

significance. Within this hierarchy two layers were paramount: the cyclical agricultural activities and the prevailing patterns of ownership which entailed particular cropping arrangements. The break-up of field space into separate lineage domains was superceded by cropping arrangements which cut-across lineage lines and across lineage domains. In addition, the shared rhythms of the agricultural cycle made the village fields an arena which enhanced village identity and solidarity, as opposed to strong clan identity spatially expressed in the existence of clan-based living quarters (chapter 3). Below I will discuss these two factors in detail:

I. THE AGRICULTURAL CYCLE: TIME/SPACE/ACTIVITY

The livelihood of the villagers in Deir Ghassaneh depended on rainfed agriculture, which meant a complete dependency of the fallah on ecological factors. The calendar of the fallah was anchored into ecological changes which regulated the succession of his agricultural activities. The fallah's concept of time and space were to a great extent determined by his close relation to the environment. "Ecological time" as defined by Evans-Pritchard (1940) refers to the succession of activities both in time and place. The agricultural cycle determined factors of time and space, i.e., where the fallah must be at what time of the day or of the year. The fallah's situation in space could always be told by his situation in time. In other words, his system of time-reckoning was very closely associated with space. The cyclical nature of agricultural activities dictated a rhythmic pattern of daily and seasonal movements. Since all the fallaheen in Deir Ghassaneh were more or less involved in the same activities, time have a similar meaning for everyone within the community.

In discussions with them, the fallaheen very often referred to some activity in process in order to indicate the time of an event. For example harvest time, the season of olive picking, and the days of figs and grapes were all points of reference in time. The fallaheen also selected events of outstanding significance as common points of reference. The years of beating the drums (sant dak et-tabel) referred to 1914 where all men between the age of 15 to 60