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The Islamic Funerary Inscriptions of Bahrain, Pre-1317 AH/1900 AD



By
Timothy Insoll, Salman Almahari,
and Rachel MacLean

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The Islamic Funerary Inscriptions of Bahrain

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Cover illustration: Pair of single slab limestone gravestones, Abu Anbra Cemetery, Bahrain. Front, ABN15 (undated), rear, ABN16 (1047 AH/AD 1637) (photo. T. Insoll).

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Introduction

1 Introduction to the Project

This book presents a catalogue of the Islamic funerary inscriptions of Bahrain dating to before 1317 AH/1900 AD (all dates are specified as either AH or AD. Where both dates are cited these are in the format AH/AD). It results from fieldwork completed between 2013 and 2015 undertaken in co-operation with the Bahraini Shi'a Jaffaria Waqf and the Sunni Waqf authorities who provided information on the locations of relevant gravestones, personnel to participate in the recording, and ethical clearance and research authorisation (along with the Directorate of Archaeology and Heritage of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities). 150 gravestones were recorded in 26 locations: in 23 cemeteries, mosques, and shrines (136 gravestones), two museums (13 gravestones), and one private house (1 gravestone) (Table 1.1; Figure 1.1). Of these, 38 gravestones were exposed through archaeological excavation and 106 have inscriptions.

TABLE 1.1 Gravestone locations, abbreviations, and numbers

Name	Location Type	Number of Gravestones
A'ali (AAL)	Mosque	1
Abu Anbra (ABN)	Originally urban now village cemetery	50
Abu Saiba (ABS)	Village cemetery	1
Askar (ASK)	Village cemetery, mosque and shrine	2
Barbar (BAR)	Private house	1
Beit al-Quran (BEIT)	Museum	1
Bilad al-Qadim (BAQ)	Mosque	1
Daih (DAI)	Village cemetery	1
Hoorah (HOO)	Urban cemetery	12
Hunaniyah (HUN)	Urban cemetery	1
Jebelat Habshi (JBH)	Village cemetery	13
Jidhafs (JID)	Village cemetery	1
Jidhafs al-Imam (JAI)	Village cemetery	3
Karranah (KAR)	Village cemetery	5
Al-Khamis (KHA)	Urban cemetery	25
Mahooz (MAH)	Urban cemetery	2

TABLE 1.1 Gravestone locations, abbreviations, and numbers (*cont.*)

Name	Location Type	Number of Gravestones
Malkiya (MAL)	Mosque	1
Al Maqsha (MAQ)	Village cemetery	3
Bahrain National Museum (MUS)	Museum	12
Noaim (NOA)	Urban cemetery	4
Al-Qadem (QAD)	Village cemetery	2
Sh. Abd al-Rauf al-Bahrani (Sh. AB)	Shrine in mosque	1
Sh. Latfulla (Sh. LA)	Shrine in mosque	1
Sh. Ahmed bin Muhammad al-Khalifa (SHAM-ALK)	Tomb	1
Sayed Yahya Al Husseini (SYA)	Shrine in mosque	1
Tubli (TUB)	Village cemetery, mosque	4

The excavations and surveys, and the ethnographic recording of contemporary cemetery visitation practices, cemetery material culture, and uses of the gravestones was directed by Professor Timothy Insoll, assisted by Dr Salman Almahari and Dr Rachel MacLean and Mr Jassim Al-Abbas. Following the advice of Professor Robert Hoyland, New York University, that the inscriptions should be transcribed into modern Arabic by those familiar with the formulae used, this was completed in Bahrain by Dr Salman Almahari of the Directorate of Archaeology and Heritage, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, with Sheikh Bashar abd Alhadi Al-Ali, religious scholar, and Mr Jassim Al-Abbas, Head of Research at the Jaffaria Waqf Authority. Dr Salman Almahari completed the translation from modern Arabic to English, and additional crosschecking of the translations was completed by Dr Xavier Luffin of the Département de Langues et Lettres, Université Libre de Bruxelles, and Dr Abdelghani Mimouni, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter.

2 The Contents of the Book

This chapter considers the history of Islamic burial, gravestone, and cemetery research on Bahrain, and discusses the gravestone chronology, gravestone and cemetery types, stone sources and gravestone manufacture, the gravestone inscriptions, content, iconography and decoration, and the archaeology of the shrines and cemeteries in which some of the gravestones were found. Chapter 2 presents the gravestones in the form of a catalogue. It provides detail on each location where gravestones were recorded, and individual reference numbers, co-ordinates,

dimensions, orientations, and descriptions for every gravestone, as well as an Arabic transcription and translation for all gravestone inscriptions. Chapter 3 concludes this study by providing a discussion of contemporary practices relating to cemeteries, graves, and gravestones, the threats facing the gravestones, and management options for protecting and presenting the gravestones.

No attempt is made to add historical context to the epitaphs and texts, the individuals commemorated, or to the places mentioned on the gravestones. This is to permit others to explore these themes, add this detail and to use this epigraphic corpus for the purposes of their research unsullied by previous study.

3 Previous Research on Islamic Burials, Gravestones, and Funerary Inscriptions on Bahrain

Comparatively little scholarly attention has been given to the Islamic cemeteries, gravestones, and funerary inscriptions on Bahrain. They are not referred to by the early European travellers who visited Bahrain such as Captain E. L. Durand (1880; Rice 1984) who excavated burial mounds at A'ali in 1878, or Theodore and Mabel Bent who were in Bahrain in February 1889 for the same purpose (Bent 2010: 13–27). The omission is interesting as both Captain Durand and the Bents do refer to the Al-Khamis Mosque, albeit as the “Madresseh-i-abu-Zeidán” (Bent 1984: 78) or the “Meshed-i-Abú-Zeidán” (Durand 1984: 20), and this is a site where many gravestones have been recorded. Ernst Diez (1925: 105), the German Oriental scholar who visited the Al-Khamis Mosque in 1914, does refer to the mosque being surrounded by graves but gives no further detail.

The cemetery at the village of Saar is described by Hansen (1968: 129) based on her ethnographic study in 1960, as “barren and unplanted”, with the north-south oriented graves marked at the head and foot with “two oblong rough slabs of coral chalk”. One grave of “some outstanding member of the small village community” was differentiated with “a flat rectangular resting stone slab” (ibid). This might be a reference to the type of rectangular grave marker repeatedly recorded during the survey but the absence of detail denies precise identification. James Belgrave (1973: 91), in his otherwise reasonably detailed consideration of the antiquities of Bahrain, focuses on examples of Arabic inscriptions not in funerary contexts such as those from the Al-Khamis Mosque and describes the gravestones, erroneously, as “comparatively modern and therefore are of little archaeological importance”.

More recently, Islamic tombs and gravestones have been uncovered during archaeological investigation. Kervran (1996, 2005) completed excavations of Muslim burials at three locations, Saar, Qala'at al-Bahrain, and the Al-Khamis Mosque. The Saar cemetery is described as associated with a village and located within a raised area formed of the ruins of a Bronze Age temple (Kervran 1996: 58). Three tombs, oriented north-south, with dimensions of 180 cm × 90 cm were investigated.

Two were within a small structure with a *mihrab*, and thus appear to resemble a shrine excavated in the Abu Anbra cemetery discussed below. The tombs were finished in stucco and it is possible, but not certain, that the two stucco panels from Saar catalogued as MUS7 in Chapter 2 are from one or more of these tombs, as unfortunately the illustrations provided by Kervran (1996: 64–65) are not clear enough to confirm this. The texts are described as containing “pious formulas and verses from the Coran (sic)” (Kervran 2005: 340). The style of the letters used in the Saar gypsum panels is suggested as of 12th–13th centuries AD date (Kervran 1996: 61), and as such would agree with the dates given in the interpretive panel associated with MUS7 in the Bahrain National Museum (see Chapter 2).

The tombs excavated at Qala’at al-Bahrain were given a later date range of the 14th to 16th centuries AD, and were part of a cemetery of 3000m² containing between 100 and 120 tombs (Kervran 1996: 61–63, 2005: 334–335). Sixty human burials were exhumed. Two types of Muslim tombs were encountered; simple pits oriented north-south, and pits lined with gypsum plaster, one with a coffin containing a young child dressed in a white cotton shroud or robe that disintegrated on contact with the air (Kervran 1996: 66). Some burials also contained grave goods such as a female with a glass bracelet around the arm and a carnelian bead, and another female burial with a clay Shi’a prayer tablet placed under one elbow.

All these graves lacked above ground funerary monuments but it was suggested that they were “probably covered with cenotaphs and often built inside funerary chapels” (Kervran 2005: 337) which had not survived. An exception was provided by a funerary chapel (*chapelle funéraire*) containing four intact tomb structures of a rectangular stepped design, seemingly undecorated, and made from gypsum plaster and stone (Kervran 2005: 338–339). A 14th century AD date was suggested for this structure based on its stratigraphic position (Kervran 1996: 68). Frifelt (2001: 42, 45–46) also refers to Muslim burials encountered during excavations at Qala’at al-Bahrain but no gravestones are described.

The burials at the Al-Khamis Mosque are assigned to two phases by Kervran (1996: 69, 2005: 339–340); Umayyad/Abbasid for those under the walls and floors of the Mosque, and later for those with inscribed rectangular stone grave markers of the type classified under the code KHA (Al-Khamis) in Chapter 2. The Umayyad dates can be discounted (cf. Insoll et al 2016: 238). It is possible that a few burials under the mosque might be Abbasid and unconnected with the Mosque, but it is likely that the vast majority are 13th century AD or later, reflecting the chronology of the Mosque itself (cf. Insoll et al. 2016: 240). No detail is provided on the burials recorded, but the gravestones of the types considered in detail in Chapter 2 are briefly described as associated with the Shi’a, of between 130 cm and 180 cm length and 30 cm to 60 cm height, inscribed on four sides, and with a *mihrab* image carved on the upper surface (Kervran 1996: 69). A cemetery is also referred to several hundred

meters away from the Al-Khamis Mosque. It is not given a name by Kervran but is said to be called locally, “Little Kerbala” (*ibid*), an appellation not encountered during the fieldwork. It is likely that the cemetery is in fact Abu Anbra, where there is a significant concentration of historical gravestones.

The most detailed study of the gravestones prior to this one was by Ludvik Kalus (1990, 1996). It was completed as part of an overall survey of all the then known Arabic inscriptions of Bahrain and includes 36 examples of inscribed gravestones in nine locations. Some of these gravestones appear to have been moved or to have disappeared in the intervening 25 to 30 years since Kalus (*ibid*) completed his research. Where it has been possible to locate and identify the gravestones discussed by Kalus (1990, 1995) these are cross-referenced in Chapter 2 and new translations are provided.

4 The Chronology of the Bahraini Gravestones and Cemeteries

Blair (1998:196) makes the point that “the speed with which tombstones were introduced depended in part on the strength of local customs of burial”. Kervran (1996: 71) has drawn parallels between the tombs with masonry walls recorded in Islamic contexts and pre-Islamic sepulchres, particularly Hellenistic ones. This is important, for in Bahrain there was a pre-Islamic tradition of commemorating the dead beginning c.2300–2000 BC, with the Early Dilmun burial tumuli (cf. Breuil 1999: 49; Lombard 1999a: 56–57). Thus, there was pre-adaptation to using physical markers for graves but there exists a gap of seven centuries from the last pre-Islamic grave stelae, with a probable date of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD for the so-called Tylos or Hellenistic period figurative grave stelae from sites such as the Al-Maqsha, Al-Hajjar, and Shakhura necropolis, and Qala’at al-Bahrain north-western Palm Grove (cf. Lombard 1999b: 212–216; Salman and Fredslund Andersen 2009: 98–99, 171–173), and the first dated Muslim gravestone on Bahrain, KHA6, with a date of 407/1016 (Table 1.2).

If the tradition that some of the people of Bahrain converted to Islam after receiving a letter inviting their conversion from the Prophet Muhammad in 7/628 is accepted (Kanoo 1993: 281–283), there is an absence of dated gravestones for a period of nearly 400 years. Four reasons could explain this. First, gravestones from this period have not survived. Second, gravestones from this period have not been found. Third, the dead were uncommemorated, or fourth, the dead were commemorated with un-engraved stones, pebbles, enclosures of low-walls, palm-fronds, branches, or objects such as pots, all of which have been recorded as grave markers elsewhere in the Islamic Middle East (e.g. Granqvist 1965: 110; Sourdel-Thomine and Linant de Bellefonds 1978: 352; Simpson 1995: 247–248; Bittar 2003: 16; Mershen 2004: 165–167; Gorzalczy 2009: 225–226).

TABLE 1.2 Chronological order of the dated gravestones

Reference Number	Date
KHA6	407/1016
DA11	650/1252
ABN5	707/1307
ABN11	707/1307
ABN10	746/1345
ABN45	754/1353
ABN9	765/1363
KHA20	846/1442
KAR3	847/1443
MUS3	854/1450
JID1	903/1497
ABN7	904/1498
KAR5	965/1557
ABN34	984/1576
MUS4	985/1577
KHA5	997/1588
JBH12	1002/1593
JBH11	1003/1594
TUB3	1008/1599
MUS2	1014/1605
ABN6	1046/1636
JAI3	1046/1636
ABN16	1047/1637
ASK1	1066/1655
ABN47	1067/1656
NOA1	1076/1665
BEIT1	1089/1678
ABN32	1090/1679
SYA1	1093/1682
TUB4	1093/1682
ABN18	1094/1683
TUB1	1095/1684
JBH7	1098/1687
JBH10	1100/1689
MUS5	1100/1689
ABN50	1102/1691
MUS10	1102/1691
ABN1	1103/1692
KHA7	1105/1694

TABLE 1.2 Chronological order of the dated gravestones (*cont.*)

Reference Number	Date
MUS9	1106/1695
HOO5	1107/1696
ABN40	1108/1697
MAQ2	1112/1701
ABN4	1113/1702
KHA18	1138/1726
Sh.LA1	1150/1738
SHAM-ALK	1209/1795
HOO2	1210/1796
HUN1	1236/1821

Forty-nine gravestones have dates and these are presented in chronological order in Table 1.2 and Charts 1.1. and 1.2. They span the period between 407/1016 and 1236/1821. It is possible that the use of inscribed gravestones might be linked with the growth of Shi'ism in Bahrain. The phrasing used on the earliest gravestone, KHA6, clearly indicates a link to Shi'a belief. However, the date of 407/1016 on this gravestone suggests that the growth in funerary epigraphy in the Bahraini context was not linked with what Taylor (1992: 7) has described as "the rise of major Shi'i empires, such as the Fatimids, Qarmita, Buyids and Hamdanids" in the tenth century. The number of dated gravestones gradually increase in quantity from one each in the 5th and 7th centuries AH, to five in the 8th, three in the 9th, six in the 10th, and 17 in the

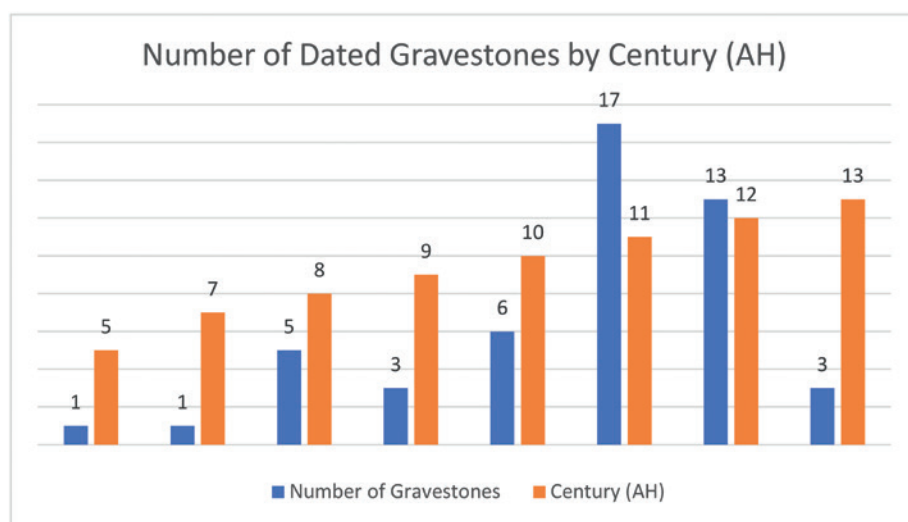


CHART 1.1 Number of dated gravestones by century (AH)

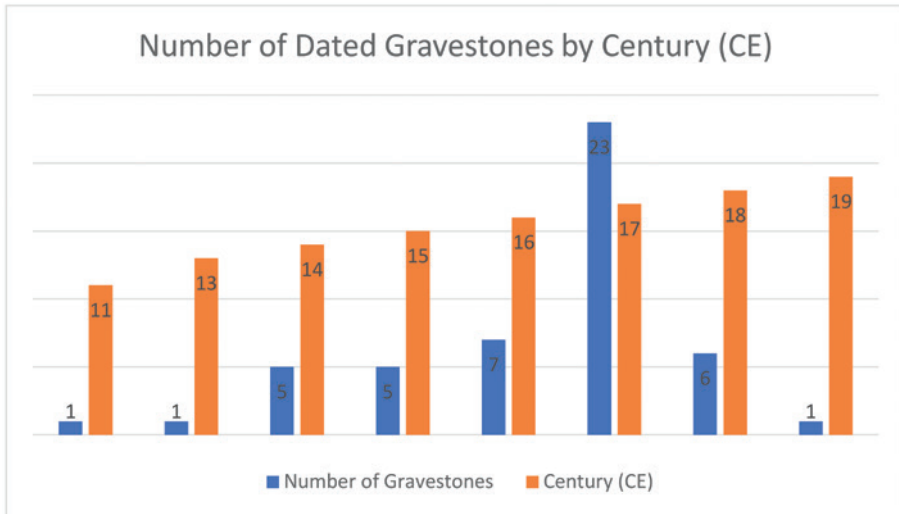


CHART 1.2 Number of dated gravestones by century (CE)

11th century, before declining to 13 dated gravestones in the 12th century, and three dated gravestones in the 13th century AH. It is interesting that the period with the largest number of gravestones, the 11th/17th century, correlates in large part with Safavid rule of Bahrain between 1602–1717 AD (Cole 1987: 186), a dynasty known to have patronised and encouraged Shi'a arts in the shrines of Iran, and until its loss to the Ottomans, in Iraq as well (Allan 2012: 41).

