashir Nasir Bashir), in the Gezira, we went to Wad Medani. Wad Medani is a very beautiful city, with many flowering trees of many different colors; red, yellow, orange, and violet. The land seemed to be very fertile—unlike the land in Khartoum and Omdurman, which appears dry and very barren. Coming from the northern part of America, Detroit, Michigan—where flowering trees are very rare—seeing these beautiful trees was a marvelous sight to me.

AT WAD MEDANI, I was taken to meet some of Fatma's relatives. I was received so very warmly. It was taken for granted that I was a Sudanese by those whom I visited. Fatma introduced me as being an American and a student at the University of Khartoum. I wore the tahara (the long head piece that the young Muslim Sudanese girls wear, which covers their heads and shoulders). They thought that Fatma was teasing them by saying I was not a Sudanese, and it took a lot of persuasion by her older brother, and younger sisters, coupled with the sound of my very weak Arabic to finally convince them I was not born in the Sudan.

I was taken to the veranda (a roofed porch), where the other women were sitting and conversing, and was directed to a single bed (beds double as couches in the day time in the Sudan, and can be rolled or carried outside or left inside depending on the individual, the number of guests, and the weather) covered with a light spread with booster pillows.

We relaxed ourselves and tried to cool off after the very long hot journey from Khartoum, which took about 8½ hours. Lemonade was brought to us immediately as we sat down to rest. After drinking this cool refreshing drink, hot tea and small sweet biscuits (similar to cookies) were brought to us. Fatma, as always, had to explain to them that there were many Blacks in America who looked like them. They were surprised to hear this. The average female in the Sudan does not know about Blacks living in America, looking like them in appearance. In fact those who have not completed secondary school are un-

ware of our existence in America.

WE TALKED about my people in America as being tools for the white man in America. They questioned the why's of the Black man staying in America under these unfavorable conditions. Economics and the lack of knowledge were the only reasons I could give at that time, which in reality are true reasons for the Black man's staying here under the unjust conditions of the white man's society. At that time I was not a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, but I realized that it did not stand to reason that the Black man in America would continue to be satisfied with conditions as they were.

Now that I have accepted my natural religion, Islam, and am in the true knowledge of God, (Whose proper Name is Allah) and the devil (white man), I realize that the Black man had to stay and be subjected to the white man in America for 400 years, and that we were to be in total darkness until God came in Person to raise and teach one from among us to lead us. Our people did not know how to develop businesses on their own and deal with their own without being bankrupted. Neither did they know how to develop communities, and be successful and progress before the coming of Allah, in the person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever, and His raising up one from among us, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, to set the example for all so-called Negro leaders of the Black man in America.

NOW EVERYONE can look at the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and see progress and success to their persons and in their businesses.

The Sudanese were very inquisitive. They were very excited to have guests in their home, and they made us feel so very comfortable. This however is in accord with the teachings of Islam. True Muslims are very gen-

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erous and hospitable people.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that it is in the nature of a Black man to be kind. And the teachings of Islam are that one shares equally with another believer that which he has. If one looks at the history of Muhammad of 1400 years ago, one will see that when he and his followers went from Mecca to Medina the believers in Medina shared their property equally with their brother believers from Mecca, who had left all of their belongings in Mecca to escape persecution.

HAVING VISITED and lived among Muslims in Sudan, Egypt, Italy, France and Sweden, I can truly bear witness that the Muslims live up to fulfilling this call in Islam: To share and give to brother Believers equally.

Providing comfort for a Muslim brother is one of the main hopes and aims of the True Believer. If one observes the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, one will see that he truly fulfills this call in Islam, and sets a wonderful example for his followers.

to be continued ...