

There are two factors we should bear in mind when trying to assess/interpret the economic situation of the Kāḥili villagers, based on the low price they took in exchange for their land and the seemingly high interest they agreed to pay. Firstly, these terms were not unusual. In Hebron, an examination of court records for the period under study shows that urbanites from all socioeconomic strata were the most frequent mortgaging borrowers in the sharia court. They also took loans-as-mortgages according to terms similar to the Kāḥilis' mortgage terms. For example, three months after the Bayt Kāḥil case, two shaykhly sons from the Qal'a neighborhood of Hebron, members of the prestigious Dari-Bakri family and sons of a father who bore the titles Shaykh Effendi, took a loan (*istidāna*) of 2,395 kuruş from three children of one deceased Husayn Effendi, who was the Yüzbaşı of the Army Reserves (*redif*), and his widow Fāṭima bt. Yūsif Arnaūṭ ("Albanian"), the children's legal guardian (*waṣīa*). As collateral, the Dari-Bakris sold (*bay'*) them a plot of their land, of unspecified size, with fig and quince trees, grape vines and a stone *sīra*⁴²⁴. The mortgaged parcel was surrounded by vineyards which the Dari-Bakris also owned. The deal also included the price of "two watches", recorded as being a present (*mawhūba*), the payment of which was delayed for

⁴²⁴ According to Suad al-Āmirī and Farās Riḥāl's *Manāṭir: Quṣūr al-mazār'ī fī Rif Filasṭīn (Maṭaras: Agricultural Palaces in the Palestinian Countryside)* (Ramallah: Riwaq, 2003), a *sīra* is a structure found widely in the vineyards of the Hebron region and served as residence during the grape harvests (115)