It is probable that the Shi'a communities using gravestones such as KHA6 co-existed with Sunni Muslims who might not have commemorated their dead in the same way. Some modern inscribed gravestones were seen in the largest contemporary Bahraini Sunni cemeteries that were surveyed, at Manama and Hunaniyah (East Riffa) (Figure 1.1), but in many instances uninscribed head and foot marker stones were used as grave markers. These could be formed of unworked slabs of *faroush*, a natural seabed crust composed of sand, lime muds, shells, and carbonate cement (Judd and Hovland 2009: 88), or pointed cement markers (Figure 1.2). Two definitely Sunni gravestones were recorded with inscriptions pre-dating AD 1900 and both are for members of the Al-Khalifa ruling family (HUNI and SHAM-ALK). Their rarity likely reflects doctrinal proscription on the commemoration of the dead (cf. Sourdél-Thomine and Linant de Bellefonds 1978; Leisten 1990; Schöller 2004: 261–262, 271–275; Allan 2012: 5), though how this has been considered and implemented has varied (Schöller 2004), and numerous exceptions exist indicating the use of inscribed gravestones in what are likely to be Sunni or almost exclusively Sunni contexts throughout the Islamic world (e.g. Sourdél-Thomine and Linant de Bellefonds 1978: 355; Ory 1989: 57–59; Moraes Farias 2003; Bittar 2003; Mershen 2004: 165; Bauden 2011).

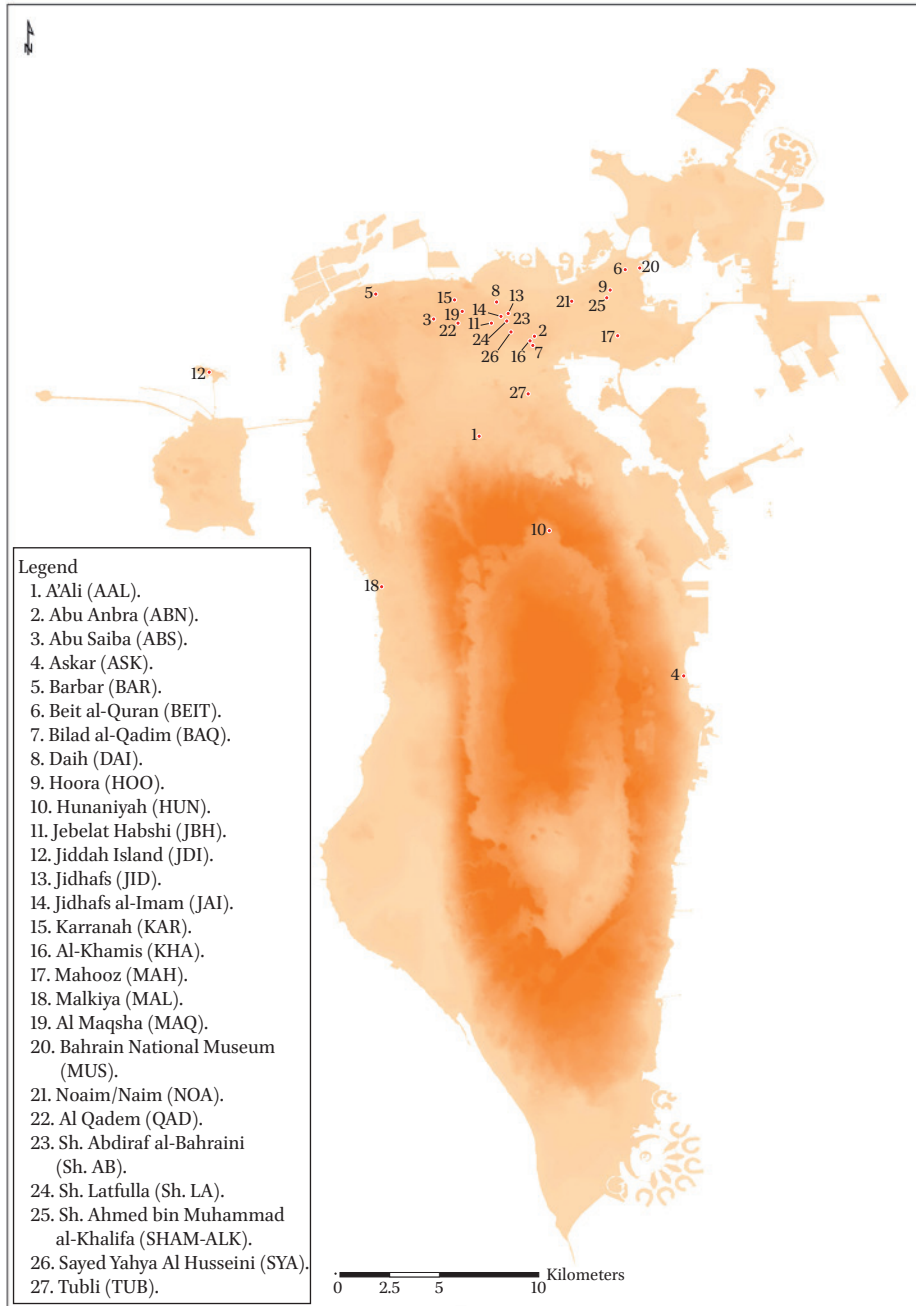


FIGURE 1.1 The locations of the cemeteries surveyed in Bahrain



FIGURE 1.2 Variety of gravestones in the Sunni cemetery, Manama. These include *faroush* and cement head and foot marker stones and modern inscribed marble gravestones.

5 The Types of Gravestones and Cemeteries

5.1 *The Types of Gravestones*

Of the 150 gravestones recorded, 139 are of a rectangular form. Those for which the length was measurable indicated that the majority (68 examples) were between 100–149 cm, followed by 44 examples of between 150–199 cm length. Three gravestones were between 200–249 cm and five between 50–99 cm length. Of the latter, three could have formed half of a double slab gravestone configuration but could not be classified as such because they are very eroded. Where the width was measurable of either single or one of the parts of double slab gravestones (see below), it was found that 63 gravestones were between 31–40 cm, 60 between 21–30 cm, 15 between 41–50 cm, three between 51–60 cm, and five between 10–20 cm maximum width. Maximum height measurements indicated that 60 gravestones were between 31–40 cm, 45 between 41–50 cm, 20 between 51–60 cm, 16 between 21–30 cm, three between 61–70 cm, and one between 10–20 cm height. On all the finished rectangular gravestones inscriptions were found on five surfaces unless they were eroded, incomplete, or damaged (Chapter 2).

The gravestones were either produced as single or double slabs (Figures 1.3 and 1.4). Single slab gravestones predominated at 90 examples with 30 double slab gravestones, 17 half double gravestones, and five fragments classified as part of two



FIGURE 1.3 Example of a single slab gravestone, ABN18



FIGURE 1.4 Example of a double slab gravestone, ABN5

further rectangular gravestones found. It is not known if the fragments were from single or double slab gravestones. The remaining ten gravestones were composed of one concrete block, two gypsum examples, one double slab gravestone carved only on one face and fixed to a hollow cement structure, and six flat gravestones. Three of the flat gravestones are modern laser etched marble slabs that commemorate individuals pre-dating AD 1900 (ABN34, HUN1, SHAM-ALK). The other three are pre-modern, with one possibly imported (H009), as it is seemingly made of sandstone, which is not local to Bahrain, and the other two were described by local informants as of Iranian origin (H002, H007) (see Chapter 2 for full details).

The criteria for why some gravestones were carved as a single slab and others using double slabs is not known, but might be related to size. The largest single slab gravestone (ABN45, Figure 2.162) measures 227 cm length by 57 cm width by 21 cm height, and the combined maximum dimensions of the largest double slab gravestone (ABN21, Figure 2.84) are 202 cm length by 51 cm width by 31 cm height. Generally, the slabs that compose a double gravestone are of broadly comparable size, but disparities were recorded. ABN48, for example, was formed of two slabs of exactly 98 cm length, and of comparable width at 48 cm and 47 cm, but the height of each slab varied at 54 cm and 35 cm (Figure 2.169). Disparities could also exist in slab length as with ABN11 that was formed of two slabs of 109 cm and 82 cm, whereas the widths of the slabs at 50 cm and 49.5 cm and their heights of 41 cm and 39–40 cm are comparable (Figure 2.54). In all the double slab gravestones, the two slabs were joined by simply butting against each other except for ABN12 which was connected, uniquely, by a carved mortise and tenon type joint that served to link the two slabs together (Figure 2.55).

Thirteen hollow gravestones were recorded. Hollow gravestones can be defined as “cenotaphs” following Blair’s (1998: 196) description of these as “empty rectangular boxes”. The hollow gravestones, and all the rectangular gravestones more generally, can also be described as “grave covers”, following Lowick (1985: 79). As such, besides the sectarian considerations discussed earlier in this chapter, this prevalent type of above-ground rectangular gravestone or grave cover would have not been universally acceptable in some Muslim communities for cultural reasons. Ali (1994: 398), for instance, describes how Malay Muslims would not use a sarcophagus-type gravestone as it was “too reminiscent of a Hindu platform where a pyre was set to burn the dead” and thus “any suggestion that the body was entombed above the ground, as in a sarcophagus, was unacceptable”.

It is likely that many more of the Bahraini gravestones are hollow as this could only be ascertained when the gravestone position had shifted to allow a view of the underneath, where they were cracked (e.g. ABN26, Figure 2.97), or of double form and had been separated or partially separated, or where they were excavated and this permitted a view underneath. Similarly, whether a gravestone was solid could only be identified based on the same criteria and three solid examples were recorded (e.g. ABN5, Figure 2.25). Presumably, gravestones were hollowed out to reduce

weight during transport. Circular holes were also found drilled into five gravestones with one each on JBH4, KHA15, MUS6, and MUS12, and several on TUB1. Initially, it was thought that this might also be linked with transport and they were for the insertion of a rod to ease carrying (e.g. MUS6, Figure 2.406). This interpretation was subsequently discounted on the basis that these holes would be expected to continue through both sides of the gravestone, which they did not, and not disfigure the epigraphy. The purpose of the holes remains unknown.

The dominant gravestone orientation, in 60 instances, was northwest to southeast. This was followed by 48 gravestones oriented north-northwest to south-southeast, 12 oriented north to south, two northeast to southwest, and one each oriented west-northwest to east-southeast and west-southwest to east-northeast. Based on comparison with contemporary practice the graves should, ideally, be oriented with the head to the north and face directed towards the Qibla in the west, and the feet to the south. A close approximation of this ideal is thus manifest by many of the gravestone orientations.

Twenty-seven gravestones were found in an unfinished form. This ranged from the gravestone having only been cut into the basic rectangular shape with blocks for where the raised decoration would be (e.g. ABN 35, Figure 2.131) to small areas left unfinished, as with the rear of the raised decoration on ABN26 (Figure 2.99). The style of the unfinished gravestones, the similarities in materials used (limestone), and their sizes, all serve to indicate their contemporaneity with the finished examples. It can only be hypothesized as to why unfinished gravestones were sometimes used as funerary markers. This could be due to cost, death of the commissioning party, death of the writer or engraver, a variety of circumstances could be responsible. Factors of cost might explain the use of what are best described as 'sub-standard' gravestones, i.e. where surface flaws are likely to have precluded effective carving (e.g. ABN35, Figure 2.131). It also has to be acknowledged that some of the unfinished gravestones may have been found and appropriated more recently as commemorative markers. This could explain why seven of the 12 gravestones in Hoorā cemetery are unfinished, as they were collected elsewhere and re-used in this large urban cemetery.

In other instances, unfinished gravestones had clearly been abandoned and were not apparently associated with the deceased (e.g. ABN46, Figure 2.163). However, it appears unlikely that the presence of the unfinished gravestones indicates that they were manufactured or carved in the cemeteries themselves. The absence of stone debitage from cutting or carving in all excavated gravestone contexts, and the likely venerated status of cemeteries, based on contemporary analogies (Chapter 3), does not suggest in-situ manufacture and carving. Further implications of the unfinished gravestones for our understanding of gravestone manufacture are discussed below.

Only two gypsum grave markers were recorded (ASK2 and MUS7 [2 panels]). These are supplemented by the three gypsum tombs recorded by Kervran (1996), previously described, one or two of which might correlate with MUS7. The rarity

in the use of gypsum could relate to beliefs described by Schöller (2004: 259) that “everything which has been touched by fire is disliked because it is a bad omen with regard to (Hell-) Fire” and because materials such as brick and lime that had been exposed to fire were believed to “dry out the grave” (Leisten 1991: 15–16). More prosaically, the prevalent use of stone for the Bahrain gravestones might also be connected with understandings of material longevity, i.e. that stone is a long-lasting material and limestone is suited to taking on carving, as well as to the relative availability of stone in the Jiddah Island quarry, discussed below.

Comparative material for the Bahraini rectangular gravestones is rare and perhaps the closest parallels can be drawn with the gravestones from Siraf on the southern Iranian coast. Functional similarities exist in that both the Bahraini and Sirafi groups can be described as ‘grave covers’, as defined by Lowick (1985: 79). In other ways, they differ. The Siraf gravestones are generally earlier, dated to between 364/975 and 735/1334, made of sandstone, or in three instances stucco, carved in floriated Kufic script, and often incorporate a stepped crest running the length of the upper surface (cf. Lowick 1985: 80, 85, 112–113; Bittar 2003: 157–160). The approximate length of the Siraf gravestones (excluding fragments and a child’s gravestone) varies between 163 cm and 114 cm with several of around 130–150 cm length, width ranges between approximately 28 cm and 45 cm with most around 30–45 cm, and in height between 25 cm and 57 cm, with most between 40 cm and 50 cm (Lowick 1985: 90–114). As such they are generally comparable in size to the dominant rectangular Bahraini gravestone form.

