

After the 'Azze villa, the highest-valued rural residences were *hanes* valued at 6,000 kuruş. There were only three such structures in the district: one of them in 'Ajjūr and two in the medium-sized, livestock-rich village of Bani Na'im on the arid eastern edge of the Hebron plateau, overlooking the Dead Sea.<sup>193</sup> In Bani Na'im, one-third of the 89 residences (thirty-three, to be precise) were valued below one thousand kuruş each. The majority of homes in the village, fifty-four of them, were assessed at values between one- and two-thousand kuruş. The mean average of the highest-valued residence in each of the villages in the district is approximately 3,000 kuruş.<sup>194</sup>

Only in Bayt Kāḥil (which we will visit in Chapter 4) and in the *mezra* Riḥiyya, discussed above, was the intra-village housing-value discrepancy less than 1,000 kuruş. In fifteen villages the discrepancy in values between the highest- and lowest-valued residences was between 1,000 and 1,999 kuruş. In eighteen villages, this discrepancy ranged from 2,000 to 2,999 kuruş. In twelve villages the discrepancy was between 3,000 and 3,999 kuruş. In one village, Barqūsiyā, the discrepancy was 4,000 kuruş, and in the three villages with the highest-valued residences, as one might expect, the discrepancy between the most humble and the most luxurious residences was more than 5,000 kuruş. The gap between the average

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<sup>193</sup> These residences were registered to Muṣṭafa b. Hamdān of 'Ajjūr and to Husayn b. Musa al-Msasreh and Muhammad b. 'Aliyān of Bani N'aim. Bani N'aim was a village of 89 residences at the time (81 *hanes* and 8 *odas*). All its land was privatized in the 1875 register. Villagers registered 1,549 plots, primarily of field-crop lands, but also vineyards, fruit trees and orchards, olive trees, and gardens.

<sup>194</sup> To be precise, it is 3,119 kuruş. If we exclude Bayt Jibrīn from the calculation, the mean value drops to 2,781 kuruş.