

On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Unity among the females at the University of Khartoum reflected so clearly the love within the Brotherhood of Islam. I admired the respect and interest displayed, and must have been felt, for one another. Living there among them made me realize the absence of the same among my own Black kind in America.

THESE YOUNG women were very conscious of their appearance. The Muslim Sudanese are a very clean people. I did not know, until much later that Islam teaches that one must not only take a complete bath once every 24 hours, but that one must also take an ablution (a washing of the exposed parts of the body) five times a day, once before each of the five prayers.

It is as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us; we must have a clean body to support the clean mind and have communion with God, for God does not enter a filthy place. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has put forth the question, would one drink clean water from a dirty

glass? How could the water remain clean if it is in a dirty glass? So it is with the mind and body. How could the mind be clean if it is in a dirty body?

In the Sudan, the women were not always trying to dress better than another as is the practice of the women in America. The average woman here becomes upset if she goes to an affair and sees another one there dressed in the same style and color dress as herself. Dressing to "stand out" from the whole happens only when there is a need, as a new bride at her wedding celebration in the Sudan.

At the University of Khartoum, as in all of the Sudanese educational institutions and businesses, the females wore white tobes (their national dress which was ten yards of fabric wrapped to cover their head, body, and legs) daily. I did not find this a written rule, but a practice. In the afternoons and evenings, the women of the city wore colored tobes, but in the early mornings and day it was the practice to wear white or light pastel colored tobes.

The Sudanese girls walked, talked and studied together, and to look at them from a distance they looked all alike.

Look at the females who follow the Honorable Elijah Muhammad when they meet together in their white

YOUNG FOLLOWER of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Brother Osman of Los Angeles, stands in contrast with the many Black students whose levels of achievement are far below standards, nine-year-old Osman is well versed in mathematics, Black history, the sciences and personal hygiene. (Photo: Larry Knight)

garments. Look at the beautiful sight of the Brothers in unity in their blue, F.O.I. uniforms.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we dress the same to represent our unity. He teaches us that in Islam there is no class distinction, nor vying with one another to discriminate by measure of wealth; for all the wealth belongs to Allah. And, "He gives it to whom He pleases, and with holds it from whom He pleases." He teaches us that the best in the sight of Allah is the one most careful of his duty: Belief in the one God, Allah, His Messenger, observance of prayer, paying the poor rate, fasting, and the doing of good to others.

All praises are due to Allah, Master Fard Muhammad for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. We are thankful that we have a guide among us to unite us as one, and thus bring us into the beauty of the Brotherhood of Islam.