5.2 *Types of Cemeteries*

The cemetery types can be divided into two categories, urban and village. Of the 16 cemeteries in which gravestones were recorded, five can be classified as urban, and the remaining 11 as village cemeteries (Table 1.1), though one of the latter (Abu Anbra) was formerly urban, indicating that cemeteries can change status over time dependent on population growth and decline. Figure 1.1 indicates a clear clustering of cemeteries and shrines in the northeast of the main island of Awal correlating with the villages in this area. The general absence of cemeteries and shrines with inscribed gravestones pre-dating 1900 AD in the south and centre of Awal can be explained by differences in population composition in the centre of the island (predominantly Sunni and/or expatriate), and lack of population and settlement in the south. The latter compounded by an absence of relevant archaeological investigation as this is currently a restricted area. The total absence of relevant gravestones on the island of Muharraq with its indications of Islamic settlement back to the Umayyad period, as well as later occupation attesting the urban expansion of Muharraq in the late 19th and 20th centuries (cf. Carter and Naranjo-Santana 2011) is less understandable.

It is not possible to reconstruct the past spatial reasoning, if any, behind the location of the gravestones within the cemeteries themselves, for in most instances they have become part of a palimpsest of graves in multi-period contexts, as already

considered in the discussion of chronology above. Patterns of contemporary cemetery usage indicate that today all the cemeteries in which the gravestones were recorded are essentially unplanned, but a degree of planning is utilised in plotting where burials will go based on the availability of space. In the Abu Anbra cemetery, for example, graves are re-used. Old graves are re-opened and the bones of the previous occupant are placed in a corner of the grave trench and the new corpse added or the older bones are removed, the corpse interred and the bones of the previous occupant are then placed back into a corner of the grave.

Whether specific areas within cemeteries are linked with particular families also depends on the availability of space. For example, in the two Janusan village cemeteries (lacking inscribed gravestones dating from before AD 1900) there is considerable space and burial can, essentially, occur wherever desired. As a correlate, particular family areas have developed. In contrast, in the Deir village cemetery on Muharraq Island, (again lacking funerary inscriptions relevant for this study), where space is limited, there are no family areas and place of burial is based on the date you died in sequence. Further detail on the cemetery locations is provided in Chapter 2.

6 Stone Sources and Gravestone Manufacture

6.1 Stone Sources

The principal, if not the sole source of the limestone used for the gravestones was likely Jiddah Island, approximately 4km north-west of the main island of Awal (Figure 1.1). The quarries on Jiddah are of significant antiquity but the only published survey of them is a brief but valuable report by Højlund (2013: 176) who suggests they were exploited as early as the Bronze Age, c. the second-millennium BC. Permission was not forthcoming from the Bahraini authorities to revisit Jiddah Island as part of the research described here. This would have permitted provenance studies to be completed comparing the gravestones with the oolitic limestone from the quarry at Jiddah, but must await future access.

A photograph of an Arabic inscription from Jiddah Island is also provided by Belgrave (1973: 80), which he describes as “the scratching of a slave” referring to “the name of the Governor of Bahrain at a certain date, the age of the quarries and the date of the mending of the fort” (ibid: 91). No translation is given but one in French is provided by Kalus (1990: 72) and this is translated into English by Højlund (2013: 174). This is quoted below and a new Arabic transcription presented based on the photograph provided by Belgrave (1973: 91).

وفي ضمن شهر شعبان سنة 968 هجرية تم الفراغ من من قطع مائة ألف صخرة
لتجديد بروج قلعة البحرين في وزارة الوزير الأعظم جلال الدين مراد
محمود شاه... على يد العبد...

During the month of Shaban of the year 968, ended the cutting of 100,000 stones for the construction of the towers of Bahrain Fortress. By the hand of the slave, under the government of the Grand Minister Jalal Al-Deen Morad Mahmood Shah.

The inscription indicates that the quarries were certainly in operation in 968/1560, a period from which several of the inscribed gravestones date (Table 1.2).

6.2 *Gravestone Manufacture*

Entirely hand carved inscribed gravestones of the type recorded in the survey are no longer made in Bahrain. Gypsum is still hand carved, but the craftsmen practicing this stated that it is a completely different material to stone and requires different technical skills to work it. Hence reconstructing the processes and time involved in producing a fully inscribed gravestone of the rectangular types recorded in the survey is difficult because of the absence of contemporary parallels.

A Bahraini artist who does stone carving was interviewed regarding the production of these gravestones. He was then carving a marble gravestone with calligraphy on five faces, and estimated that to complete a fully carved gravestone comparable to those recorded with inscriptions on five faces by hand alone would take him two years including preparing the stone block, designing and marking out the calligraphy, and cutting the lettering (Khalil Almadhoon pers. comm. 20/4/17). This is probably a significant over-estimation of the time it took earlier masons as he does not specialise in the production of gravestones and he uses electric powered chisels for the bulk of the work so is probably not so quick in the use of hand chisels as earlier craftspeople would likely have been.

The literature on gravestone cutting and carving in the Gulf and Iran is very limited, though a summary of the processes, but not the time involved in producing a carved gravestone in Iran sometime in the period between 1937 to 1941 is provided by Wulff (1966: 129–130). This is useful for insights into a comparable *chaîne opératoire*. First the raw block was trimmed and the surfaces brought to a “bright shine” by the stonemason. The drawing was then copied onto the stone by tracing the lines with Indian ink and the outlines chased with a sharp chisel. The background was next cut away with various profiled hollow chisels and the cut-out background smoothed with a set of bent, profiled files. The final polishing was then completed with emery cloth. Similar processes were likely involved in the production of the Bahraini gravestones.

Several stages of manufacture are apparent in the 27 unfinished gravestones that were recorded. First the stone block would have been cut from the quarry. This first stage cannot be identified in the gravestone corpus as all the blocks have been further worked. The tools that appear to have been used, based on marks left on some gravestones, were saws and chisels. The clearest example of this is provided by ABN35 where what appear to be chisel marks are present on the top surface (E)

and chisel and saw marks on the long side surfaces (A and B) (Figure 2.131). Next, the block would be cut into a more refined basic shape probably including, where used, the rectangular blocks for raised decoration at each end (e.g. ABN46, Figure 2.163), and if these were a feature of the design, the rectangular plinths that might support them. It is possible that much of the roughing out and rudimentary carving of features such as the rectangular block for the ubiquitous raised decoration (e.g. MUS8, Figure 2.413) was completed by apprentices and other craftspeople not involved in the final letter carving. The standardisation apparent in the gravestone design, rectangular shape, range of similar sizes, and repetitive design elements, would have facilitated production.

The raised decoration would then appear to have been cut. ABN8, a gravestone formed of two limestone slabs, has been cut into shape but left uncarved possibly because the surface of the stone would have precluded effective carving. At one end is the rectangular block awaiting carving into raised decoration but at the other end this has been further cut into a basic shape of three flattened faceted cubes (Figure 2.36). Finally, the inscriptions and any other decoration such as the shallow carved niche design often found on the upper surface seem to have been carved after they were marked onto the surface (see below). The order in which the surfaces were carved, if this followed a repeat pattern, is unknown. One gravestone (ABN5) has three sides fully carved but sides C and D left uncarved (Figures 2.26 and 2.27), suggesting that one side at a time was worked on. No evidence for re-carving to obliterate or over carve/change mistakes was found on any gravestone, but the quality of the carving could vary significantly from somewhat crudely carved examples (e.g. ABN2) (Figure 2.12) to outstanding masterpieces (e.g. QAD2, Figure 2.454). The likelihood that gravestones were manufactured and carved outside the cemetery context has already been discussed.

Schöller (2004: 278) describes the naming of the “sculptor” as only occurring in “rare cases” in Arabic funerary epitaphs, a point echoed by Bittar (2003: 10). The Bahraini corpus would thus appear to be exceptional in having both the names of the writers and/or engravers present on 32 gravestones (Table 1.3). In 22 examples the names of both the writer and engraver are included, in two examples only the writer’s name is present, and on six gravestones the name of the engraver alone is found. This patterning of single writer’s or engraver’s names on the gravestones is unlikely to be meaningful as in all eight instances it is probable that the other name is missing because of damage or erosion to the relevant section of the inscription. Hence it is likely that the intention was to include both the writer’s and the engraver’s names as part of the inscription in all instances where they are found singularly.

Patterns emerge in the writer’s and engraver’s names. Fifteen individual writer’s names appear to be signed on the gravestones. The most prolific writer is Husayn bin ‘Ali bin Zayn al-Din al-Bahrani who is named on six gravestones, though without the addition of ‘al-Bahrani’ in four instances. Five of these gravestones are dated (ABN1, ABN32, JBH10, JBH12, TUB1) and these indicate that he was working between

TABLE 1.3 The writers and engravers named on the gravestones, e = engraver, w = writer
(*see Table 1.2 for further detail on the dates of the gravestones)

Gravestone	Date*	Writer	Engraver
ABN1	1103 AH	Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din	al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni
ABN3			al-Sayyid Naser
ABN4	1113 AH	'Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad al-Asba'i al-Bahrani	al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Asba'i al-Bahrani
ABN16	1047 AH	Sa'ud	al-Sayyid Hashim
ABN32	1090 AH	Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din al-Bahrani	al-Sayyid Naser bin Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni
ABN36		'Ali bin Husayn al-Bahrani	al-Sayyid Salih bin al-Sayyid Hashim
ABN37		Mas'ud	al-Sayyid Hashim
ABN38			al-Sayyid Hashim
ABN40	e. 1110 AH	'Ali bin Husayn bin Zayn al-Din	al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid
ABN41		'Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad	al-Sayyid Naser bin Hashim
ABN47	1067 AH	'Abd Muhammad bin Ahmad ... Al-Asba'i	
ABS1		'Abd al-Nabi bin Ahmad	al-Sayyid Naser
BEIT1	1089 AH	'Abd Allah bin 'Ali al-Biladi al-Bahrani	al-Sayyid 'Alawi son of the good and the pious al-Sayyid Salih
HOO5	1107 AH		al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Habr ... al-Sayyid Hashim Abdalhussain Alsyed
JBH4			
JBH7	1098 AH	al-Sayyid	
JBH10	1100 AH	Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din al-Bahrani	(Side C) Muhammad Sa'id, (Side E) al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim
JBH11	e. 1007 AH	'Abd al-Husayn bin Muhammad	Salman bin 'Ali
JBH12	1002 AH	Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din	al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni
KHA7	1105 AH		al-Sayyid Naser Bin the late al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni
KHA10			al-Sayyid Hashim

TABLE 1.3 The writers and engravers named on the gravestones, e = engraver, w = writer (*cont.*)

Gravestone	Date*	Writer	Engraver
KHA15		Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din	Husayn bin 'Ali Bin Fardan al-Manami
KHA18	1138 AH		al-Sayyid
MAQ2	e. 1121 AH		al-Sayyid 'Alawi bin al-Sayyid Naser al-Asba'i
MUS4	985 AH	Mas'ud	al-Sayyid Hashim
MUS6		Ahmad bin Faraj al-M ...	al-Sayyid Hashim bin al-Sayyid Ali
MUS9	1106 AH	'Ali bin Abdullah ... al-Bahrani	al-Sayyid 'Alawi bin al-Sayyid Naser
MUS10	1102 AH	Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad Alosbai	Sayed Hashem bin Sayed Naser Alhussaini Al-Bahrani
NOA1	1076 AH	'Ali bin Husayn bin Zayn al-Din	al-Sayyid Hashim bin al-Sayyid Naser
Sh.AB1		Sheikh ... Lutf Allah Lut Allah Bin Ali Lut Allah Aljedhafsi Al-Bahrani	... Ali Bin ...
SYA1	w. 1093 AH	'Ali bin Husayn	al-Sayyid Salih bin al-Sayyid Hashim
TUB1	1095 AH	Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din	al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni

at least 1090/1679 and 1103/1691. All five of the dated gravestones also bear the name of the same engraver, al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni, though, unusually (and uniquely), on gravestone JBH10, side E is signed by al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim, and side C by another engraver, Muhammad Sa'id. Gravestone JBH12 which is signed by both craftsmen raises a conundrum as it is dated 1002/1593 which is considerably earlier than the dates on the other gravestones these two worked on. It is impossible that their working life extended for nearly a century and unlikely that two craftsmen with identical names were working 100 years earlier. It thus appears that this gravestone was commissioned and carved to commemorate someone a significant period after their date of death. A hypothesis supported by the stylistic affinities and carving of JBH12 (Figure 2.253) which are in accord with the other four gravestones attributed to these two craftsmen.

The next most frequently named writer, on three gravestones, is 'Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad al-Asba'i al-Bahrani, who in two instances (ABN41, MUS9) is signed by shorter or incomplete versions of the same name. Two of his gravestones

are dated to 1106/1694 and 1113/1701. One other writer's name, Mas'ud, is signed on two gravestones, one dated to 985/1577 (MUS4), and it is possible that another writer also appears on two gravestones as the writer's name 'Ali bin Husayn bin Zayn al-Din on ABN40 is likely the same as the shorter 'Ali bin Husayn found on SYA1. All other writer's names on the gravestones are singular instances.

The engraver's names on the gravestones are complicated to interpret because of the affinities between many of them (Table 1.3), the various versions of the names used, and the fragmentary nature of some of the inscriptions. Interpretation of the engraver's names will thus be omitted except in relation to one engraver's name that is especially prominent, and which is that of the previously mentioned craftsman, al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni. His full name is carved on six gravestones (ABN1, ABN32, JBH10, JBH12, KHA7, TUB1) and he is described as the engraver/inscriber on five of these gravestones. On the sixth (ABN32), the engraver attribution is missing, but based on stylistic criteria it is certainly his work. He is also likely represented by the shorter 'al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid' (ABN40), 'al-Sayyid Naser bin Hashim' (ABN41), and 'al-Sayyid Naser' (ABN3, ABS1). Only one of the four gravestones bearing shorter names (ABN40) is dated, to 1110/1698. This would extend the working life of al-Sayyid Nasir by a further seven years to that already discussed, giving an overall duration recorded on his signed gravestones of 19 or 20 years (1090/1679 to 1110/1698), which is not an unrealistic length of time for his having been an engraver.

The stylistic affinities of the four gravestones bearing the shortened versions of his name, with their well-defined raised decoration, good overall proportions, and crisp carving, further link them to the six examples with his full signature. Based on the exceptional quality of his work, it is appropriate to describe al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni as a master carver (e.g. ABN1, Figure 2.7, ABN3, Figure 2.14, ABN32, Figure 2.122, ABN40, Figure 2.145, ABN41, Figure 2.150, ABS1, Figure 2.179, JBH10, Figure 2.244, JBH12, Figure 2.253, KHA7, Figure 2.300, TUB1, Figure 2.467). Perhaps this was why he carved the gravestone (KHA7) for the incumbent of a shrine excavated in the Al-Khamis mosque precincts (see below). The distribution of the gravestones produced by Husayn bin 'Ali, as writer, and al-Sayyid Naser, as engraver, indicates a quite tight clustering in northwest Awal with their gravestones found in cemeteries at Abu Anbra, Abu Saiba, Jebelat Habshi, Al-Khamis, and Tubli (Figure 1.1).

In the 22 examples where both the writer's and engraver's names are present, precedence is given to the name of the writer on 14 gravestones and the engraver on the remaining eight gravestones (ABS1, BEIT1, KHA15, MUS6, MUS9, MUS10, SYA1, TUB1). It is not known if this indicates greater prestige was accorded the writer or if it merely reflects the order of work completed, i.e. writing then engraving. The separation of writers and carvers apparent in the Bahrain corpus has been described in relation to Muslim funerary inscriptions elsewhere. In mid-15th century AD Malaysia, for example, it seems that after a ruler or high official had stipulated

the basic details of a text, a secretary would precisely draft it and write it on palm leaves or, in some instances, trace the inscription with paint or chalk onto the stone which was then cut by a letter carver (De Casparis 1980: 21). In other contexts, both the writer and the engraver seem to have been one and the same. El-Hawary (1930: 330) describes how, in an unspecified location in the “first five centuries A.H.” the engraver would, after levelling the block he was going to use, draw straight parallel lines, then paint the lettering in black ink, and then carefully engrave it.

