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On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Formal classes at the University of Khartoum, in the Republic of the Sudan were from 7 am to 2 pm. The University, as did every educational institution and business closed from 2:00 to 5:00. This was the time of the day when it was so hot that one could not do anything.

At 2:00 pm we had our midday meal, which was the heaviest meal of the Day. Then rested, sometimes slept until 4:30 pm. We then bathed and showered and sipped the hot mint flavored tea. By 5:30 we gathered in small groups of 5 or 6 on the large lawns within the high wall of the girls' hostel.

Some sat on their beds, which doubled for couches on the verandas and some inside of their rooms. Others went to the University library to do research on their studies.

In these small groups we discussed courses of study which we were taking. Often we would review the course as taken from the beginning of the term. It was similar to a seminar group in America, where all would participate in the discussion. I preferred sitting on the large cushions on the lawns. As in all classes some would understand more quickly than the others. And, this is what I wish to explain to the reader: The beauty of the love which existed between these sisters for one another.

The one who was quick in understanding would explain in detail the confusing part of their course of study to the others. Often she would relate nature: the cloud which brings rain, and thus brings life; the hot sun in the desert; the hibiscus; to make simple her explanation. These were enjoyable times and often we would stay in one group for two hours.

The object was not for an individual to "out do" another. Their mind was one, for all of them to pass. Those who did outside research on their subjects of study shared their finds with the others. The whole mood of study was so different from that here in America where one is racing to "out do" or trick the others to get an "A" in the course.

At the University of Khartoum there were no grades of A, B, C, D, E. There was only the pass and the failure. And, all of them wanted to pass, and they truly wanted their sisters and Brothers to pass.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a true Muslim wants for his Brother and Sister what he wants for himself.

I SAW THIS, even to the seeking of knowledge, among the Sudanese. And, it was a beautiful unity and there was thus peace in this harmony.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is teaching us how to have it here among our own Black kind. Let us do what he teaches us to do. We will all be much happier.

As-Salaam-Alaikum
(Peace Be Unto You)

to be continued . . .