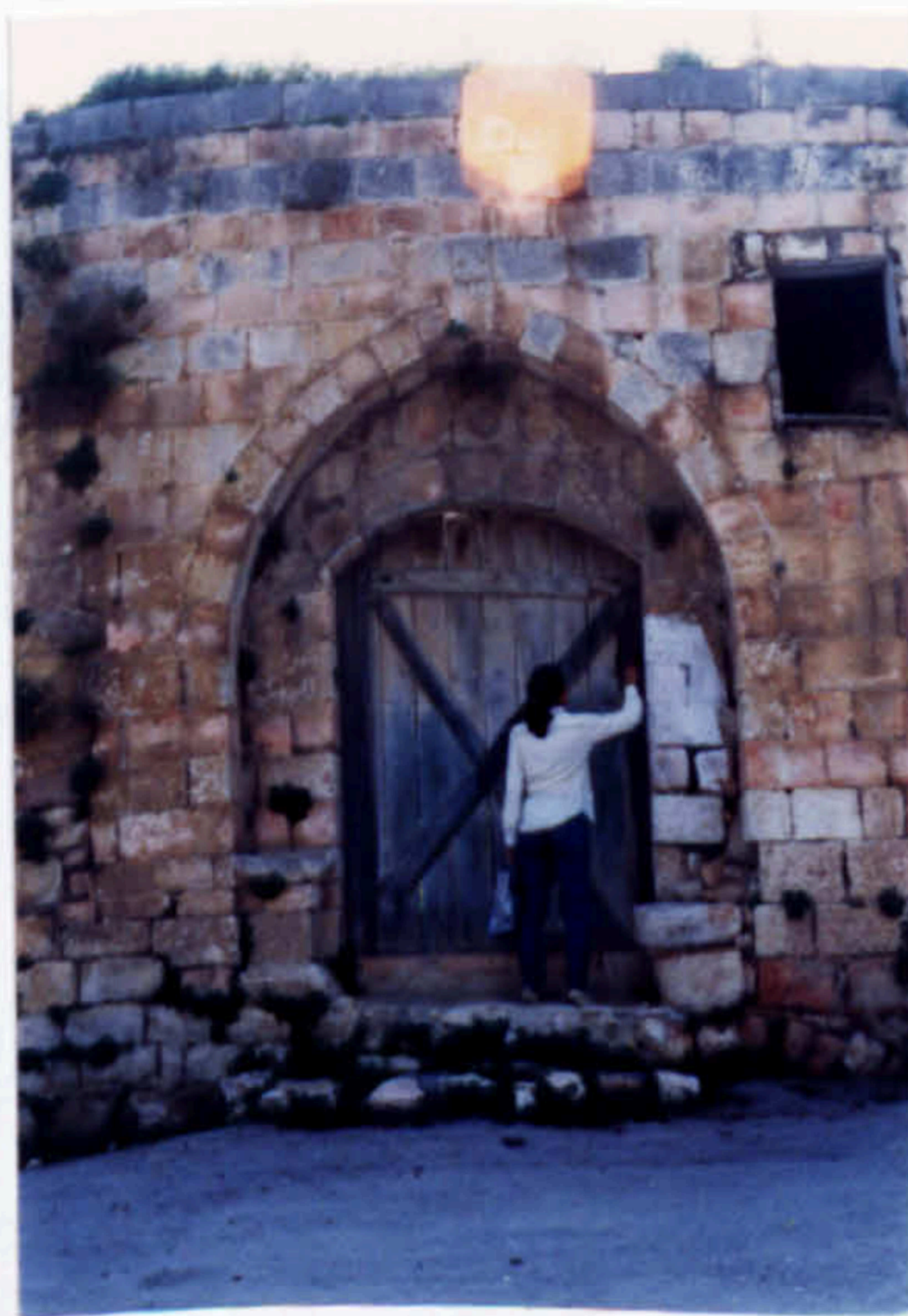


The continuous edge of each block was penetrated on the ground level by entry gates leading to the courtyards of the compounds. Figure 4.13 shows a number of gates which lead to the Barghouthi dwellings. The highly ornate and majestic gates not only expressed the status of the Barghouthis, but also designated an important transitional point from the outside communal world to the private world behind. In most cases, there was only one entry way to each compound. However the three compounds which constituted the northwestern block had in addition to their main entry gates, back doors located on the north side (Fig. 4.14). These doors were used mostly by women to avoid being seen by men gathering in the village saha.

Altogether, the lofty location, the verticality, the empty lots of land, the alleys, the backs of buildings, the hardly penetrated walls, the controlled access to the harah and to the individual compounds, and the control of through traffic, created a private world which was to a great extent isolated from the rest of the village.



The Rashid Compound



The Atrash Compound

Fig. 4.13: Entrance gates to some Barghouthi compounds