It is not known if all of the engravers and writers recorded in the Bahrain corpus were local to Bahrain. Artisans, including stone carvers, travelled widely, as attested by the lapicide Mubarak al-Makki who appears to have been of Hijazi origin but seems to have worked, perhaps as Master of a workshop, carving funerary inscriptions in Egypt in the mid-3rd century AH/mid-9th century AD (Schneider 1986: 96–97). A proportion of the surnames do seemingly indicate that at least some of the writers and engravers were local to Bahrain. The surname “al-Bahrani”, suggests Bahrain, and is found associated with both writers (e.g. ABN32) and engravers (e.g. MUS10), as well as associated with the name “al-Asbai” (ABN4, writer and engraver). “Al-Asbai” is a specific reference to the Bahraini village of Abu Saiba. “Al-Asbai” is also found as a singular surname for writers (ABN47), and engravers (MAQ2). Other Bahraini affiliations are indicated by the name “Aljedhafi” (Ah.AB1, writer) which is a reference to the village of Jidhafs, and “al-Manami” (KHA15, engraver) which is possibly a reference to Manama, the current capital.

7 Script, Epigraphy, and Content

All the inscriptions are carved in cursive Thuluth script. This was first formulated in the 7th century AD but was not fully developed until the late 9th century AD (Safadi 1986: 52). It is widely found used on a variety of materials other than stone including, for example, earthenware, stucco, metals such as brass and bronze, and paper and parchment (cf. *ibid*: 52–61).

The gravestones essentially follow the standardised formula described by Blair (1998: 198), with the addition on various gravestones of the writer’s and engraver’s names, as described. They attest or witness the dead through:

- The invocation or *basmala*.
- Introductory phrases such as Quranic verses dealing with judgement and resurrection.
- The deceased’s name.
- Eulogies.

Certain Quranic chapters and verses recur on the gravestones (Table 1.4). Five are used ten or more times, with the most popular *Surat Al-Baqarah* (The Cow), and particularly the *Ayat Al-Kursi* (The Throne Verse) (2:255) which recurs 68 times, thus, replicating patterns noted elsewhere (cf. Blair 1998: 198). This is followed by

TABLE 1.4 The number of uses of Quranic chapters and verses

Surah and Ayah	Number of Uses
2:255	68
5:55-56	1
7:56	1
9:21-22	23
10:62	1
13:23-24	10
15:46	1
16: 31-32	1
21:101-103	2
21:255	1
22:37	1
25:10	1
28:83	1
28:88	1
32:16-17	2
33:56	1
35:28	1
35:33	1
36:55-58	3
38:50-54	28
39:42	1
39:73	1
41:30-32	42
43:68-73	4
44:51-56	1
48:1-3	6
52:19-20	2
55:26-27	5
56:11-26	3
89:27-30	1
97:1-5	2
99:7	1

42 uses of part of the *Surat Fussilat* (41:30-32), 28 of part of *Surat Sâd* (38:50-54), 23 uses of part of *Surat Al-Tawbah* (The Repentance) (9:21-22), and 10 uses of part of *Surat Ar-Ra'd* (The Thunder) (13:23-24).

Fifteen gravestones commemorated females and 36 males based on the names and/or references to the deceased as 'he' or 'she' in the inscriptions. There was no

discernible difference in gravestone size, epigraphic style or decoration based on gender. The size of the rectangular gravestones can be seen to vary, as previously described, but the content of the inscriptions suggests they were only made for and used by adults.

TABLE 1.5 References to economic data and geographical locations in the inscriptions

Gravestone	Economic Data	Locations
ABN1	Six <i>Muhammadi qirans</i>	Barburah in al-Sahramuw
ABN3	15 <i>mann</i> of palm dates	al-Shatba Palm trees, Alnaboud, Sayhat, al-Bahrayn
ABN4	One <i>Muhammadiyyah</i>	Mina
ABN6	Six <i>qirans</i>	
ABN18		Sufala Garden, Sitra, al-Khawariyah
ABN31		Al-Ukul Island
ABN32	Baskets weighing 20 <i>mann</i>	Abu Naser palm trees, Sitra
ABN36		Unspecified palm gardens
ABN40	Two baskets, one basket, half basket	al-Kharajat garden, al-Sabkha
ABN41	Three big baskets, two baskets	Hillat al-Sayf, Sihah Albalad garden, Awal
ABN47	Unspecified crop	
ABN50	Big basket	Mani
BAR1		Um Al-Suli Garden, Jid Alhaj
BEIT1		Palm garden at al-Bilad
HOO5	80 <i>mann</i>	Abu Mandah field
JBH8	Unspecified crop	Unspecified land
JBH10	16 <i>Muhammadiyyah</i> , baskets, shares, zakat	
JBH12		al-Bahrayn
KAR5	Endowment, crop	
KHA7	15 <i>Muhammadiyyah</i>	Mani in al-Bahrayn, al-Mahall palms
KHA12		Awal Island
KHA15		Katkatan
MAQ2	One third of the palms	Sar in al-Bahrayn
MUS4	34 shares, 1 share	Garden of bin al-Zayid, Hilal Mosque, southern garden of al-Kharajat
MUS5		Unspecified palm garden
MUS9	20 <i>mann</i> dates, crops	
MUS10	20 <i>mann</i> , fruits	Basanj at Awal
NOA1	Dates, palms	

TABLE 1.5 References to economic data and geographical locations in the inscriptions (*cont.*)

Gravestone	Economic Data	Locations
Sh.LA1	Two baskets of palm dates	Unspecified palm gardens, Mena land in al-Bahrayn
SYA1	Dates, crops	Sanj in al-Bahrayn, al-Ghara palms
TUB1	20 <i>mann</i> of al-Ghara palms	al-Kharajat at Katkan in al-Bahrayn, al-Ghara palms
TUB4	Palm crop	Al-Kharajat, al-Shatib al-Kabir at the Katkan area near the sea

The inscriptions on 32 gravestones refer to economic data and/or geographical locations. Of these, 17 gravestones mentioned both categories, six economic data alone, and nine geographical locations alone (Table 1.5). Both categories of information seem to relate predominantly to endowments and their returns. In some instances, these are precisely described (e.g. ABN3 or TUB1), in others (e.g. MUS5 or KAR5) they are vague and unspecific. Examples of where precise instructions are found include on ABN3 where it is stated that the proceeds (15 *mann* of dates) from the endowment (al-Shatba palm trees) should be spent on reading the Quran every day. Similarly, on ABN40 it is stated that two baskets (presumably of dates), should be spent on reading two parts of the Quran daily with one basket coming from the al-Kharajat garden, half a basket from the western garden and another half from the “eastern” and “al-sabkha”.

Besides *mann* and baskets, other measures of weight referred to are the *Muhammadiyah*, used for the same purpose of supporting Quran reading, and mentioned on KHA7 where it is stated that 15 *Muhammadiyah* from the income of al-Mahall palms should be used, and the *qiran* (ABN6) or *Muhammadi qiran* (ABN1). The *mann* is described by Rebstock (2008: 2261) as a unit of weight that was important throughout the Islamic world but particularly “in the Persian East”, and where its weight varied between 816.5g and 6656g. References to the *qiran*, *Muhammadi qiran*, or *Muhammadiyah* as measures of weight have not been found. Varied geographical locations are referred to, for example, ABN31 refers to the people of al-Ukul Island which is now identified as Nabi Salih Island, in the Tubli Bay area, east of Awal, but for the reasons described at the beginning of the chapter, this locational data will not be interpreted here.

A major change apparent in comparing the content and length of the epigraphy of the historical gravestones with contemporary gravestones is in the limitations imposed by the decline in size of the available working area on the latter. Modern, usually marble, gravestones have only a single small panel available for carving, by

machine, compared to the earlier larger rectangular gravestones with five faces that can potentially be used. The difference in available epigraphic space is manifest in, for example, the frequently lengthier ancestry expressed by the names carved on the historical gravestones or in the poems and eulogies present, which would be impossible to include on the smaller modern gravestones.

8 Iconography and Decoration

The dominant use of deep carving in relief in the Bahrain corpus has, undoubtedly, contributed to the survival of the inscriptions and associated decoration, and has been described as a preservation factor in other Islamic epigraphic contexts (e.g. De Casparis 1980: 21). On 35 gravestones, a shallow carved recessed niche was recorded on the upper surface. These were of rounded (13 examples) or pointed (21 examples) form, and only in one instance terminated in a dome (ABN48). On a further 17 gravestones a probable niche design was also present on the upper surface represented by a partial shallow carved rectangular panel design but lacking the defining niche terminal due to either erosion or damage of the relevant surface (e.g. ABN12) (Figure 2.55).

The complexity of the niche design varied with most simply defined by a single (ABN40) (Figure 2.149), or double carved border line (ABN47) (Figure 2.168). More rarely, supplementary ornate elements were incorporated such as an arrow carved within a small rectangle above the rounded end of the niche (KAR5), or a flower or abstract symbol in the point of the niche (MUS6) (Figure 2.410). The niche is probably a representation of a *mihrab*, as previously suggested by Kervran (1996: 69), and is a motif found on other Shi'a gravestones. Parsayi et al (2014: 126) describe its common use in the Dar al-Salam cemetery at Shiraz in southern Iran where the *mihrab* functioned as "a metaphor for a window toward the divine light". Miles (1939: 155, Fig. 9) also illustrates a similar niche/mihrab decorated rectangular flat gravestone dated to the early 8th century AH from Isfahan.

There is remarkable continuity in the design of the rectangular gravestones over the approximately 680 years they were made, encompassing the period from the date of KHA6 (407/1016) to ABN4 (1113/1702) (Table 1.2). This is indicated not only by the rectangular form itself, but by the continued use of the rectangular recessed design on the top surface and by similar forms of raised decoration found over the time span represented by KHA6 (407/1016) to ABN40 (1108/1697), the last completely intact example recorded (Figures 2.296 and 2.145). Three element raised decoration was identifiable on 60 gravestones usually at both ends unless it was broken or cut off at one end. On 49 gravestones, this was formed of two faceted cubes with a central rounded arch of varying thickness, with the raised decoration set on a supplementary rectangular plinth on 25 gravestones (Figure 1.5).



FIGURE 1.5 Example of raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes with a central rounded arch set on a supplementary rectangular plinth, ABN15

Other variants of the three-element raised decoration included three faceted cubes (ABN6, Figure 2.32), two short rounded collared cylinders with a central rounded arch (ABN11, Figure 2.52), two faceted cubes with a central thin raised point (ABN29, Figure 2.110), two faceted cubes and a central flat slab (HO08, Figure 2.213), two faceted cubes with cup marks carved on top and a central rounded arch (KHA23, Figure 2.357), and two triangles and a central point (MUS2, Figure 2.389). Additional carving was also present on the exceptionally well carved gravestone QAD2 which had star motifs cut into the top surfaces of the faceted cubes and calligraphy on the rear of all three elements of the raised decoration at each end (Figure 2.455). Comparable three-element raised decoration has not been found elsewhere. A partial exception is provided by Dhofar in Oman where a central flattened point with a flattened half point either side, or a central semi-circle with a half semi-circle either side were used as decoration on the top of flat slab gravestones, but the only similarity is in the use of three decorative elements (cf. Oman 1983: 289).

The cutting off of the raised decoration on some gravestones might reflect a change in fashion, deliberate iconoclasm, or a change in funerary traditions with the removal of the solely decorative elements. Fifteen gravestones had definitely had the raised decoration cut off one or both ends (e.g. ABN4, Figure 2.19), and on nine gravestones it was unclear if the raised decoration had been broken or cut off (e.g. ABN9, Figure 2.37). A further 19 gravestones had the remains of eroded and unidentifiable raised decoration at one or both ends (e.g. KHA24, Figure 2.359). Five of the 15 gravestones that had their raised decoration cut off were dated (ABN1, ABN4, KHA18, MAQ2, MUS10, Table 1.2). All of these were from the early 12th century AH (late 17th to early 18th centuries AD). This tight chronological patterning might be historically significant, but how, is unknown.

Colour was also used to enhance the lettering on five gravestones. Red pigment was recorded on one face on two gravestones (DA11 and KHA23), two faces on one gravestone (KAR3), and on three faces on two gravestones (KHA6, Figure 2.296, and MUS11). It is not known if these five recorded examples represent fortuitous survival or the total sample of gravestones with coloured epigraphy and thus whether red and/or other colours were used more widely to decorate the gravestones. However, the seemingly random nature of the faces coloured red suggests it is preservation factors rather than conscious decision that has influenced the numbers found. The red colourant used is haematite or iron oxide. Haematite is a material found in Qala'at al-Bahrain as early as the Middle Dilmun/Kassite period (c. 1450 BC). It appears to have been used to coat floors possibly along with small blocks of iron oxide, and as a constituent in external slip applied to the so-called 'Kassite goblets' (P. Lombard pers. comm. 29/8/17). It was also used in the Tylos period (c. 300 BC–600 AD) to colour figurative grave stelae (cf. Lombard 1999b: 216). The latter usage indicating a pre-Islamic connection between funerary commemoration and iron oxide.

Haematite is also known from Islamic archaeological contexts in Bahrain. A single haematite bead was recovered from levels dated to the mid-11th to 12th centuries AD in the Al-Khamis Mosque precincts, along with six other fragments of haematite, two dated to the 11th century, and the other four to the late 12th to 14th centuries AD (Insoll 2005: 295–296). Two haematite weights, suggested as antique objects based on their forms, but found in Islamic layers dated to the 12th to 15th centuries AD, were also found in the ‘Merchant Quarter’ at Qala’at al-Bahrain (Frifelt 2001: 151).

Five sets of cup marks carved on gravestones were also recorded. On MUS8, four shallow linear circular depressions were found on the upper surface of the gravestone (Figure 2.413). The purpose of this and three, similar, shallow circular depressions on the upper surface of KHA16 (Figure 2.333) is unknown. Similarly, the function of two large circular cup marks, one carved on the top surface and the other on one side of HOO4 (Figure 2.205) is unclear. The other two sets of cup marks appear to have been used for playing mancala games. These are defined by de Voogt (1997: 14) as involving, “one basic movement which involves ‘sowing’ and ‘capturing’ playing pieces, or ‘seeds’, using a board comprising rows of holes”. Gravestone NOA3 has four rows of 15 individual cup marks neatly carved at one end of the upper surface (Figure 2.446). The cup marks on ABN46 are less distinct and evenly placed but two rows of smaller cup marks and a third row of three larger randomly spaced and two smaller cup marks can be identified (Figure 2.446). The first two rows appear to be the remains of the rock-cut mancala board. The position of ABN46, lying on its side with the game board on the uppermost surface, suggests it was found as it had been left, and had not been subsequently moved.

Mancala was widely played in Africa and Arabia (cf. Townshend 1979; de Voogt 2010, 2012; Charpentier et al. 2014). For example, the double linear arrangement of cup marks on ABN46 is very similar to the rock cut mancala boards of northern Ghana (cf. Insoll, MacLean, and Kankpeyeng 2013: 34, 36). Whilst both the two-row and four-row arrangements are similar to the mancala games from eastern and southern Africa discussed by Townshend (1979: 111, 117, 119). Four row boards of the type represented by ABN46 are described by de Voogt (1997: 14) as “found mainly on the East African coast”. Other rock-cut mancala boards have been recorded archaeologically in the Arabian Peninsula and the Near East, including configurations of two lines of seven cup marks at Al-Dahariz in Dhofar, Oman (Charpentier et al. 2014: 116), and similar two rows by seven boards at Palmyra in Syria (de Voogt 2010: 1065).

