

III. The Persistence of Clan-Based Quarters

Today both the village old quarters as well as its newer sections are still organized along kinship lines. The few families that still occupy the Barghouthi upper quarter are predominantly from the Barghouthi clan. The Shu'aibi quarter also maintained its clan-based character. All the inhabited houses, except for the one house occupied by a gipsy family, are occupied by members of the Shu'aibi clan, though the number of exogamous wives has increased. This is also true of the lower fallaheen quarter.

Figure II.3 shows the new sections of the village built after the 1930s. As illustrated, the new Rwais area to the north-east of the village is occupied predominantly by the Shu'aibi clan, with two Barghouthi houses built in 1984 and 1986. The Hussein sub-clan occupies the 'Ajjam area to the north-west. Residents of the lower fallaheen quarter extended south-west, while the new Dawood houses are mostly located to the west. The persistence of clan-based quarters can be explained by patterns of land ownership. Up until today, members of the same clan own adjacent land parcels. The persistence of such land ownership patterns hides the fact that clan ties and affiliation have weakened.

Social Integration Amongst the Different Clans

In addition to the clan-based divisions, Deir Ghassaneh has been witnessing the appearance of a new pattern of dispersion based on business interests, market relations and perhaps the embryonic class formations. This is exhibited in the location of new houses and public buildings along the main road which connects the village of Deir Ghassaneh with the neighbouring village of Beit Rima. Houses built along this road belong to the different clans (fig. II.3). The expansion along this road is quite recent; most houses have been built in the 1970s and 1980s. This main road also include a number of public buildings such as the girls school, the boys secondary school, and the new municipality building (1986) which belong to the twin villages of Deir Ghassaneh and Beit Rima. Unlike the rest of the village quarters - both old and new - dispersion along the main