

# On Life In The Sudan

## Lessons on Natural Order of Life Can Be Learned by Careful Study of Nature

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

I had never thought of relating nature with courses of study until I was a student at the University of Khartoum, in the Republic of the Sudan.

**KHARTOUM IS** a pleasant quiet city. It is located at the junction of the two river Niles (the Blue, and White). It is sunny most of the year, and clear blue skies are a daily occurrence. The Sudanese often joke about the foreigner who says "the weather today is good," for it is good to them all of the year or the majority of the year.

Nature is something that the Muslim Sudanese observe from childhood. The beautiful Blue and White Niles are a peaceful sight. Their banks for long stretches look as if no man has ever walked or touched them. They are not marked by large

masses of concrete or brick factories, or buildings. Their seemingly virgin banks, filled with abundant vegetation, create a quiet, peaceful beauty which I loved and on which I often reflect.

During the time when we were preparing for our examinations at the University of Khartoum, I learned my female colleagues used nature to help them remember and analyze the subject matter of their courses.

**FIVE OF US** gathered in one of our study groups analyzing some of the Rubaiyats of Omar Khayyam (a Persian poet whose poems are required reading in most English literature courses, for they were translated into English by an Englishman).

One of my female colleagues brought three roses (red, pink, and white) to our group. To each of these roses she gave us

a theory or feeling of Khayyam. She related the intensity of color with the degree of feeling or ideology of Khayyam. We were then able to analyze the Rubaiyats by relating them to the color of the roses. With the roses, we had no real problem analyzing the thoughts expressed by Khayyam in his poems. Each rose had a beauty of it's own, and was different by color, but each was classified as a rose.

**THIS IS JUST** one simple example of how these Muslims related their surroundings with the subject matter of their courses. Their ability to relate with nature simplified their courses. Once I was able to do the same, it was easier for me to recall and remember the same at the times of my examinations.

The Honorable Elijah Muham-

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mad teaches us to look to nature to understand our surroundings and the teachings of Islam.

The Holy Qur-an asks us repeatedly "Who is it that brings the dead earth to life?" It also asks us repeatedly "Who is it that brings a cloud, then causes it to rain, then causes the vegetation to grow, and sustain life?" Water (rain) nourishes the earth making the seemingly dry, dead land bring forth vegetation (food) and thus sustain life.

**THE HONORABLE** Elijah Muhammad has taught us that water is symbolic of knowledge. The Black Man who is not aware of himself (his being and capabilities) is like a dead man who has no life. When the Black man receives the knowledge (water) of himself he then becomes alive and is able to produce, to make, to create and thus develop wisdom, which is one of the pursuits of every Muslim.

Allah is He Who has made the water to fall to nourish the land, teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. And this is also stated in the Holy Qur-an. Allah is the Supreme Being Who has control over all things. It is He who has given to us a fountain of water from which to drink to sustain our life, i.e., the Honorable Elijah Muhammad with abundant knowledge who gives it freely to all who desire, that they may learn about themselves and thus produce, create and develop.

The Honorable Elijah Muham-

mad has also pointed out to us many things in nature that we may better understand life. He has pointed out to us the fact that there are many kinds of insects, fowl and animals. But, each stay with their own kind. There are red, black and brown ants. But, each ant separates itself in groups of its own kind:

**THE RED ANT** stays only with red ants: The black ant only with black ants. He also points out to us that Black birds stay with their own, red birds with their own, blue with their own. Look to this, he teaches us, for a lesson to man, "to each his own:" Black man with Black man, white man with white man, red man with red man, etc.

Observing nature is the habit of every Muslim, for it is through this observance that we learn better our surroundings and ourselves, and can better understand the patterns of life which exist on this planet earth and in the universe. All praises are due to Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Who is teaching us to look to nature for an understanding.

## Earthquake Hits

A MAJOR earthquake followed by a series of severe aftershocks recently hit New Guinea on two consecutive days.