

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

The spatial organisation of the Barghouthi quarter and dwellings must be seen in the context of their social status, political and economic powers. First, in their dominant relationship to other clans sharing the same village; second, within a hierarchical social order in which the Barghouthi sub-clans shared the same living quarter; and third, as a semi-feudal rural group that had strong relations with urban notables and aspired to have an urban life-style.

Domination-Subordination

The Barghouthis, who were the tax farmers (multazimeen) of the Bani Zaid sheikhdom, set themselves apart from the rest of the village clans socially as well as spatially. The word fallaheen as we have seen earlier, became a derogatory term to describe non-Barghouthis (though the Barghouthis were themselves "fallaheen" in the wider sense).

The restrictions on Barghouthi-fallaheen inter-marriages, the exclusive visiting patterns, the differential status of land holdings, and the vertical forms of cropping arrangements, all reflected the dominant position of the Barghouthis and the subordination of the fallaheen.

Spatially, the Barghouthi-fallaheen relationship was expressed also in terms of dominance-subordination that can be indicated by the following:

1. The lofty location of the Barghouthi upper quarter overlooking other quarters in the village.
2. The village centre (sahet el-balad) which included the village guest-house, the mosque, and the sheikh's compound, was located in the Barghouthi quarter, emphasising their dominance over other village clans.