

# ON LIFE IN THE SUDAN

By Bayyinaah Sharrifeff

After the newness of being in a foreign university (the University of Khartoum, Sudan) wore off, I began to inquire of the sports and recreations which were available to students on the campus. I found that there was no gymnasium, nor were there classes opened in physical education at the university. In fact, there was no physical education (sport) curriculum offered at the University of Khartoum.

THE CAMPUS was void of the so-called fine arts: music, drama, painting, sculpture, etc. I wondered why and I questioned my colleagues. They laughed when I told them that one could get college degrees in the fine arts and physical education in American universities.

They told me that the technical institute, which was constructed in part by Americans, offered the so-called fine arts. They told me, and as time passed on I saw, how practically everyone had a natural talent either for playing a musical instrument, painting or drawing. There was no physical fitness problem. The Sudanese on a whole are slender people who, in spite of the hot sun, walk long distances daily and are not lacking in physical exercise nor strength.

The drums could be played by practically everyone I met. The Ode was plucked by practically every male in that area of the country. The flute was another instrument which I saw many play. Music to the Sudanese was a form of entertainment and relaxation. They sat when the musicians played without jumping and dancing, as if at a concert. The music, however was played on special occasions, not just all the time.

Spending one's time in music or art was not a respected occupation in the Sudan. The boy who spent the majority of his time in these fields was often reprimanded by his father and made to study the Holy Qur-an, the sciences and the languages. The woman had no time for idle sport and play. They were always busy either improving themselves or their homes. They used their natural talents of art to decorate their homes.

History was related to the young by grandparents and great grandparents who were careful about their children learning European history from Europeans

less the uncleanness be made too charming and alluring to the inquisitive mind and entangle and confuse the thoughts of an open mind.

Being that I was active in sports here in America in high school and at the University, I was very disappointed in its absence on the campus. I complained much. Finally I learned of a sailing club through a Christian (Coptic) colleague which was organized by the English, however, no women were allowed membership.

Boating to the Sudanese was for fisherman, not for sport. To join this club one had to pass a swimming test. I tried to change the laws of the club so as to be admitted. I went to see a Sudanese graduate student by the name of Shams-el-Din, who was the head of such extra-curricular clubs. When I mentioned my desire to do such a thing and my ability to swim (for I had been on my high school girls swimming team), he told me that sailing on the Nile River was a very dangerous thing and that the river itself was very rough

with turbulents and whirlpools.

He suggested, for my safety, that I forget such a desire. I grew angry with his excuses and told him that I felt he was just restricting me and the women at the university. His reply was that they, the Sudanese, were perfectly content with their rules and laws as they were and that I need not think that I was going to change their society to meet with my desires nor change their women to follow my examples of the west.

He said that he would not permit me to join the club and anyone who invited me to partake in their activities would be banished from the club. I left his office hurt and angry.

Today, now that I am a Muslim, a follower of the honorable Elijah Muhammad, I can understand Shams-al-Din's reasoning, much more than I could when I was ignorant to the laws of Islam. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the world was not created for sports and play, nor was it meant for us to pass our time in idle sport and play; subjects which do not

advance man, but rather waste valuable time.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad points out to his followers the Holy Qur-an 29:54, "and the life of this world is but a sport and a play . . .". "this world" refers to the world of the white man. Think about it seriously and you will agree that every facet of life here in America is treated like a sport.

All praises are due to Allah for blessing us with a leader and a teacher to guide us in the way of respected and decent civilizations. Surely he, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is doing that which has been prophesied that he would do: "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:5). We who follow his teachings appreciate his teachings of decency and are respected for such by the decent civilizations of the earth.

**WHILE YOU WAIT**  
First Class Shoe Repairing  
**SHABAZZ FAMILY SHOE**  
**STORE & SHOE REPAIR**  
Also Leather Accessories For Sale  
PHONE: 541-9649  
12421 Superior Ave. Cleveland, Ohio  
PROP. JAMES X HAYES

**WE HAVE THE BEST PRICES**  
**FOR THE QUALITY**  
EASY CREDIT TERMS  
Including The New Central Card  
**AHMAD'S FURNITURE**  
12338 SUPERIOR AVE.  
451-4333 CLEVELAND, OHIO

**SHABAZZ SUPERMARKET**  
Groceries for Particular People  
Beef Lamb Veal Fish & Poultry  
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Daily  
VISIT OUR HEALTH BAR  
**12426 SUPERIOR AVE.**  
Cleveland, Ohio 681-9677

**FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**FISH &**  
**CHICKEN FRY**  
ALL YOU CAN EAT  
**\$ 1.50**  
COLE SLAW  
FRENCH FRIES  
ONION RINGS  
Served 12 Noon  
Till 11 P.M.