

On Life In the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Brotherhood in Islam has been the theme of this article for the past three issues. And, before changing this span of "Life in the Sudan," I feel that I must relate to you the interest which I saw displayed between female Sudanese Muslim students at the University of Khartoum in the Republic of the Sudan.

THE UNIVERSITY is a branch of the London-Cambridge University of England. Therefore, there are no examinations given during the term (mid-term examinations included). The determining factor of whether a student passes or fails a course in the examination given at the end of the University year. If one fails this exam, one fails the course.

The future of the students' university career depends on one exam. This being the case, much effort is exerted by the students in preparation for their exam. Their method of study is a beautiful example of brotherhood and unity in Islam.

The female students at the hostel gathered in small study groups consisting of four or five. They sat on cushions in circles on the large lawns within the high walls of the girls' hostel and on the verandas extending from hostel. All of them had their books and notebooks for the particular course which they planned to study—for example, there would be one group of "Nile Valley history," another on

"European history," a group of "Logic," another of "English Literature," etc. These girls would study silently for a few days reviewing their notes and they would prepare individual outlines for their courses. They would also make note of questions to which they did not know the answers, and after all of those in their group finished reviewing, they began oral recitations of the course.

One would start with the outline and she would recite the subject matter of the course. She might speak for 15 minutes before another would take up the recitation. This would continue i.e., each one speaking for a period following the course outline until all covered in the course for that term was completed. This might take days.

AN EXAMPLE of one's study day would be: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., recitation or review with group on "Nile Valley History;" 10:00 to 12:00 recitation or review with group on "Mathematics;" 12:00 to 2:00 with another group on "Arabic Literature;" from 2:00 to 4:00 midday meal and rest; 4:00 to 4:30, shower and afternoon tea; after 5:00, commence of evening sessions. Depending on the individual, some studied better in the day; others in the night.

After the recitation sessions we often posed mocked examination

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questions on the course to one another, then discussed the best approach to answer that question.

If there was one in a group who was slow and did not understand, or had difficulty remembering, the group would devote its time to helping that individual and working with her until she understood and remembered. In some cases, this would take hours. But, they had patience and seemed to never tire of helping the weak ones.

Often groups would exchange some girls and this way all were kept uniform in the knowledge of the course. This method of helping one another to learn that which each one knew of the course is so completely opposite to the American system of studying and learning. Here in America emphasis is placed on the highest mark. One will not study, then tell and teach every member of his class that which he knows of the course, for fear that whom he tells or teaches might exceed his mark on the exam. Here, individualism is excelled and separation rather than unification has been the order of the American system of education.

THE INTEREST among these Sudanese girls was that all of them should pass the exam. There, one either passed or failed. Of course, there were degrees of passing, but the impor-

tant factor was to pass so as to continue studying at the university.

There was a deep love shown between these girls for one another. A sisterly love. They wanted for their sister what they wanted for themselves. They were not selfish. This is the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Islam: Do, and want for your brother and sister (your own Black kind) what you do and want for yourself.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us to help educate our less fortunate Black brothers and sisters. He teaches us to strive for more wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

I HAVE seen and experienced Black brothers and sisters striving in unity to gain wisdom, knowledge, and understanding at the University of Khartoum in Sudan, and I loved it. I am now experiencing this among the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. It is beautiful and I also love it. For, I know for a certainty that this is Islam and Islam is the religion of the Black man.

Kill Bill to Abolish Calif. Death Penalty

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—A bill before the California State Legislature to abolish the death penalty was killed by a committee recently.