

with his working team: stone carriers, mortar carriers, stone dressers (dakkakin pl. dakkak), and stone builders (bannaih).

In simpler fallaheen houses, the m'alle^m came by himself and members of the houseowner's family helped him in the construction of the house. The poorer fallaheen houses (sagaif), which were made out of rubble stone and flat wood roofs, and field storage huts (ksour), were built by the fallaheen without the help of master builders (App.4.II).

In general the m'alle^m had practical knowledge, with little theoretical or aesthetic pretensions. The m'alle^m was not seen as the architect or artist who functioned as a "form maker". He was a person with technical knowledge who supervised the work, built the important parts of the building, such as windows, doors, arches and most important the cross-vault, (el-'aqd el 'arabi) or the dome (el-qubbeh). The form of the house, its interior divisions, and methods and materials for construction, were known to both the peasant owner and the builder. The site of the new house was also known, normally an extension of the already existing house. Usually the new house would be built for the married son, his wife and his children, when his father's house or compound became very crowded. The m'alle^m, who was brought to the site by the head of the family, enjoyed a great deal of prestige and respect. For the safety of the inhabitants of the new house and the completion of the house, all depended on him. "The work (lit. stroke) of the master-mason is worth a thousand liras even if he does it carelessly, while the work of the hireling deserves a slap" (daket el-ma'llem bi-alf walaw shalfaq shalfaq wdaket el-ajir bi kaf) (Cana'an, 1933: 4).

Gathering of Building Materials

When building a house, the peasant had to collect the building materials - stone, rubble, gravel, sand or earth, lime, wood,- far in advance. The fallaheen of Deir Ghassaneh collected building-stone from the nearby quarry called el-Khawwas. Rough stones were carried to the site by camels or donkeys. Smaller stones were loaded on men's backs (Fig. 4.52). Rough stones were cut and worked on at the site by the peasant. In more elaborate houses like the Barghouthis, stones