9 The Archaeology of the Gravestones and Shrines

In total, two shrines and 38 gravestones were located and excavated in cemeteries. Gravestone ABN47 was found inside a small shrine in the Abu Anbra cemetery (N26.21060° E050.55135°). This building had maximum dimensions of c.340 cm × 520 cm (not 430 cm × 520 cm as previously stated [Insoll et al. 2016: 237]). Built of rough stone blocks with mud mortar and plastered on the inside walls, a paved stone

threshold gave access to the building in the eastern wall, and there was a small plain mihrab niche in the western wall (Figures 1.6 and 1.7). The shrine was filled with a loose sandy deposit containing no artefacts, but with a particular concentration of structural debris at the southern end of the building. The roof had collapsed leaving pieces of roofing arches in situ next to the gravestone where they had fallen. These were removed to define the building plan and it was seen that shaped coral blocks had been extensively used for the dome structural elements (Figure 1.8), probably

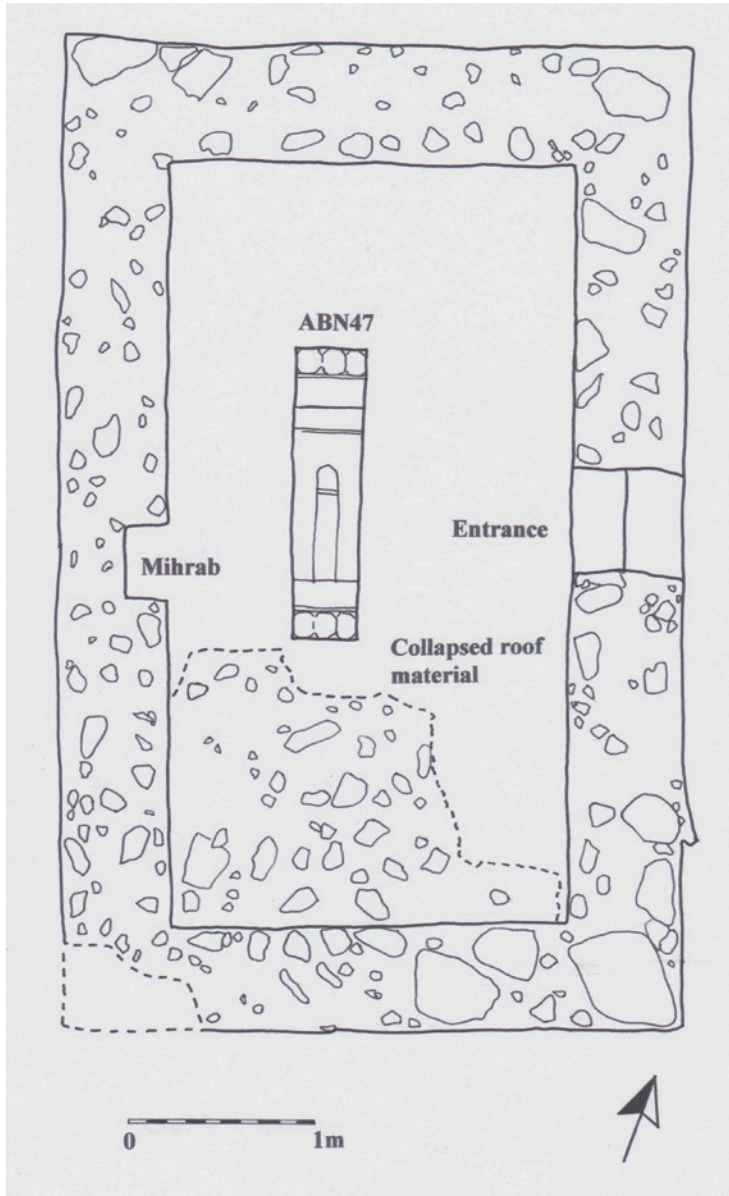


FIGURE 1.6 Plan of the shrine containing ABN47



FIGURE 1.7 The excavated shrine containing ABN47 with mihrab in the wall on the right



FIGURE 1.8 Parts of the collapsed dome structure, excavated shrine containing ABN47

as they are comparatively light (M. Al-Mearaj pers. comm. 1/3/15). The name of the shrine occupant is only partially legible on the gravestone, 'Al ... al-Bahir' who died in 1067/1656, and was a Haji.

Four gravestones (KHA4, KHA5, KHA6, KHA7) were found in and around a second shrine excavated in the cemetery east of the extant Al-Khamis Mosque (N26.20843° E050.54847°). This structure was excavated by Dr Muhammad Al-Mearaj as part of rescue excavations in advance of the construction of the Al-Khamis Mosque Visitor Centre. The shrine was built of rough blocks of stone and mortar and was formed of an approximately square room with internal dimensions of c.400 cm × 390 cm. Attached to this was a rectangular arcade with maximum dimensions of 1035 cm × 365 cm (Al-Mearaj 2012: 14–15) (Figure 1.9). As with the Abu Anbra shrine, collapsed arches were preserved where they had fallen from the roof to the north and east of the shrine room (Figure 1.10).

Gravestone KHA7 was inside the main room of the shrine, the other three gravestones were outside the main shrine and KHA5 was possibly associated with a further smaller shrine room (Al-Mearaj 2012: 15). KHA7 provided a date of 1105/1694, KHA5 of 997/1589, and KHA6 of 407/1017. KHA4 was undated. KHA5 and KHA7 date to the period of shrine construction and KHA6 is linked with earlier occupation recorded around the Al-Khamis Mosque (Insoll et al. 2016: 236). The inscription on KHA7 commemorates the late Shaikh Muhammad bin al-Mabrur Shaikh Majid and states that it is his shrine. It is possible that the shrine was linked with the later commemorative role of the Al-Khamis Mosque, within a *mashad*-type function, as proposed by Kervran and Kalus (1990: 39).

Parallels for the shrines that were excavated are scarce as this is an understudied category of monument (Insoll et al. 2016: 236–237), and those that are described differ in form. Survey in 1976 by an Italian team of the al-Khidr shrine on Failaka Island, Kuwait, for example, indicated that it was built on an oblong ground plan, with an “egg-shaped dome” but was then roofless (Patitucci and Uggeri 1984: 419). The photograph provided (*ibid*) indicates that the main part of the shrine was circular in form on rectangular foundations, built on a low mound and accessed by a flight of steps. Patitucci and Uggeri describe the shrine (1984: 419) as dedicated to the god Khidr, protector of fishermen and barren women. Bibby (1996: 154) also briefly refers to the same shrine in the context of it being repeatedly pulled down, as the Kuwaiti authorities did not agree with the ritual practices performed there. Similarly, the shrines surveyed by Costa (1994) on the former course of the Sat al-Nil in Iraq differ from the Bahrain examples. Although comparable in size (e.g. Abu Hatab and Umm Al Awlad), they are earlier (8th to 12th century), and built of fired brick often finished with elaborate stucco work (e.g. Abu Hatab) (see Costa 1994: 4–5, pls. 1 and 5).

Gravestones were excavated where it was not possible to see their full form and/or position (10 examples), where their inscriptions were obscured (22 examples), or when local information indicated that there was the possibility of a buried

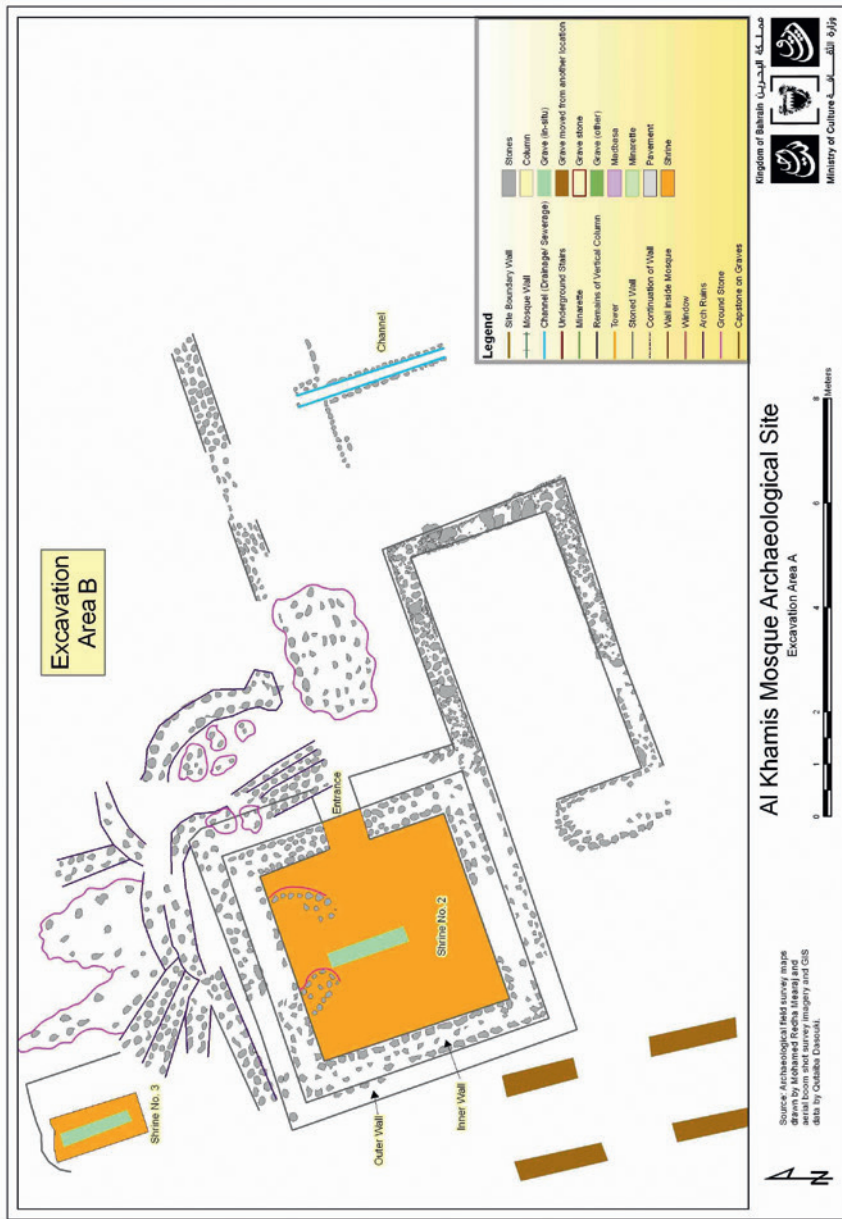


FIGURE 1.9 Plan of the excavated shrine containing KHA7



FIGURE 1.10 Collapsed arches, excavated shrine containing KHA7

gravestone but it could not be seen on the surface (six examples). All ten gravestones that comprise the first category were uninscribed, of the second category of 22 gravestones, excavation of four of these wholly exposed their inscriptions as, though they could be seen above the surface, all their above ground faces were eroded (e.g. JBH8, Figure 2.236). The six gravestones comprising the third category have already been described (KHA 4 to 7, ABN46 and ABN47).

Besides those gravestones inside or beside their shrine buildings, excavation provided significant new information in other ways. The presence of ABN49, for example, was only indicated above the ground surface by the raised decoration at one end but excavation indicated it was a completely buried fully carved double slab gravestone which had been dislodged and the raised decoration pushed above ground by a white plastic water pipe that had been laid directly over it (Figure 1.11). The presence of some of the gravestones in sub-surface archaeological contexts (e.g. ABN47 and H005) suggests that they could be subject to what Osman and Edwards (2011: 201) have described in relation to Nubian Islamic cemeteries as a “life-cycle”; whereby, they might be abandoned and forgotten as the lineages or figures they were associated with or commemorated slipped out of memory.



FIGURE 1.11 ABN49 after excavation with plastic water pipe in-situ

Catalogue of the Funerary Inscriptions

1 Introduction

All the gravestones from a particular cemetery are grouped together. The cemeteries are presented alphabetically. The cemetery abbreviations are listed in Table 1.1 and repeated at the start of each cemetery sequence where their location is also described. Within each cemetery grouping all gravestones are given a sequential reference number comprising the abbreviation of the cemetery name and their unique number, for example ABN1 (Abu Anbra 1), ABN2, ABN3. Every individual gravestone catalogue entry also provides information on: 1. The co-ordinates of the gravestone (measured with a handheld GPS unit). 2. The maximum dimensions of the gravestone (length, width, and height). 3. The gravestone orientation. 4. A description of the gravestone discussing, where relevant, form, condition, decoration, number of inscribed surfaces, and whether it was excavated. 5. If the gravestone was inscribed, an Arabic transcription and translation.

The gravestone surfaces were given the codes A to E for the purpose of recording and analysis (Figure 2.1). If a gravestone was oriented following the contemporary ideal, as discussed in Chapter 1, A would be oriented to the West, B to the East, C to the South, D to the North, and E forms the upper surface. All inscribed gravestone surfaces were photographed, but in some instances, particular gravestone surfaces were difficult to photograph adequately for publication because their position in tightly packed cemeteries or shrines meant they could not be easily accessed with a camera. The inscribed surfaces of some gravestones were also fragile which meant it was not possible to scrub them to remove all traces of earth that might be adhering to them. For transcription and translation these difficulties were surmounted by the translators in Bahrain revisiting the gravestones to check their work as necessary. The English translation of The Quran used is by Al-Hilâlî and Khân (1419/1998, Madinah: King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Quran). The material from the Quran is cited numerically with the Surah followed by the Ayah.

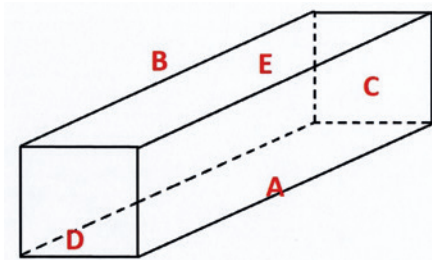


FIGURE 2.1
The lettering system used to record the gravestone surfaces

2 A'ali – Salamyia Mosque (AAL)

Location: Original context not known, possibly a cemetery in the surrounding area. Now kept on a tiled floor area in the Salamyia Mosque in A'ali village.

Reference Number: AAL1

Co-ordinates: 26.16459° N 050.52542° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1. 60 cm length (l) × 24 cm width (w) × 40.5 cm height (h)

Slab 2. 94 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: Not applicable (NA)

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. The inscriptions found on four surfaces are very eroded. Partial remains of a shallow carved pointed niche design on the top surface (E) with additional tracery framing above. The end is broken on one slab and it has some concrete adhering to the top. Eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at the other end. The original orientation is unknown.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful... (35:33)
- Eden Paradise, which they shall enter... (13:23)

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ،.....
جَنَاتِ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا.....



FIGURE 2.2 Surface A, AAL1

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:

لا تحوي نقش ولا زخارف



FIGURE 2.3 Surface B, AAL1

C:

- The inscription cannot be read.

ج:

غير واضحة ولا يمكن قراءتها.

FIGURE 2.4
Surface C, AAL1

D:

- ...al-Husayni...

د:
.....الحسيني.....



FIGURE 2.5
Surface D, AAL1

E:

- The inscription cannot be read.

ه:
النقش غير واضح



FIGURE 2.6
Surface E, AAL1

3 Abu Anbra Cemetery (ABN)

Location: Large unplanned cemetery, it appears that it was originally urban and connected with the former settlement area surrounding the Al-Khamis Mosque, but is now used by the contemporary village community of Bilad al-Qadim. It also contains several Saint's shrines.

Reference Number: ABN1

Co-ordinates: 26.20939° N 050.55050° E

Dimensions: 115 cm (l) × 35.5 cm (w) × 42 cm (h)

Orientation: Northwest (NW) to Southeast (SE)

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in good condition with inscriptions on five surfaces. The raised decoration has been cut off both ends. Shallow rounded pointed niche design on the top surface (E).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We are your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire, and all that you ask for, as hospitality (41:30-32)

أ:
تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبَشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُتِبَتْ لَكُمْ تُوْعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا
تَدْعُونَ. نَزَّلًا

- From One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful. Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze. This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning (38:50-53). Praise be to Allah and to no one else.

مِنْ غَفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ، جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمْ
الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ
كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوْعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ،
والحمد لله وحده.



FIGURE 2.7 Surface A, ABNI

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, there is no other deity but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). Allah, the High, the Great has spoken the truth. His Generous Prophet has spoken the truth. Ali, prince of believers, has spoken the truth. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ.

بَشِيرٍ مِّنْ عِندِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، صدق الله العلي العظيم، أمير المؤمنين (المؤمنين)، والحمد لله رب العالمين.



FIGURE 2.8 Surface B, ABN1

C:

- Reading part of the Book of God the Noble One ... Proceeds from ...
- Six Muhammadi Qirans should be spent on, Sayyid Abdullah Bin Sayyid Naser on Barburah which is located in al-Sahramuw.

ج:

قراءة جزء من كتاب الله العزيز بحاصل
 من بعد الصير ... ض.
 يخرج منها ست قرانات محمديات، السيد
 عبدالله بن السيد نصر على ربورة موقعها
 السحرمو.



FIGURE 2.9
 Surface C, ABN1

D:

- This is the grave of the late and blessed Shaikh Salim bin Shaikh 'Abd al-Wahhab, who died on fifteenth of Jumada al-Thani, 1103.

د:
 هذا ضريح المرحوم المبرور المقدس
 الشيخ سالم بن الاقدس الشيخ
 عبد الوهاب توفي في خامس عشر جمادي
 (جمادى) الثانية سنة 1103هـ.



