

was half a *qit'a* of land planted with grape vines and fig trees. The land was located in Saqāq al-Haysh, Hebron. The property had been sold by 'Uthmān b. 'Awdh Abī 'Awdh Ishāq Kashkūl of Hebron to Nāṣir al-Dīn b. Ahmad Nāṣir al-Natsheh of Hebron. This area today forms part of the built-up area of the city of Hebron.

The document on the right was issued by the tapu offices in Hebron in July 1899 (27 Safar 1317). It is a deed of ownership, a tapu *kushān*, a tapu *senedi*. It recognizes the ownership of a member of the Natsheh family of a vineyard in Abū Majnūn. The basis of ownership was *haqq-ı karar*. This right was granted to those who could prove a minimum of ten years' uncontested ownership on the land. This area today forms part of the built-up area of the city of Hebron. Abi Majnun, as it is known, is still owned primarily by Natshehs.

What do both these documents have in common? Both prove ownership. Both could be acquired on the basis of testimony, as we have seen in the chapters of this study. Both cost a bit of money to acquire. Both were issued (at least) ten years after the fact of possession had taken place. This does not mean that Natshehs did not own these lands during the ten years in which they did not have these documents. They did. (If they had not, it would have been difficult to acquire the documents showing they did.) What both these documents tell us is that in 1839 and 1899, respectively, after years of farming and reaping in Abi Majnun and Saqāq al-Haysh, two Natshehs had a need, or perhaps a desire, but most likely a need, for a document in order to prove their ownership. These documents did not change the fact of ownership; they merely validated it.