

movements of the Shu'aibi women who went as far as the press door - never entering - to fetch the pressed olives and oil.

While this entry point acted as a connection (and barrier) towards the rest of the village, the northeast entry point to the harah, symbolized the open and free relationship of the fallah towards nature. This entrance was less defined than the former, since it opened up towards the Shu'aibi agricultural fields, located mostly on the eastern slopes. This entrance was defined only by the wall of the buildings located on the west and by a row of five round stone and mud structures used as ovens (tawabin) to the east. The tawabin, which no longer exist, were built with their entrance doors open to the inside to screen off the women from strangers who might be passing by.

The Elevated Room

Unlike the Barghouthis, who had one or more 'allieh for every extended family compound, the whole Shu'aibi quarter had one single 'allieh shared by all male members of the quarter and their male visitors. The 'allieh in this case was used more as the quarter's exclusively male guest-room, rather than the master bedroom as was the case for the Barghouthis.

The Shu'aibi elevated room (Fig 4.35), which was located on the second floor, could be reached by a stair case (no longer there) located right off the northwestern entry, hence avoiding any undesirable intrusion into the core of the quarter. The 'allieh also had a walled roof (steiha) laying in front of it, again fencing the elevated room off from the main courtyard of the quarter.

This elevated room could also be reached by an internal stair case, located inside the Abu Jaber courtyard (Fig. 4.32). This stair case allowed the women of the quarter to reach the elevated room, so as to serve the visitors, without having to go outside their quarter.

The elevated room as figure 4.35 illustrates, consisted of one square room roofed with a dome as opposed to a cross vault, hence showing