

On Life In the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Education of the young girls and young boys is separate in the Republic of the Sudan.

IN THE CITY of Khartoum, the capital, the young girls start school between the ages of 6 and 7 years. They attend schools wherein they are taught solely by women.

The young Muslim female students all wear dresses which are below their knees. They all wear either white blouses with jumpers or plain solid dresses with sleeves (depending on the school they attend). All of them wear the tahara, which is a white long piece of cotton cloth approximately 2 meters (69 inches) long, which covers their heads and shoulders. Upon seeing the young Muslim female students of Muhammad's Universities of Islam, memories of the young Muslim Sudanese girls come to me. These young students are very attractive in their neat and clean uniforms. They, like the Sudanese children, wear white scarfs to cover their heads. They are taught to love one another as blood sisters and equality is stressed, and expressed even to their uniforms. Making one compete with another to achieve a goal is not stressed in the public schools in the Sudan as it is here in America. They are taught at a young age what it means to be a woman and what it is to be feminine. They are taught to cover their hair in public when they start school and are taught why they are expected to do so. They are

taught to be obedient and submissive at home from their beginnings of self consciousness. They also learn by observing the women in their family, the duties of the woman in their Islamic society. They are taught Islam by all the members of their family daily without being conscious of these teachings. They do not mix with the men in their families except at meal time, or tea time or at a large celebration, or when some help is needed on a problem. It is therefore natural for the female child in such a society to grow up and accept her duties and position in that society without question. She has been exposed to Islam and nothing else.

She feels the love emitting from those with whom she comes in contact. She is in comfort and does not really know what it is to be hurt by some who are evil. She is protected by her mother and family until she is married. And, then she is protected by her husband, and later by her sons.

When one is brought up with love and has an abundant surrounding of love, it seems as if that one cannot help but give love in return to those with whom he or she meets.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has said that the pregnant woman should read and study Islam and keep her mind in peace and try to be comfortable so that these qualities of Islam,

(Continued on page 27)

On Life In The Sudan

(Continued from page 24)

peace and comfort come forth in the development of that human seed.

In the Muslim society in the Sudan therefore one has no opportunity to eat pork (which is poison to our systems, so the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us). The women do not smoke nor drink alcoholic beverages and their staple diet is the bean ("fool Sudani"), which is high in protein. Those near the River Nile eat plenty of fish. Salads are very popular. Okra, string beans, tomatoes, rice and lamb are among the most common foods of the Muslim Sudanese diet. The chances of the mother bringing forth a healthy

child with a good disposition and character are very high in the Sudan. Exposure to healthy wholesome foods and atmosphere is prescribed everywhere, even here in America for producing a good healthy child.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us to plant the teachings of love, goodness, and obedience to those in authority over you, and submission to the Will of God (Allah) in the seed and the child will have to come forth with those qualities. The chances of such a child straying from the teachings of Islam, even in these "Hells of North America," are extremely rare, for good is the nature of that child. And, good is Islam.

(to be continued)