

Tells How Black 'Misfit' in Sudanese Society Brought Misery to Husband, Self

by Sister Christine

Perhaps by my setting an example you will be more able to understand how Christian people from the Western society — keeping their practices and habits — cannot fit into the Muslim society in the East.

ONE MORNING in the Sudan I was phoned by a devil, caucasian, and told about a black American girl who had come to the Sudan to be married and after two months was miserably unhappy and was ready to return to America. I was told that the girl—we shall refer to her as Madame Rien—was not told about the Sudanese society prior to her coming.

Madame Rien's husband had heard about the American black girl, me, at the university who liked the Sudan and he had hopes that I could meet with and perhaps help Madame Rien to understand their society. He did not trust her alone with any of the Americans and he brought her to meet me at the university.

BEFORE meeting the couple, I had made up my mind to condemn him and to help her leave as she wished to do. I blamed him for not helping her to be happy and

adjust to her new-found conditions and environment in the Sudan. I also blamed him for not preparing her for the society in which she was to live. I was in for a real surprise.

When I met him, a very well mannered and humble man, he looked miserable. I was very much surprised by her mannerism. She was dressed in a short, tight bright-print, sleeveless, low neckline dress with large loop earrings. Her appearance alone would repel the good in the Sudanese Society.

She was naked in their eyes. To them she appeared to fill the low role of a prostitute. She even had the walk of a loose person. I was embarrassed. When she entered the girls dormitory, my colleagues greeted her and left us alone.

IT WAS strange that my friends did not stay in my room. Usually they sat and conversed with me and my guest—but this time they left quickly. One of them called me out of my room, and told me "Christine, that girl is not right in the head, something is wrong with her."

My Sudanese friends saw and realized in a glance what it took me the whole

evening to realize. The fact that she was a black American like myself urged me to try to help her.

I was shocked and ashamed of her, for she didn't even try to understand the society. She spoke loudly and she smoked. The girls do not smoke in the Sudan, and they consider it very low and degrading for a girl to consider smoking.

SHE WOULD not alter her clothes to a respectable appearance and she was so selfish that she was not considerate of the pains and inconveniences that she was causing her husband and his family. She had not read into Islam, nor did she care to learn of Islam. She was the daughter of a Christian minister.

At a wedding party given by her fiance's family, she sat with the men and got drunk and danced wildly and acted disgraceful. She had the vices of a low woman, drinking, smoking and even entertaining her husband's (so-called) friends when he wasn't home.

She did not permit his family to visit her. It is the practice there for the family to help arrange the home and to settle themselves.

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She was not interested in befriending the Sudanese women. She found them dull and uninteresting.

THE NEXT morning I returned with her to the very beautiful and spacious home and garden provided for her by her husband. Here I realized that I had compassion for those unworthy of compassion. I saw her only once after this.

This man had been stripped of his composure and honor. He looked as if he had been beaten. He had no self dignity. His friends did not respect him as a man nor did they wish to associate with him. His friends all knew the type of wife he had.

His family also was condemned and disgrace was brought to them by his actions. He was associating with the devil and had brought the devil into his home and the devil was disturbing the household. He was being punished for his liking of the devil. The devil was frustrated because she could not get others to join her.

I BELIEVE that this experience illustrates to us very clearly that which the Messenger, Elijah Muhammad, teaches us . . . that the differences in the two religions of the believer and the non-believer are as different as night is to the day, and that there is no mixing up of the darkness with the light.

This man knew that he was going against the will of the people and his society by bringing this uncouth creature into his society. The markings of his chastisement could be seen in his face. The society showed little respect and concern for him.

His family turned away from him. He was left alone with his devil companion bathed in discontent and misery. In May, 1966, Madame Rien left the Sudan, four months after her arrival.

IT IS fortunate for her that she was able to leave in good health for it is a very

dangerous act for a woman to play with a Muslim man's honor. The act of showing or bringing disrespect to a man in the Islamic society may cause one to lose one's life.

Next week: Reforms to be continued.