

## On Life In The Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

The beauty of unity, the oneness of man, the non-discrimination in Islam of brother to brother, the equality of all men in submission to the Will of Allah (God) in existence is a wonder to the eye of one from the western world familiar with individualism and discrimination based on materialistic accumulation. Such was I in the Republic of the Sudan.

**WHEN I** first went to the Sudan, I did not classify myself as a Christian, although I was raised in a Baptist church. I was like many young college students at that time doubting the existence of a God.

**AND, I WAS** lead to believe, by western literature, that the Muslims were a group of blind religious fanatics and in a sort of continual hypnotic state, ready to make war against those who were not like themselves. I tried to find proof to my convictions in the Sudan, but I found the contrary to be true.

At first I could not accept the complete peace which was apparent to any observer of the Muslim society. I tried to probe about to look under the apparent cover of calmness and peace. In doing so, I found unity, and harmony and a belief in a Supreme Being.

I saw the poor man and the rich man alike stand side by side at times for prayer prostrating themselves at the same time in submission to the one God Whose proper Name is Allah. The wealthy and the poor, the light complexion and the dark complexion mixed freely and socialized with one another without any hesitations, other than the one basic qualifying factor: That one be a Muslim.

One can understand this for in every society those of similar convictions group themselves together. Understanding is present under such conditions.

Whenever there was a large celebration for an engagement, a marriage, or the naming of a new baby, everyone in the village, town or community plus relatives from distant places were automatically invited to attend the celebration. No special invitations were sent to special

persons. No one was barred from attending the celebration. Everyone was welcomed. Everyone was served food, and soft cold drinks, and hot tea and coffee, and unity was beautiful.

**OFTEN TIMES** the wedding celebration would continue from two to five days and people would come from far distant places to partake of the celebration. There would be comedians and stunt men and a band or two consisting of not less than five pieces, to entertain the guests.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is teaching unity and non-discrimination among his people, the Black man. He teaches love of our brethern, those who Believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Message . . .

**"The Believers are those only who Believe in Allah and His Messenger." (Holy Qur-an 49:15)**

He teaches the equality between Black man and Black man. All must be in unity to be in His Mosques of Islam. The outward expression of unity to even the dress, the garment which his followers wear shows that we are one.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a true Believer in Islam is the one who wants for his brother and sister that which he wants for himself. And he reminds us repeatedly,

**"Surely the most honorable of you with Allah is the one among you most careful of his duty." (Holy Qur-an 49:13)**

This is to remind the Believers that there is no class distinction in Islam, that it is the one who is striving to do right and is more careful of his obligations and remembers Allah much, and adheres to the principles of Islam who are the most honorable.

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