FIGURE 2.10
 Surface D, ABN1

E:

- Written by Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din, May Allah forgive them, in Safar 1103.

ه:
 كتبه الأقل حسين بن علي زين الدين عفى عنهم في
 صفر سنة 1103هـ.

- Oh grave, how good you are that a knowledgeable, perfect and experienced shaikh was buried in you.

طبت يا قبر حيث وارت شيخا سالم كاملا عليما خيرا

- My Allah bless his soul and give him paradise and silk as a generous gift from Him. قدس الله روحه وحياه
كرما منه جنة وحريرا
- Engraved by the humble al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni. نقشه الاقل السيد ناصر بن السيد هاشم الحسيني



FIGURE 2.11 Surface E, ABN1

Reference Number: ABN2

Co-ordinates: 26.20974° N 050.55106° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 80 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Slab 2: 22 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone broken into two parts. Hollow interior. Badly eroded. Unidentifiable three element raised decoration at both ends. Partially legible inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- With Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.

أَعِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge... (2:255)

(وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا.....)



FIGURE 2.12 Surface A, ABN2

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none... (2:255)
- ... Who is he that can intercede.

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا.....

.....الذي يشفع.



FIGURE 2.13 Surface B, ABN2

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لَا تَوْجِدُ نَقُوشَ أَوْ كِتَابَاتٍ

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د: لَا تَوْجِدُ نَقُوشَ أَوْ كِتَابَاتٍ

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه: لَا تَوْجِدُ نَقُوشَ أَوْ كِتَابَاتٍ

Reference Number: ABN3

Co-ordinates: 26.20979° N 050.55109° E

Dimensions: 140 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone with some patches of erosion and damage. Next to collapsed shrine on top of mound. Raised decoration cut off at both ends. Inscriptions on four surfaces. Shallow carved pointed niche design on top surface (E).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and then they stand firm, the angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire ... which will never finish... (41:30-32)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا
تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ. --- مَا
لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ ---.

- And all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful. Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze. This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our Provision... (38:50-54)

وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ
رَّحِيمٍ. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُّفْتَحَةً لَهُمْ
الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكَبِّرِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا
بِقَاكِهِ كَثِيرَةً وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا لَرِزْقُنَا. ---.



FIGURE 2.14 Surface A, ABN3

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows ... And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in
- Guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, then has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer All-Knower. Allah is the Guardian of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light (2:255-257).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ..... وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ کُرْسِیُّهٗ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ.

حَفِظَهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ، لَا اِکْرَاهَ فِی الدِّیْنِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغِیِّ فَمَنْ یَّکْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَیُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اَسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقٰی لَا اَنْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِیْعٌ عَلِیْمٌ، اللّٰهُ وَلِیُّ الَّذِیْنَ اٰمَنُوْا یُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمٰتِ اِلَى النُّوْرِ.



FIGURE 2.15 Surface B, ABN3

C:

- A part of the Book of God the Noble One should be read every day for 15 mann of palm dates.
- From the products of al-Shatba Palm treesin Alnaboud Located at Sayhat al-Bahrain.

ج:
 يقرأ كل يوم جزء من كتاب الله العزيز
 بخمسة عشر منا من تمر.
 من حاصل نخل الشطبا..... من النبود
 (النبود).....قع بسيحة البحرين.



FIGURE 2.16
 Surface C, ABN3

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.17
Surface D, ABN3

E:

- Engraved by...the distinguished ... al-Sayyid Naser.
- ... gardens ... until buried in the soil ...
- ... He cried for killing of Wahab ... Allah ... The death.
- Written by ...

ه:
نقشه..... الفاخر..... السيد ناصر.
..... جنات..... حتى يوارى في تراب.....
..... فلقتل وهاب بكى..... الله..... الموت.
..... كته.....



FIGURE 2.18
Surface E, ABN3

Reference Number: ABN4

Co-ordinates: 26.20484° N 050.55125° E

Dimensions: 123 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 34–37 cm (h)

Orientation: North (N) to South (S)

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in generally good condition but with some damage at the ends on the top surface. Raised decoration cut off at both ends. Next to collapsed shrine, below mound. Shallow carved rectangular rounded niche decoration on top surface. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze. This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning (38:50–54). Verily, this is our Provision which will never finish. Verily, the dwellers of the Paradise, that Day, will be busy with joyful things. They and their wives will be in pleasant shade, ...on thrones... (36:55–56)
- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire, and all that you ask for, as hospitality From One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32). My Lord, forgive.

أَنَّ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتُوحَةً لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
 مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
 وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
 أَثْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ،
 إِنَّ هَذَا لِرِزْقِنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ تَفَادٍ إِنَّ أَصْحَابَ
 الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغُلٍ فَاكِهُونَ، هُمْ
 وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلَالٍ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ
 تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
 تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
 مَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
 مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزُلًا مِنْ غُفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ. رَبِّ اغْفِرْ.



FIGURE 2.19 Surface A, ABN4

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, then has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer All-Knower (2:255-256).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا یحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهٗ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ، لَا اِكْرَاهَ فِی الدِّیْنِ قَدْ تَبَیَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَیِّ فَمَنْ یَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَیُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اَسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقٰی لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِیْعٌ عَلِیْمٌ



FIGURE 2.20 Surface B, ABN4

C:

ج:

- (Reading) ... task ... Day ... From the Book of God. (قراءة)....وظيفة...يوم...من كتاب الله.
- One Muhammadiyyah for every month from the proceed of the palm trees called ... at Mina ... لكل شهر محمدية من حاصل النخل المعروف بالصبي.....بمني.....



FIGURE 2.21
Surface C, ABN4

D:

- This is the grave of the chaste Madinah bint Shaikh al-Awah Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Mahuzi.

د:
هذا ضريح المخدرة مدينة بنت الشيخ
الأواه عبدالله بن الشيخ ابراهيم
الماحوزي.

- Her mother is a daughter of al-Sayyid Ja'far, died in 11th of Rabi' al-Awwal in 1113.

المتولدة من بنت السيد جعفر المتوفية
بجادي شهر ربيع الأول لسنة الثالثة عشر
والمائة والألف.



FIGURE 2.22
Surface D, ABN4

E:

- Written by the one who stands in need of Allah, 'Ali Bin Abdullah Bin 'Abd al-Samad al-Asba'i al-Bahrani.
- Graves, we thought these were illuminated stars ...
- Inscribed by the humble al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Asba'i al-Bahrani.

هـ:
 رسمه الفقير الجاني علي بن عبدالله بن
 عبدالصمد الاصبعي البحراني.
 قبور حسبتها نجوم مضيئة.....
 هذا ما نقشه الحقير السيد ناصر بن
 السيد هاشم الاصبعي البحراني.



FIGURE 2.23
 Surface E, ABN4

Reference Number: ABN5

Co-ordinates: 26.20995° N 050.55146° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 74.5 cm (l) × 38.5–40 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Slab 2: 79–80.5 cm (l) × 38.5 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two solid limestone slabs. In generally good condition. Three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at one end and two faceted cubes and a central cylinder at the other end. The end surfaces (C and D) are unengraved and the outer surface of the raised decoration on both these sides is incomplete suggesting the gravestone is not fully finished. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the top surface (E). Inscriptions on three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and then they stand firm, the angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise

أ: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ

- Which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire and all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32).

الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزَّلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ.



FIGURE 2.24 Surface A, ABN5

B:

- Their sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope (32:16). God rest his soul. And give glad tidings to the good doers (22:37). No doubt! Verily, those who believe in Allah they have no fear nor do they grieve.
- These are rewarded with high places because they are patient, and are met therein with greetings and the word of peace and respect. Abiding therein-excellent it is as an abode, and as a place to rest in (10:62). it will be said to them; peace be on you, a Word from the Most Merciful (36:58). (It will be said to them): Enter therein (Paradise), in peace and security (15:46).

ب:

تَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ
رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا. رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ (فرن).
وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ. أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ.

أُولَئِكَ يُجْرَوْنَ الْغُرْفَةَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيُلَقَّوْنَ
فِيهَا تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا، خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسُنَتْ
مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا. سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ
رَحِيمٍ. ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ آمِينَ.



FIGURE 2.25 Surface B, ABN5

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.26
SURFACE C, ABN5

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

FIGURE 2.27
Surface D, ABN5

E:

- I am astonished that a man that was like a sea of dew is now placed in two feet of a grave, 707.
- O 'Ali's grave be proud ... God rest his soul.

هـ:
عجبت له بجرا محيطا من الندى يحيط به
شبران من جنة القبر 707 هـ.
اقبر علي طل على السبع بالفخر، طاب
ثراه



FIGURE 2.28 Surface E, ABN5

Reference Number: ABN6

Co-ordinates: 26.21051° N 050.55123° E

Dimensions: 107 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 42–44 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone, eroded. Next to collapsed mosque. Three element raised decoration formed of three faceted cubes, the central one thinner, all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces, two only partially illegible.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and then they stand firm, The Angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not,

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا
رَبَّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَرَدَّدُ عَلَيْهِمُ
الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلا تَخَافُوا.

- Nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised ... (41:30) the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:32).

وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَابْشُرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ
تُوعَدُونَ.....غفور رحيم.



FIGURE 2.29 Surface A, ABN6

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever.
- Indeed, Allah has with Him a great reward (9:21-22). Their sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope (32:16). Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good (7:56).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، یُبَشِّرُهُمْ
رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ
فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا اَبَدًا.

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهُ اَجْرٌ عَظِیْمٌ. تَتَجَافَىٰ جُنُوبُهُمْ
عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا.
اِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللّٰهِ قَرِیْبٌ مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِیْنَ.



FIGURE 2.30
Surface B, ABN6

C:

- The proceed of ... 6 Qirans ... al-rams
... From ...

جنا
الخاصل من ست قرانات
الرمس من



FIGURE 2.31
Surface C, ABN6

D:

د:

-

- Year of one thousand and forty-six

..... سنة الست والأربعين والألف.



FIGURE 2.32
Surface D, ABN6

E:

ه:

- Whatsoever is on the earth will perish. And the Face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour will remain forever (55:26–27).

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهُ رَبِّكَ ذُو
الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ.

- Everything will perish except His Face. His is the Decision, and to Him all shall be returned. He is a Lord who forgives and he is merciful (28:88).

كُلُّ شَيْءٍ هَالِكٌ إِلَّا وَجْهَهُ لَهُ الْحُكْمُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ..... رب غفور رحيم.



FIGURE 2.33
Surface E, ABN6

Reference Number: ABN7

Co-ordinates: 26.21059° N 050.55116° E

Dimensions: 68 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Short limestone slab, half of a two-slab gravestone. Badly eroded. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel design on upper surface (E). Possible remains of very eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Partial inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- No carving or inscriptions.

أ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.34 Surface A, ABN7

B:

- Your sins of the past and the future
and ... (48:2)

ب:
مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ و.....

- N ... behind them ... all ...

ن..... خلفهم.... كل.....



FIGURE 2.35 Surface B, ABN7

C:الأربع والتسعمائة على مهاجرها.....
 - ... Nine hundred and four of the migration ...

D: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات
 - No carving or inscriptions.

E: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات
 - No carving or inscriptions.

Reference Number: ABN8

Co-ordinates: 26.21054° N 050.55117° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 71 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Slab 2: 77 cm (l) × 32 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: North north west (NNW) to South south east (SSE)

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. No inscriptions (Figure 2.36). Near collapsed mosque. Cut into shape but left uncarved possibly because the voids in the surface of the stone would have precluded effective carving. Has what appear to be chisel marks on the upper surface (E). Unfinished raised decoration formed of a rectangular block awaiting carving at one end. Three element raised decoration cut into a basic shape of three flattened faceted cubes at the other end.

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions



FIGURE 2.36 ABN8

Reference Number: ABN9

Co-ordinates: 26.21059° N 050.55117° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 103 cm (l) × 50 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Slab 2: 97 cm (l) × 51 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Badly eroded in places. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel and two circles on upper surface (E) of one of the two slabs. Raised decoration broken or cut off at both ends. Partial inscriptions on four surfaces. Near a collapsed mosque that was excavated and contained ABN47.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

-

.....

- It is Allah who takes away the souls ...
(39:42)

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنْفُسَ.....



FIGURE 2.37 Surface A, ABN9

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His pleasure and of Gardens for them (9:21).
- Gardens of Eternity. They shall enter them and also those who are righteous from among their fathers, and their wives and their children. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate (13:23).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ يُبَشِّرُهُمْ
رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ.

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ
آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ
يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ



FIGURE 2.38 Surface B, ABN9

C:

- The greatest terror will not grieve them, and
- The angels will meet them with greeting: this is your Day which you were promised (21:103).

ج:

لَا يَحْزِنُهُمُ الْفَرَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ وَتَلْقَاهُمْ
الْمَلَائِكَةُ هَذَا يَوْمُكُمْ الَّذِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ.



FIGURE 2.39
Surface C, ABN9

D:

- Grave of the blessed ...
- ... Seven hundred and sixty-five ...

د:
 ضريح السعيد.....
 خمس وستون وسبعمائة.....



FIGURE 2.40
 Surface D, ABN9

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
 لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.41 Surface E, ABN9

Reference Number: ABN10

Co-ordinates: 26.21059° N 050.55119° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 105 cm (l) × 42–43 cm (w) × 30 cm (h)

Slab 2: 76 cm (l) × 42 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two hollow limestone slabs. The smaller stone is more eroded. Inscriptions on three surfaces. Raised decoration on the larger stone has either been eroded or broken off. Rounded top part of shallow carved rounded niche decoration with two circles above niche on the upper surface (E). Found next to a collapsed mosque that was excavated and contained ABN47.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- To dwell therein forever ... God ...
(9:21)
- Of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world ...
- And therein you shall have all that you ask for, an entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful
(41:30–32).

أ:
 خالدین فیہا..... ان اللہ.....
 بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي
 الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا.....
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ نُزُلًا مِّنْ عَفْوٍ
 رَّحِيمٍ.....



FIGURE 2.42 Surface A, part 1, ABN10



FIGURE 2.43 Surface A, part 2, ABN10

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, those for whom the good has preceded from Us, they will be removed far therefrom ...
- The greatest terror will not grieve them, and the angels will meet them with greeting: this is your Day which ... (21:101-103)

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، إِنَّ الَّذِينَ سَبَقَتْ لَهُمْ مِّنَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ عَنْهَا لَا يَجْرِئُهُمُ الْقَرْعُ الْأَكْبَرُ وَتَلَقَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ هَذَا يَوْمُكُمْ الَّذِي



FIGURE 2.44 Surface B, ABN10

C:

– Very deteriorated, Unable to read.

ج: النقش غير واضح



FIGURE 2.45 Surface C, ABN10

D:

– ...

د: لع ركن السعيد ر.....

– ... Sa'īd Bin Ma'ali, God enlighten his shrine, died

..... سعيد بن معالي نور الله ضريحه توفي.

– Twenty first of Muharram, the first month of seven hundred and forty-six.

حادي وعشرين من المحرم أول شهر

سنة ست واربعين وسبعماية.



FIGURE 2.46
Surface D, ABN10

E:
– No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد نقوش وكتابات.



FIGURE 2.47 Surface E, ABN10

Reference Number: ABN11

Co-ordinates: 26.21056° N 050.55127° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 109 cm (l) × 50 cm (w) × 41 cm (h)

Slab 2: 82 cm (l) × 49.5 cm (w) × 39–40 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs buried next to a collapsed mosque that was excavated and contained ABN47. Very well carved. Inscriptions on five surfaces, two partly illegible. Mostly in very good condition. Unusually detailed carving on top surface (E) formed of a shallow carved pointed niche design, with two larger circles above and two below, and two smaller circles, seemingly a later addition, within the niche. Three element raised decoration formed of two short collared rounded cylinders with a central rounded arch at one end and a rounded arch at the other end. Flanking the latter are two irregular indentations suggesting there were formerly two other decorative elements that have been removed. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- My worshippers! No fear shall be on you this day, nor shall you grieve. Enter paradise, you and your wives, in happiness. Trays of gold and cups will be passed round them.

أ: يَا عِبَادِ لَا خَوْفَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ وَلَا
أَنْتُمْ تَحْزِنُونَ. ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ أَنْتُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ
مُحْبَرُونَ، يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِصِحَافٍ مِّنْ
ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ.

