

inquiries for directions, explaining how to reach landmarks unknown to me by reference to their distance past, before, or between other landmarks I did not know. The names of roads were marked only on maps, and only the foreigners with maps knew them or had a need for them.

According to the collectively authored research work, *Idhna qaryatun lahā tārīkh* (Idhna is a village with a history), Idhna's villagers did not divide their musha lands until the last years of the Ottoman period, in the early twentieth century. At this time the lands were divided into the village's two large-family (*'ashīra*) groupings – the Ṭumeizī and the Salīmī – each consisting of three, extended-family (*āl*) conglomerate groupings. Each extended-family grouping received a one-sixth share of village lands as musha until 1931, when shares were divided into twenty-four subshares (*qarāriṭ*, sing. *qirāṭ*), with every male receiving one subshare.³⁸² The tapu register quoted in court in 1894 indicates that this division did take place, but that it began already in the nineteenth century, at the time of the tapu survey.

The court record stated that in the tapu register, Ḥamdān was registered as the principal (representative) owner of the Salīmī lands, but not as the sole owner. This point is key to the villagers' strategy. The villagers created two large corporations, each with its own bloc of legally undivided land parcels, which is to say, undivided as far as the tapu was concerned. With reasonable certainty, we may propose that the division of village lands into

³⁸² *Idhna qaryatun lahā tārīkh* (Idhna is a village with history), 52.