

Because of the high demand for female work in the patriarchal household, there is a tendency in Zbeidat for women to marry at a more advanced age, at the average age of 19, than is traditional in rural households in the West Bank. Cousin marriage, in part serves a similar function, since the woman remains within reach of her father's household; (and in reverse, her parental home remains accessible to her in case of dispute with her in-laws).

Another important factor contributing to the high incidence of cousin marriage is the low (or even nominal) sum which is paid as a bride price (mahr). In cases of marriages outside the sub-clan this sum amounts to between 500-1000 Jordanian dinars (about \$1500-\$3000), with even higher sums paid for "stranger" brides. Zbeidati women, as mentioned, never marry outside the tribe, and the only cases of marriage external to the village involve clan relatives in Transjordan, and (in one case) in Beersheba.

The physical distribution of households, despite the denial of such differentiation on the part of Zbeidat elders, reflect the clustering family dwelling by quarters divided along sub-clan lines. But there are no physical barriers between these "quarters" so that peripheral dwellings of one clan tend to merge at the imaginary "borders" with the neighbouring sub-clan (see Map 11:4). However, the significance of these divisions lie in the proximity of each sub-clan "quarter" to its cultivated plots lying eastwards on both sides of the Jericho-Beisan highway. Since sub-clan divisions relate also to the control over the labour disposition of household members as well as marriage endogamy, there is resistance against the tendency of newly married couples to move away from their sub-clan quarters.

As can be seen from Table 11:2, the sizes of the four sub-clans (with the exception of Al-Mahameed, the majority of whom left the village