

village community a shared meaning of time, a similar rhythmic pattern of movement in space, and most important close contacts and coordination, again enhancing village identity.

II. PATTERNS OF LANDWONERSHIP: Lineage divisions superceded by a strong village cooperation

As mentioned above, the break up of village fields into domains belonging to the different lineage groups was the most crucial mode of orientation and identification of field space.

As figure 3.10 illustrates, there was a clear correlation between land distribution and lineage. In other words, land holdings were grouped in a number of blocks owned by members of the same lineage. For example, most of the fields located in the south-west were owned by the Rabi clan, while fields located in the north-east were mostly owned by the Shu'aibi clan. Although generally speaking land holdings were divided along lineage lines, in most cases the holdings of the same lineage were not solidified in one large continuous parcel, but consisted of a number of parcels spread out in different places in the village. The break up of lineage blocks was quite common.

The same pattern i.e., scattering and splitting up of land holdings characterized the holdings of the individual fallah. Figure illustrates the holdings of one fallah from the 'Alem family. The holdings of this fallah - like the majority of other fallaheen - were also made up of several parcels some of which were at a distance from one another. It was very rare that the holdings of the one fallah formed one single continuous parcel. The causes of such a pattern were explained by Granot:

"The fundamental cause of the fragmentation of holdings in the Arab village lies in the fact that the fallah aspires to include in his holdings land of all the categories - as regards quality of the soil which are found in that village."