

There is historical precedent for reducing Shuyukh's taxes. Although the village did not figure among the four Hebron villages that registered sufi lodges (*zāwiya*) in the late nineteenth century, the *dhikr* ceremony was regularly held in Shuyukh, a practice that continued throughout the twentieth century.<sup>283</sup> The inheritance record (*tereke*) of Shaykh 'Ārif b. Ahmad b. Šāliḥ al-Hasāsne of Shuyukh, for example, attests to the shaykhly title assigned to the village and so many of its villagers. This Shuyukhi villager died in 1911 while living a few villages away, in Šurif. Among the possessions he left to his wife, mother, and children alongside a horse, two donkeys, six goats, a silver watch, a sword, and 142 French liras (equivalent to a local fortune, 15,620 kuruş), was a small library of three "torn books": al-Samarqandi's *Tanbih al-Ghāfilīn*, Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd al-Bāqī's *Durrat al-Wā'izīn*, and an unnamed book by Abu Ma'shar al-Balkhi.<sup>284</sup>

According to the author al-Shuyukhi, in answer to a petition presented in Istanbul by a number of Shuyukhis in December 1679, a sultanic firman today preserved in private hands in the West Bank exempted the village and its villagers from taxation. Al-Shuyukhi incorrectly claims that the exemption was permanent, stating that the village did not pay any taxes during the Ottoman period and was not registered in Ottoman tax records. Although the *emlak*

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<sup>283</sup> Al-Shuyukhi (p. 35) reported in 1999 that every Monday and Friday evening and occasionally at times of celebrations or on the occasion of hajjis returning from Mecca, the *dhikr* was still performed in the village mosque.

<sup>284</sup> HR 22 / 40 / 74 (8/73), 3 al-Qada 1329 / 26.10.1911. In this period, Shuyukh was a village of 57 hanes, while Šurif had 77.