

paths were mostly defined by related activities which formed a coherent action pattern. The system of paths expressed the villagers' possibilities of movement. The majority were neither paved nor treated as clearly defined public domains. The network of alleys could be seen as a series of boundaries whose main function was to separate and defend. Some alleys acted as edges defining the boundaries of each harah. Narrow alleys separated compounds within the same harah. Others led to significant places such as the main village plaza or out to the surrounding fields (Fig. 4.8). In the Barghouthi quarter, the alleys were seen as male social domains: a woman upon meeting a man averted her face, shielding it with her cloak. In contrast the lower quarter men as well as women were seen sitting in front of their entrance doors chatting and drinking coffee.

By delimiting paths of movements and by decreasing permeability as one approached the dwelling, the inhabitants of each quarter provided the appropriate defenses in order to control unwanted intrusions. The Shu'aibi quarter was a good example where there was, and still is, no alley which allowed through traffic. Only the Shu'aibi members (or their visitors) were allowed in. The social and behavioural patterns discussed above resulted in a minimal curiosity about life in other quarters.



Fig.4.8: Village streets and alleys