- Therein all that inner-selves could desire, and all that eyes could delight in and you will abide therein forever. Therein for you will be fruits in plenty, of which you will eat (43:68–73).

وَفِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِيهِ الْأَنْفُسُ وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ
وَأَنْتُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ. وَتِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي
أُورِثُوهَا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا
فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ مِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ.



FIGURE 2.48 Surface A, part 1, ABN11



FIGURE 2.49 Surface A, part 2, ABN11

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21–22).
- Eden Paradise, which they shall enter and those who acted righteously from among their fathers, and their wives, and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them every gate. Peace is upon you for you persevered in patience! Excellent indeed is the final home (13:23–24).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، یُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُم بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ، سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ.



FIGURE 2.50 Surface B, part 1, ABN11



FIGURE 2.51
Surface B,
part 2, ABN11

C:

- Whatsoever is on the earth will per-
ish ... (55:26)

ج:
كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ.....

-

- ... part ... day ... From ... The Great ...

.....
... جزء... يوم... من... العظيم.....



FIGURE 2.52
Surface C, ABN11

D:

- The blessed late, God enlighten his shrine.
- He lived twenty-four years.
- This is the shrine of the honoured and blessed late.
- The pride of life and the Day of Reckoning 'Ali the son of the great leader. The pride
- Of life and Day of Reckoning Muhammad bin Ahmad Bin Sa'id bin Ma'ali.
- Died in thirteenth of Jumada al-akhar, seven hundred and seven.

المرحوم السعيد نور الله ضريحه.

عاش اربعة وعشرون سنة.

هذا ضريح الصدر المعظم المرحوم
السعيد.

زين الدنيا والدين علي بن المولى المعظم
زين

الدنيا والدين محمد بن احمد بن سعيد بن
معالي.

توفي في الثالث عشر جمادى الاخر سنة
سبع وسبعماية.



FIGURE 2.53 Surface D, ABN11

E:

... every Tuesday ... should be read ...

هـ:
يقرا..... في كل يوم ثلثا..... كما.....

FIGURE 2.54 Surface E, ABN11

Reference Number: ABN12**Co-ordinates:** 26.21063° N 050.55135° E**Dimensions:**

Slab 1: 62 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 36 cm (h)

Slab 2: 67 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Badly eroded. No inscriptions. Near excavated collapsed mosque containing ABN47. The two blocks were separated and uniquely, indicated the use of a mortise and tenon type joint to join the two slabs of the gravestone (Figure 2.55). Traces of a shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably a niche, on the upper surface (E). Three element eroded raised decoration at each end that appears to be formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch.



FIGURE 2.55 ABN12

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN13

Co-ordinates: 26.21011° N 050.55087° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 56 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Slab 2: 87 cm (l) × 28–29 cm (w) × 30 cm (h)

Orientation: West north west (WNW) to East south east (ESE)

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Gap between the two slabs indicates that they are solid (Figure 2.56). Shallow carved rectangular panel, probably a niche, on the upper surface (E) on one slab, and traces of its continuation on the other slab. Fine but eroded three element raised decoration formed of two decoratively carved faceted cubes with a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. No inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.56 ABN13

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN14

Co-ordinates: 26.21013° N 050.55082° E

Dimensions: 81 cm (l) × 26–27 cm (w) × 30 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Half of a double slab gravestone. Badly eroded and appears to have been drilled down one side surface (A). Eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Partially legible inscriptions on three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The forgiven, the greatest and the blessed late ...
المرحوم المغفور الاعظم والسعيد
الم.....
- ... Paradise fair females 'Ali bin Mansur Bin Kamal al-Din ... Safar ...
..... حور الجنة علي بن منصور بن كمال
الدين..... صفر..... لسنة اربع.
Year four.



FIGURE 2.57 Surface A, ABN14

B:

-

- ... praise be to Allah

ب:

لحم... حس.....
 الحمد لله.....



FIGURE 2.58 Surface B, ABN14

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لا توجد كتابات

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

د: لا توجد كتابات

E:

– ... the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that ...

ه: السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي

– ... His seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue ... (2:255)

.....وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ.....



FIGURE 2.59 Surface E, ABN14

Reference Number: ABN15**Co-ordinates:** 26.21071° N 050.55110° E**Dimensions:** 132 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 32 cm (h)**Orientation:** NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (next to ABN16). Well carved and in good condition. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the upper surface (E). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him.
- Except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. He is the Most High and the Most Great (2:255). Thanks be to Allah ...

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.

إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا
خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا
بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.
الحمد لله.....



FIGURE 2.60 Surface A, ABN15

B:

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter (41:30–31).

- ... gives them glad tidings ... and His being pleased and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights (9:21).

ب:
تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ.

..... يُبَشِّرُهُمْ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ
لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.61 Surface B, ABN15

C:

- It is the place of the Noble Man.
- The blessed, Hasan bin al-Sayyid Abdullah bin Hasan.

ج:
هذا مقر السيد الشريف.
السعيد حسن بن السيد عبدالله بن
حسن.



FIGURE 2.62
Surface C, ABN15

D:

- Died in sixteen
- Of the Rabi' al-thani

د:
توفي يوم السادس.

عشر من شهر ربيع الثاني.



FIGURE 2.63
Surface D, ABN15

E:

– Reading on his grave every day.

هـ:
القراه (القراءة) على قبره كل يوم.

– ... its ... part ... in ...

..... نفسه.... حزب..... في.... والاجر له طو.

– You lived in the soil with glad people while you were one of the best youth.

سكنت التراب مع الهائين وقد كنت
من خير شبانها.

- And you have been included with the winners of paradise fair females and young servants. وادرجت في زمرة الفائزين، بحور الجنان وولدانها.



FIGURE 2.64 Surface E, ABN15

Reference Number: ABN16

Co-ordinates: 26.21072° N 050.55110° E

Dimensions: 152 cm (l) × 41 cm (w) × 41 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (next to ABN15). Well carved and in good condition. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the upper surface (E) with triple lines used to delineate the outline. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, there is no deity but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ

- with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا
خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا
شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
يَؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.65 Surface A, ABN16

B:

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have
- all that your souls desire and all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32). Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze (38:50–52).

ب:
تَنْزِيلٌ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا
تَدْعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ. مُفْتَحَةً
لَّهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا
بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الطَّرْفِ أَثْرَابٌ.



FIGURE 2.66
Surface B,
ABN16

C:

- This is the grave of the noble Hajj Haji
- bin Muhammad bin Husayn bin Naser al-Khutay, May Allah have mercy on him

جنا
هذا قبر الحاج الاكرم حاجي.
بن محمد بن حسين بن ناصر الخطي رحمه
الله برحمته.



FIGURE 2.67
Surface C, ABN16

D:

– Died in nineteenth of

توفي يوم التاسع عشر من شهر.

– Rabi‘ al-thani, One thousand and
forty-seven

ربيع الثاني من سنة سبع والاربعين

والالف.



FIGURE 2.68 Surface D, ABN16

E:

هـ:

- Written by Sa'ud and engraved by al-Sayyid Hashim.
- Their Lord gives the glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Paradise for them wherein are everlasting delights (9:21-22).
- They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward. Allah and his messenger have spoken the truth.

كُتِبَ بِالْأَقْلِ سَعُودٌ وَنَقَشَهُ السَّيِّدُ هَاشِمٌ.

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ،

وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ

عَظِيمٌ، صَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.



FIGURE 2.69
Surface E, ABN16

Reference Number: ABN17

Co-ordinates: 26.21074° N 050.55112° E

Dimensions: 146 cm (l) × 35.5–37 cm (w) × 46 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (next to ABN18). No inscriptions. Cut to size and left unfinished (Figure 2.70). The unusual shape is due to the rectangular blocks that would have formed the basis of the raised decoration being half cut off at one end and completely cut off at the other end. Possible saw and chisel marks on the side surfaces (A and B).



FIGURE 2.70 ABN17

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN18

Co-ordinates: 26.21077° N 050.55112° E

Dimensions: 130 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 38.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Some erosion on top. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Three element raised decoration at each end formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the upper surface (E).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- The Gardens of Eden whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances only for their husbands, and of equal ages ... (38:50-52)
- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) 'Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter (41:30-31).

جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
أَثْرَابٌ.....

تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا يَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ
مَنْ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ.



FIGURE 2.71 Surface A, ABN18

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.
- Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ.

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.72 Surface B, ABN18

C:

- Reading a section on the grave of the Chaste, Maryam the daughter of the Blessed al-Sayyid Majid.
- ... At Sufala Garden in Sitra and half of Almutiaa at Katkan village.
- ... share ... seven ... al-Khawariyah ... located ...

ج: قراءة جزء للمخدرة مريم بنت المقدس السيد ماجد على قبرها.

.....بسيحة سفالة من سترة ونصف (المطبعة) بقرية (ككان).

... سهم ... سبعة ... الخوارية ... موقعه



FIGURE 2.73 Surface C, ABN18

- D: ذ:
- ... seventh of Dhu al-Hijjah, year of السابع من شهر ذي الحجة في
سنة.....
- One thousand and ninety four اربعة وتسعين والالف.....



FIGURE 2.74 Surface D, ABN18

E:

- هـ:
 عشر والالف..... ضريح... السيد
 - One thousand and ... ten ... shrine ...
 Al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Ra'uf ...
 عبدالرؤف.....
- غربت في حفرة اللحد *** نجيبة (نجمة)
 - In the grave, Najiba (Najma) has dis-
 appeared ... the glory.
 الاولى...المجد.
- فهمت في الجنان طالعة***...وفي...العفو
 - She went into paradise proudly,
 And in ... forgiveness and happiness.
 والسعد



FIGURE 2.75
Surface E, ABN18

Reference Number: ABN19

Co-ordinates: 26.21078° N 050.55109° E

Dimensions: 58 cm (l) × 26 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single solid limestone slab gravestone. Half of a double slab gravestone. Heavily eroded. Part of a shallow carved rectangular design on top surface (E), probably the bottom of a niche design. Three element raised decoration at one end formed of three flattened faceted cubes. Traces of illegible inscription on one surface (B) (Figure 2.76).



FIGURE 2.76 ABN19

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No legible inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN20

Co-ordinates: 26.21081° N 050.55109° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 68 cm (l) × 26.5–28 cm (w) × 38.5 cm (h)

Slab 2: 80 cm (l) × 23 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Very eroded in places. Part of a shallow carved rectangular design on top surface (E), probably the bottom of a niche design. Three element raised decoration at one end formed of three flattened faceted cubes. The central one has a carved circle on top. Partly legible inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– In the Name of Allah, the Most
Gracious, the Most Merciful ...

–

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، ان.

.....



FIGURE 2.77 Surface A, ABN20

B:

-
- ... who ...

ب:
حوالا ت
الذين
.....



FIGURE 2.78 Surface B, part 1, ABN20



FIGURE 2.79 Surface B, part 2, ABN20

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد كتابات

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد كتابات

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد كتابات

Reference Number: ABN21

Co-ordinates: 26.21078° N 050.55111° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 102 cm (l) × 49.5 cm (w) × 29 cm (h)

Slab 2: 101 cm (l) × 51 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Part of a shallow carved rectangular design on top surface (E) of one slab, probably the bottom of a niche design. Eroded and unidentifiable raised decoration at both ends. Very eroded in places. Illegible inscription on one surface and partially legible inscription on another face.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- A: أ:
 - Very deteriorated. Unable to read. تحوي نقوش متآكلة يصعب قراءتها.



FIGURE 2.80
Surface A, ABN21

- B: ب:
 - ... under which rivers flow and will assign you palaces (25:10). تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ
 - وَيَجْعَلُ لَكَ قُصُورًا.



FIGURE 2.81 Surface B, ABN21

C:

- No legible carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.82
Surface C, ABN21

D:

- No legible carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.83
Surface D, ABN21

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.84 Surface E, ABN21

Reference Number: ABN22

Co-ordinates: 26.21087° N 050.55112° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 66 cm (l) × 32.5 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Slab 2: 71 cm (l) × 32.5 cm (w) × 32 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs in generally good condition. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the top surface (E). Three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch. Inscriptions on five surfaces, three partly illegible.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth,
- and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ.

وَلَا يَؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ،
لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ
اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.....



FIGURE 2.85 Surface A, part 1, ABN22



FIGURE 2.86 Surface A, part 2, ABN22

B:

– ... a great reward ... The angels will descend on them, (saying:) ‘Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised (41:30).

ب: أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ..... تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ
 الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا
 بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ.

– ... therein for you will be fruits in plenty ... shall be met ... (peace) (43:73).

..... لَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ.....
 وَيُلَقَّوْنَ..... (وَسَلَامًا).



FIGURE 2.87 Surface B, part 1, ABN22



FIGURE 2.88 Surface B, part 2, ABN22

C:

- I gave you ... rainwater ...
- All kind of happiness ...

ج:
 سقتك... ماء المزن... كا.
 طوبا.....



FIGURE 2.89
 Surface C, ABN22

D:

-
- ... from al-Mustafa ...

د:

 من المصطفى.....



FIGURE 2.90
 Surface D, ABN22

E: هـ:
 - ... al-Sayyid Hashim, forgive السيد هاشم عفى
 -
 - If the ladies of this world followed مسلكتها
 her way ... Allah لله ***



FIGURE 2.91
 Surface E,
 ABN22

Reference Number: ABN23

Co-ordinates: 26.21086° N 050.55117° E

Dimensions: 179 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single solid limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.92). Badly eroded. No carving or inscriptions. Next to the exterior wall of the shrine of Shaikh Husayn bin ‘Abd al-Samad.



FIGURE 2.92
 ABN23

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN24

Co-ordinates: 26.21087° N 050.55117° E

Dimensions: 72.5 cm (l) × 31.5 cm (w) × 26 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single solid limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.93). Eroded. No carving or inscriptions. Next to the exterior wall of the shrine of Shaikh Husayn bin ‘Abd al-Samad.



FIGURE 2.93 ABN24

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN25

Co-ordinates: 26.21095° N 050.55111° E

Dimensions: 68 cm (l) × 21.5 cm (w) × 31.5 cm (h)

Orientation: West south west (WSW) to East north east (ENE)

Description: Single solid limestone slab gravestone. Misaligned. One surface and top badly eroded. Eroded and unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Partly legible inscription on one surface. Rest eroded.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- ... whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him.
- His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

أ:
 مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي
 الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.
 وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
 يَؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.94 Surface A, ABN25

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:
 لا توجد كتابات



FIGURE 2.95 Surface B, ABN25

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد كتابات

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

د:

لا توجد كتابات

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ه:

لا توجد كتابات

Reference Number: ABN26

Co-ordinates: 26.21095° N 050.55112° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 82 cm (l) × 34.5 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Slab 2: 73 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 42 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs in generally good condition. No niche design on surface E. Three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch. The raised decoration has not been finished on the reverse of the end surfaces (C and D). One side surface (B) is

broken, exposing the interior and indicating that both slabs are hollow. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Therein they will recline; therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks; And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances only for their husbands, and of equal ages (38:51–52). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and that He is pleased with them, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21–22). The angels will descend on them.

مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ
كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الظَّرْفِ أَثْرَابٌ. يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ
مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ
مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ
أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ. تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمْ.

- (saying:) 'Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire and all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32).

الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا
بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ
فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَشْتَهُي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ
نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ.



FIGURE 2.96 Surface A, ABN26

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, there is no deity but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission!
- He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter ... the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). Eden Gardens, whose doors will be opened (38:50).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ.

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ اَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ..... السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضِ وَلَا يَؤُودُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيْمُ. جَنّٰتٍ عَدْنٍ مُّفْتَتِحَةٍ.



FIGURE 2.97 Surface B, ABN26

C:

- Do you know what this grave includes ... It shelters a pearl ...
- Her history is a place of mercy ... her place is in everlasting paradise.

ج: هل تعلم ما اودع اللحد... سما *** اودع درة.....

تاريخها مقر رحمة الال... *** مقرها في جنة الخلد



FIGURE 2.98 Surface C, ABN26

D:

- This is the grave of the chaste, knowledgeable and freewoman who always was a pilgrim at the holy house of God.
- And visited the graves of the Prophet and his family. Fatimah bint al-Sayyid 'Ali bin al-Sayyid Husayn bin al-Sayyid 'Isa al-Husayni.

