

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Many of my people (the Black man in America) believe that Muslims are people who abstain from fun, enjoyment, and amusements. They believe that they live in a life of renouncement, a life void of life.

THEY HEAR of and see the Muslim women covering themselves up, not laughing in conversation, loudly standing around the streets or in taverns or night spots of so-called entertainment.

Prior to my going to the Sudan, I had read books about women in Islam and about Life in the Sudan. There were very few books about the Sudan after they received independence in 1956. I recall reading a book entitled "A NO WOMAN'S COUNTRY." Such books lead me to believe that women were treated like slaves without any respect for their personal feelings. I could read nothing of a happiness or joy among the Muslims.

During my first weeks in the Sudan, I was so busy learning about my surroundings, that I did not miss "partying." I wanted to learn of this new way of life for women. They all seemed happy and content, and I wanted to find out what made them this way.

The young single women with whom I lived listened to music and sometimes danced among themselves. Of course their dances are not like the popular type of dancing here. This was not often, but occasionally.

There is no "dating" in the Sudan among the Muslims. After marriage, when they have become one, they then go out together for dinner, for a music concert or to visit.

Their music concerts are given in the open. Sometimes at parks, for it is a warm climate. There are tables and chairs for the couples and families to eat and take soft cold drinks or hot teas and coffees. This is clean enjoyment and happiness; having peaceful surroundings, where there is no argument.

Those who follow the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings know that there is much happiness and enjoyment in Islam. By his guidance and hard efforts, he has established a beautiful restaurant where families can come and be in a clean atmosphere, void of filth, and enjoy themselves. The restaurant is even named "Peace," "SALAAM."

to be continued.