

verticality which characterized the Barghouthi buildings added to the visual contrast between the rising Barghouthi buildings and the horizontally expanding fallaheen buildings. The majority of the Barghouthi stone buildings were of two or three floors with domes accentuating the vertical scale which symbolized their power (Fig.4.10). In addition to living in tower-like buildings on top of the hill, the Barghouthis separated themselves from the fallaheen quarters by maintaining clear physical boundaries. As seen in figure 4.9, their quarter was spatially separated by relatively wide alleys. On the western slopes, empty lots separated the Dawood compounds from the Shua'ibis. On the southern slopes, a drop in elevation, empty lands and relatively wide alleys created a distinct demarcation where the Barghouthi quarter ended and where the lower quarter began.

This phenomenon of having strong external as well as strong internal boundaries could perhaps be explained by two contradictory factors; the Barghouthi's social and political status entailed locating the village main centre of activity, the village plaza, in the Barghouthi quarter. Thus penetration of the Barghouthi quarter by non-Barghouthis could not be avoided. On the other hand, the Barghouthis wanted seclusion, particularly for their women. How were these two factors then spatially reconciled ?

The core of the Barghouthi quarter, as figure 4.11 illustrates, consisted of seven separate blocks, each containing one, often more, adjacent courtyard compounds belonging to the different Barghouthi sub-clans. The backs of buildings and the high courtyard walls formed an almost continuous edge around the blocks, hence isolating the Barghouthis from the social and natural environment and offering only a few penetration points. There were no backyards as such in most of the village dwellings. The edges of the block were the exterior walls of the compounds. Each compound was referred to as dar. Dar literally means a house. In this context it referred to a sub-clan composed of a number of extended families, all residing in one compound, or in a number of compounds located in different blocks.