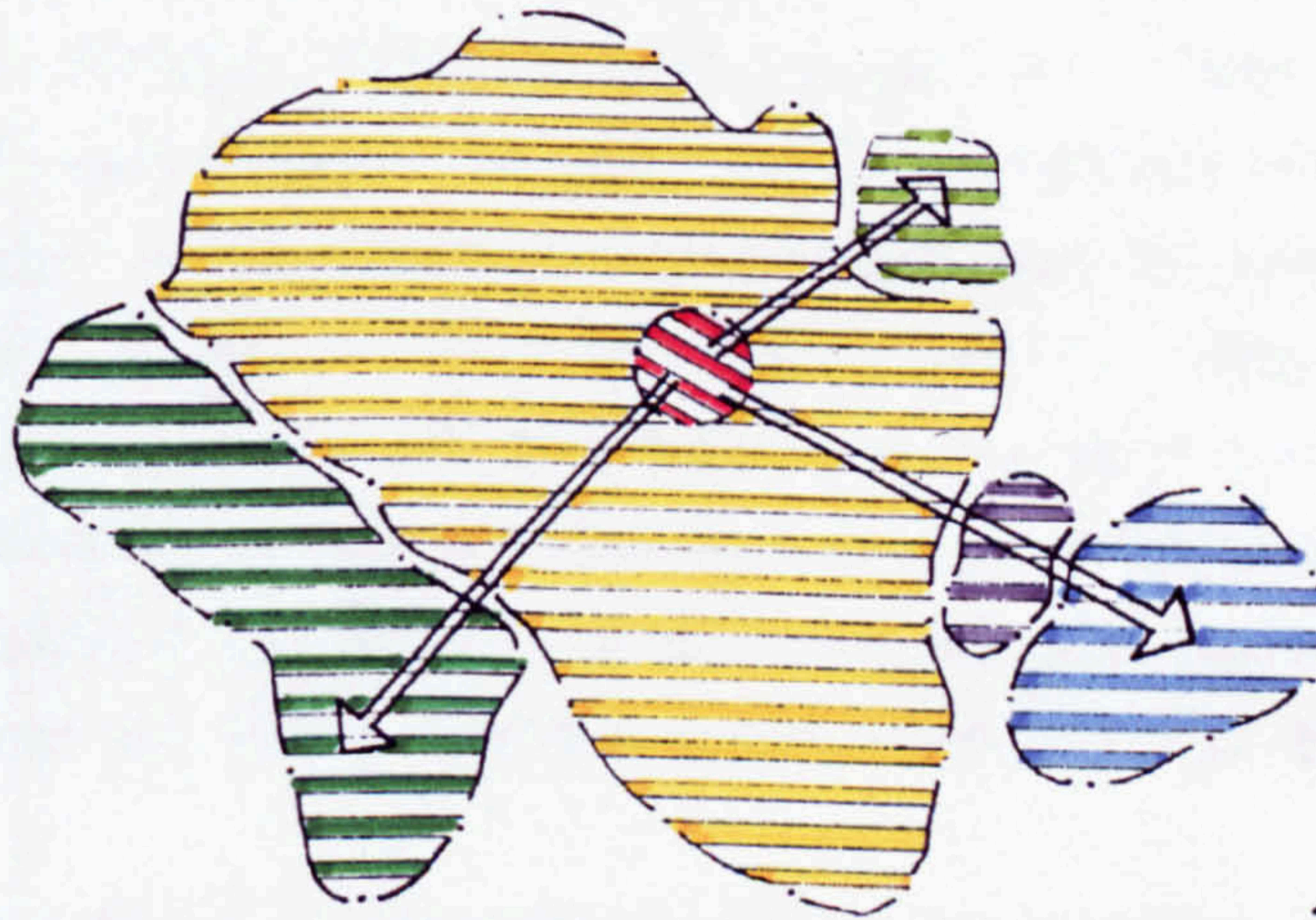


groups - the Barghouthis - lived near the centre. While the sheikh's house opened directly on the saha, the fallaheen of the lower quarter lived farthest from the saha i.e., on the village outskirts, hence spatially expressing their social distance (fig. 4.7).



- Arrow indicates direction of status in descending order from centre
- Village centre (saha)
 - The Barghouthi quarter top of social hierarchy
 - Lower quarter farthest from centre expressing social distance
 - Shu'aibi quarter
 - Halabieh or el-'Alem quarter
 - Misshel quarter

Fig. 4.7: Diagram showing relationship between village centre and quarters: status ranking

Village Streets And Alleys

Behind the village centre lay a network of narrow and winding alleys which connected as well as separated the different parts of the village. Clusters and streets changed shapes and sizes according to needs. Streets were sometimes defined either by the backs of buildings which formed a continuous high wall, as in the case of the Barghouthi quarter, or by low rubble stone walls separating the semi-private courtyards from public streets. However, the majority of