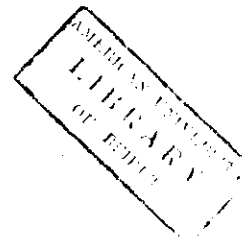


Civilization Sequence 204
Final Examination Summer, 1997
Prof. I. Najjar Two Hours



Choose one of the following two questions:

1-- In *Season of Migration to the North*, Mustafa Sa'eed describes himself as a germ of a deadly disease "imported to us" by "the greatest European violence". "Yes, my dear sirs, I came as an invader into your very homes: a drop of the poison which you have injected into the veins of history. 'I am no Othello. Othello was a lie.'"

- (a) Discuss first how Edward Said would respond to describing the European influence on the Orient as a poisonous disease. What message does Edward Said want to leave the student of Orientalism with?
- (b) In what sense was Mustafa Sa'eed a disease and a poison to the Europeans? Did he continue to be so after his return to Sudan? Is there a message in his return to Sudan?
- (c) What are the common characteristics between the personalities of Hosna in Saleh's novel and Valerie in that of Malraux?

2--

- (a) The reader of *Waiting for Godot* is repeatedly struck by the message that there is nothing to do or to be done. What is the significance of this inactivity and how do you connect it to the theme of the absurd in the play?
- (b) The poverty of Mahfouz's *Midaq Alley* is all too obvious. How do you explain it and what messages does Mahfouz want to draw from it? How would you compare the inhabitants of the Alley to the characters in *Waiting for Godot*?
- (c) Why did the narrator at the end of *Season of Migration to the North* make a conscious decision not to concern himself with the question of whether or not life has meaning? What significance does this decision have on the central question regarding the relationship between the South and the North?

Good Luck

