

No one except me had to wear the 'abaieh (cloak) as I moved down from my room to the communal courtyard. The Barghouthis, like my own family the Rayyans, were very strict about the behaviour and movement of their women, particularly the newly-wed. My family came to visit me, but I was only allowed to visit them in Majdal Sadik twenty years after my marriage. While my unmarried sisters-in-law could go out of the house daily to collect water from the village spring, I remained at home. I was allowed to leave the house only on special occasions such as marriages. In many cases, my mother-in-law went on behalf of our family and I remained at home. My mother-in-law managed all the household affairs. She decided what had to be done alone. I did very little housework (an unusual role for most daughters-in-law); my mother and sisters-in-law took care of most of the work. I later spent most of the time looking after my children".

The Fraternity of Cousins

"In 1910, this compound housed the families of my father-in-law Mustafa, and his three sons Hasan (my husband), 'Abed and Sa'id. It also housed the families of my father -in-laws' three cousins; Abed Malik, Mahmoud, and Abdul Rahim. All the wives of these men were their first or second cousins".

Zakieh described who was living in each domestic unit in 1910:

"In Dar el'Abed lived 'Abed (my brother-in-law) and his wife Aisheh (who was also his first cousin) and their two daughters Tariefeh aged (14) and Azizeh (10)".

"In Dar 'Abdul Malik (my father in-law's cousin) lived Abdul Malik, his wife Rahmeh (from the Atrash Barghouthi family) and Darwish (15) (Abdul Malik's son from his second wife), their son Rida (2) and Abdul Malik widowed sister 'Aisheh"

"In Dar Mahmoud (also my father in-law's cousin) lived 'Aishe the widow of Mahmoud, her son Mohammad (15) and her daughter Safieh. Her daughters Salwa and Nafiseh were already married and left the house before I came".