

Life in The Sudan

Respect For Our Black Women

By Baiyinah Shariieff

My dear Sisters (Black women of America): I am sure that you want to be respected. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that in order to be respected by others we must first respect ourselves and those in authority over us.

WHAT ARE some of the characteristics of a respected woman? A clean neat appearance, a straight, swift walk, her choice of clothes (color combinations, etc.), a knowledge of her history, her place, home economics, and perhaps another skill, and the general manner in which she carries herself.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a true Muslim is clean in mind, body, language and actions. Muslim women cover their bodies in long garments with long sleeves and closed necklines. She is not to wear tight garments. A woman's hair is part of her beauty. Islam teaches the woman to cover her hair when away from her immediate family members and in public.

The Holy Qur-an teaches us (women) to cover out beauty, "adornments" when in public. If one does not expose her personal beauty in public, the chance of her inviting indecent remarks about her beauty are rare.

If one walks neatly and carries ones body with grace, that one will not receive insults of unclear remarks from passersby.

THE LAWS of Islam instruct the woman not to look into the eyes of a man. When I was a student at the University of Khartoum, Sudan in 1964, in ignorance I looked into the face of the male students, not knowing that I was going against their laws of decency. In this society of America, where people go naked, and have no shame, looking into the eyes of a member of the opposite sex is a normal occurrence. My Sudanese girl friends warned me that if I did this I would get a very bad reputation as being a person of very low and loose morals. They told me to cast my eyes down when

passing the male students on the campus. I was compelled to do this in order to be respected in their Islamic society, and to have and keep friends among my Muslim female colleagues.

In that Islamic society all the Islamic laws of respect to women are very highly enforced, not solely by the police but by the men of the society in general. Their policemen really have little opportunity to apprehend a law breaker for the general public upholds the laws of Islam. One finds the general public moving in accordance with the laws of Islam which are outlined in the Holy Qur-an, and very few going against the strong current of righteousness (Islam.)

WE MUST also uphold the laws of Islam here among our people for if we are all following the same laws, and submitting to the will of Allah, we will all be in unity. When we work in unity we must all follow the same instructions to have that unity.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad wants to prepare us, the Black women who follow him, to meet the respected nations of the earth on a respected level. To do this he must have strict laws established that we must follow in unity, striving for the same goals.

The Messenger points out to us that the way in which the planets rotate around the sun, bowing to the power and heat of the sun, is complete submission to the energies of the sun and is the way of the righteous Muslims in bowing in submittance to the Will of Allah, and following the universal laws of Islam. It is a universal law and one which no scientist will debate on that the planets have been rotating around, the sun for untold billions of years, and they do not debate the length of time that they will continue to rotate around the sun, it is accepted as a natural phenomenon.

IF AND when one of the planets would reverse its direction and go in the opposite direction to that in which the others rotate, it would be considered a violation to the natural laws of the rotation of the planets.



MINISTER CLYDE RAHMAN (right), Mosque No. 6 in Baltimore, presents popular Muslim singer Joe Tex with trophy after record-drawing benefit performance. Tex consistently keeps his records at the top of national rock and roll charts. Attendance

records also prove he is one of the most popular men in music. However, he credits his greatest success to the wise leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah.

(Photo by Carl XI)

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us from the Holy Qur-an that Islam is the natural religion of man (the original Asiatic Black man). We must submit to the laws of our natural religion, that we may be in uni-

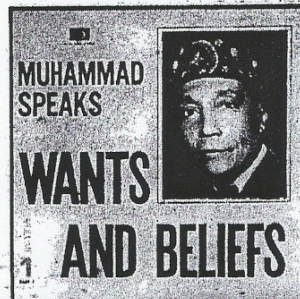
son and rotate with the other upright nations of the earth, bowing in submission to the will of the one God, Whose proper Name is Allah, Who Came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is the only man here in America who can help you, my Black Sisters. Come to him. If you submit, he will accept you as it is written (Holy Qur-an Chapter 58).

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