هذا ضريح الطاهرة العارفة الحرة
 المسارعة بحج بيت الله الحرام.
 (وزيارة) أو (قبر) النبي والائمة، فاطمة
 بنت السيد الاجل علي بن السيد حسين
 بن السيد عيسى الحسيني.



FIGURE 2.99
Surface D,
ABN26

E:

- ... the grave is a place ... Allah.

- ... invites ... pearls ... treasure ...

هـ: ان القبر مقر الله.

..... يدع... الدر..... كز.....



FIGURE 2.100 Surface E, ABN26

Reference Number: ABN27

Co-ordinates: 26.21095° N 050.55118° E

Dimensions: 139 cm (l) × 30–32 cm (w) × 43.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. No niche design on surface E. Rudimentary three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch. Deeply carved with large lettering. Next to shrine of Shaikh Husayn bin 'Abd al-Samad. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him.
- To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ.
لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ

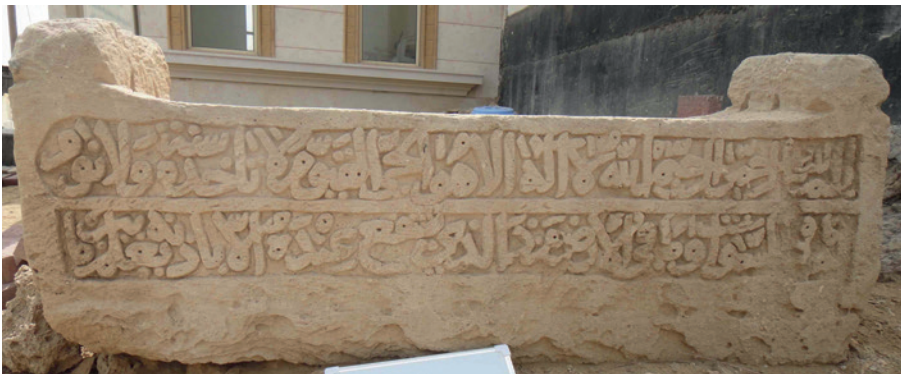


FIGURE 2.101 Surface A, ABN27

B:

- What happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue
- In guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut (2:255-256).

ب:

أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ.

حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي
الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
بِالطَّاغُوتِ.



FIGURE 2.102 Surface B, ABN27

C:

- Into light. But as for those who disbelieve.
- their supporters are al-Taghut. they bring them out (2:257).

ج:

إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا.
أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ.



FIGURE 2.103 Surface C, ABN27

D:

- Allah is the Protector of those who believe.
- He brings them out from darkness (2:257).

:D

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا.
يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ.



FIGURE 2.104
Surface D, ABN27

E:

- Oh grave, you contain a high mountain, be proud that you embedded a great person such as Ahmad.
- He is one person but equal to all the people and nobody is similar to him.

ه:
يا قبر قد ضمنت طود علا فطل، ففرا
ففيك ابوالمكارم احمد.
هو واحد شخصا وعن كل الوري، جاها
وذاك نظيره لا يوجد.



FIGURE 2.105 Surface E, ABN27

Reference Number: ABN28

Co-ordinates: 26.21095° N 050.55118° E

Dimensions: 55 cm (l) × 17–19 cm (w) × 29 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Small single limestone slab gravestone in very eroded condition (Figure 2.106). Traces of illegible inscriptions on one surface.



FIGURE 2.106 ABN28

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No legible inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN29

Co-ordinates: 26.21097° N 050.55114° E

Dimensions: 147 cm (l) × 32–33 cm (w) × 41 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. No niche design on surface E. Three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes with a central thin raised point. Significant erosion on one end surface (C). Inscriptions on four surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in
- ... Who is he that... with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world,

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي

..... مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا



FIGURE 2.107 Surface A, ABN29

B:

- And what will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue
- In guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut (2:255-256).

ب:
خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ

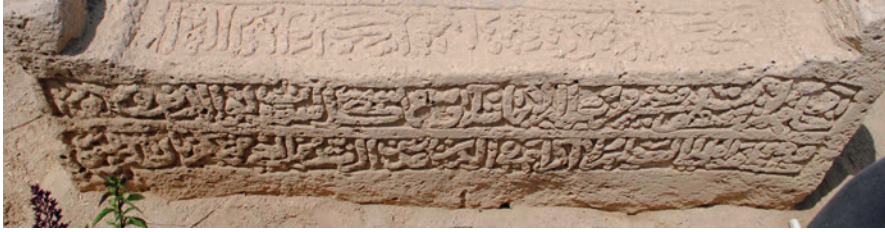


FIGURE 2.108 Surface B, ABN29

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد عليها نقوش



FIGURE 2.109 Surface C, ABN29

D:

- Allah is the Protector of those who believe.
- He brings them out from darkness (2:257).

د:

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا.
يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ.



FIGURE 2.110 Surface D, ABN29

E:

- Oh grave, you should boast to the other graves, because you embedded a person who is a haven for everybody.
- He is the most honourable person socially and in reputation, he is Ja'far bin 'Abd al-Ra'uf.

ه:
ايها القبر طل على كل قبر، اذ ثوى فيك
كهف كل الكهوف.
اشرف العالمين قدرا وجاها، جعفر
الخير نجل عبدالرؤف.



FIGURE 2.111 Surface E, ABN29

Reference Number: ABN30

Co-ordinates: 26.21099° N 050.55114° E

Dimensions: 144.5 cm (l) × 30.5–31 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. No niche design on surface E. Three element raised decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes with a central rounded arch that is wider and flatter at one end. Slight erosion. Deeply carved with large lettering used. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- And will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and

أ:
وَمَا خَلَفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ
إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَ.

- The earth and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct (2:255-256).

رض. وَلَا يُؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ
الْعَظِيمُ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ
مِنْ.



FIGURE 2.112 Surface A, ABN30

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows What happens to them in this world (2:255).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي.

السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي
يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ.



FIGURE 2.113 Surface B, ABN30

C:

- Allah is the Protector of those who believe (2:257).

-

ج:

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا.

.....



FIGURE 2.114 Surface C, ABN30

D:

- from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves
- in al-Taghut (2:257).

د:

الْغِيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرُ.
بِالطَّاغُوتِ.



FIGURE 2.115
Surface D, ABN30

E:

- Oh grave, you should boast proudly to other places and get the highest honour
- Because you embedded a chaste woman, and because of her you are a glorious and honoured place.

هـ:
يا قبر طل كل فخر واسم مفتخرا، على
البقاع وجاور ارفع الشرف.
ففيك قد اودعت حوراء طاهرة، بها
دعيت مقر المجد والشرف.

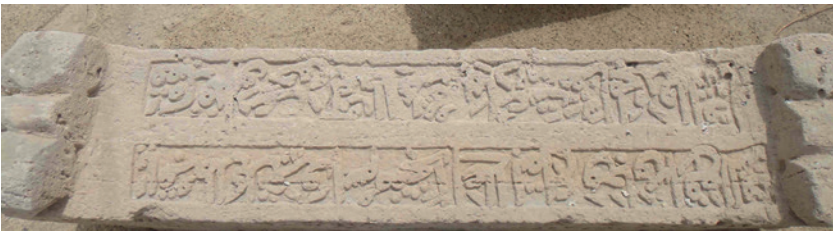


FIGURE 2.116 Surface E, ABN30

Reference Number: ABN31

Co-ordinates: 26.21099° N 050.55116° E

Dimensions: 142 cm (l) × 21.5 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in good condition. No niche design on surface E. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). Allah, The Most Great, and His prophet have spoken the truth.

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا
شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ،
صدق الله العظيم..... مع رسوله.....



FIGURE 2.117 Surface A, ABN31

B:

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire
- And all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32). Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze (38:50–52). Allah, the Most Great, has spoken the truth.

ب:

تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ مَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ نُرِيكُمْ مِنْ غُفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُمْتَحِنَةٌ لَهُمْ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَثْرَابٌ. صدق الله العظيم.



FIGURE 2.118 Surface B, ABN31

C:

- (Two thirds) and six should be read to her.
- One third on the (palm tree)

ج: يقرا عليها (ثلثان) وستة.
... الثلث على الغل (النخل).



FIGURE 2.119 Surface C, ABN31

D:

- And half of an eighth which
- On the people of al-Ukul island.

د:
ونصف اثمان (التمر) الذي.
على بنو جزيرة الاكل.



FIGURE 2.120 Surface D, ABN31

E:

- The chaste, Amirah bint al-Sayyid توفيت المخدرة اميرة بنت السيد
'Abd al-Ra'uf died. عبدالرؤف.
- Oh grave of 'Abd al-Ra'uf's daughter أمثوى ابنة المبرور عبدالرؤف طل***
be prouder than others على كل عال جاوز السبع مفخرا.
- Because you embedded Hawra' ... in ففئك ثوت حوراء.....في***ثراك لمادت
your soil which without her the earth هذه الارض بالورا.
would shake.
- Fourteenth of Rabi' al-awwal, year الرابع عشر شهر ربيع الاول سنة 10.....
of 10 ...

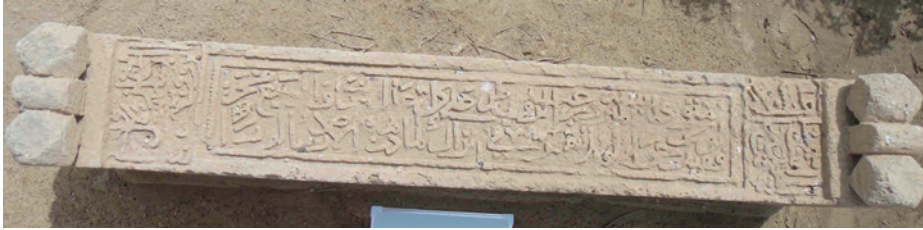


FIGURE 2.121 Surface E, ABN31

Reference Number: ABN32**Co-ordinates:** 26.21098° N 050.55119° E**Dimensions:** 150 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 41 cm (h)**Orientation:** NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in generally good condition. Well-carved. Some erosion on one side surface (A) and one end surface (D). Shallow carved pointed niche design on top surface (E). Raised decoration cut off at one end and three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at the other end. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels will descend on them ...
Therein you shall have all that your
souls desire and all that you ask for ...
the Forgiving, ... (41:30-32)

أ:
تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ..... وَلكُمْ
فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلكُمْ فِيهَا مَا
تَدْعُونَ..... رَحِيمٍ.....

- Therein they will recline; therein they
will call for fruits in abundance and
drinks ... the Day of Reckoning. Verily,
this is our Provision which will never
finish (38:51-54).

2- مُتَكِّئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ..... لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ إِنَّ هَذَا
لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ تَفَادٍ



FIGURE 2.122 Surface A, ABN32

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most
Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah,
none has the right to be worshipped
but he, the Ever Living, the One Who
sustains and protects all that exists.
Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes
Him. To Him belongs whatever is in
the heavens and whatever is on the
earth. Who is he that can intercede
with Him except by His permission!
He knows what happens to them in
this world, and will happen to them
in the Hereafter and they will never

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ، يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا.

- Compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255–256).

يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ
كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ
حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي
الَّذِينَ قَد تَّبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ
عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.123 Surface B, ABN32

C:

- Big baskets, the weight of each one twenty mann from the income. Tributes to develop it from the income of the Abu Naser palm trees which is located in Sitra. The death of the Late Husaynia Bint Jafar in fifteenth of Rabi' al-thani, year of one thousand and ninety.

ج: جلات كبرى وزن كل جلة (سنج)
عشرون منا سالما من الوصية (ان)
الخزاجات لتعميره بحاصل نخل ابو
ناصر موقعه بسيحة سترة وكانت وفاة
المرحومة حسينية بنت السيد جعفر
خامس عشر شهر ربيع الثاني سنة
تسعين والـ هجرية.



FIGURE 2.124 Surface C, ABN32

D:

- Reading ... on the grave ...
- And on ... bin Husayn ... And should be presented
- ... the believers ...

د:
القراءة.....على القبر و.

وعلى.....بن حسين.....ويهدى.

.....المؤمنين.....



FIGURE 2.125 Surface D, ABN32

E:

هـ:

- Written by Husayn bin ‘Ali bin Zayn al-Din al-Bahrani ...
كتبه الاقل حسين بن علي بن زين الدين
البحراني...س....
- ... The Great ... al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni, God bless them.
... الاجل... د.. السيد ناصر بن السيد
هاشم الحسيني عفي عنهما.
- Oh grave, you embedded a chaste and pure woman.
يا قبر فيك قد ثوت مخدرة ، حوراء
طاهرة من الدنس.
- We know that her body is hidden in a grave, but in reality, her place is in paradise.
ان كان واراها ثرى جدث ، فقرها
بمظيرة القدس.

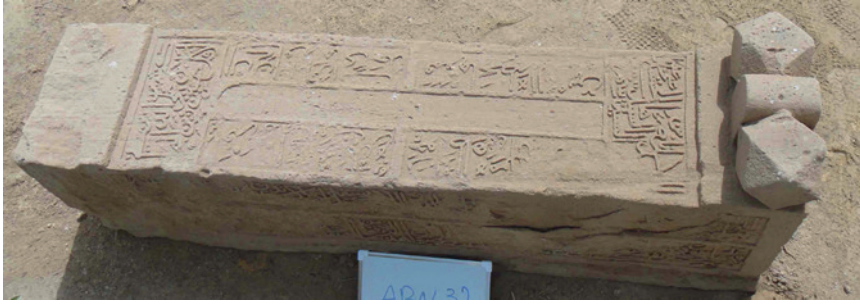


FIGURE 2.126 Surface E, ABN32

Reference Number: ABN33

Co-ordinates: 26.21111° N 050.55111° E

Dimensions: Not measured

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone broken into nine fragments. These conjoin to form one hollow incomplete gravestone with inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- ... the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth ...
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High... (2:255).

أ:
الرحمن الرحيم، الله لا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ
 الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا
 فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ.....

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
 وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
 يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَلِيُّ.....



FIGURE 2.127 Surface A, ABN33

B:

- ... Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:22).
- ... But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire and all that you ask for, as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30-32).

ب:إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.
وَأَبَشِّرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُتِبَتْ لَكُمْ تُوْعَدُونَ،
 نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
 مَا تَدْعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ.



FIGURE 2.128 Surface B, ABN33

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لا توجد عليها نقوش

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد عليها نقوش

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد عليها نقوش



FIGURE 2.129
Surface C, ABN33

Reference Number: ABN34

Co-ordinates: 26.21086° N 050.55117° E

Dimensions: Not measured

Orientation: NA

Description: Modern white marble gravestone with laser cut black painted lettering. It is included as the individual commemorated by the gravestone died before 1900 CE, and because around his shrine many of the original carved limestone gravestones are clustered.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- It is only those who have knowledge among His slaves that fear Allah (35:28).
- Shaikh Husayn bin 'Abd al-Samad, Father of Shaikh Al-Baha'i.
- Born in Lebanon, in 1st of Muhharam, 918 AH, Ba'albak. He died in 8th of Rabi' al-awwal, 984, al-Bilad al-Qadim.

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ.
 العالم الرباني، الشيخ حسين بن عبد الصمد،
 والد الشيخ البهائي.
 ولد في لبنان 1 محرم 918 هجرية، مدينة بعلبك.
 توفي في 8 ربيع الاول 984 هجرية، البلاد
 القديم.



FIGURE 2.130 ABN34

Reference Number: ABN35

Co-ordinates: 26.21089° N 050.55139° E

Dimensions: 144 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 28 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.131). Next to shrine of Shaikh Husayn bin 'Abd al-Samad. The gravestone has been cut to shape but left unfinished. Voids in the stone surface might have precluded further carving. There appear to be chisel marks on the top surface (E) and chisel and saw marks on the side surfaces (A and B). No inscriptions or carving other than rectangular roughed out blocks at each end that would have formed raised decoration if the gravestone was completed.



FIGURE 2.131 ABN35

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN36

Co-ordinates: 26.21091° N 050.55143° E

Dimensions: 154 cm (l) × 37.5 cm (w) × 44 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in good condition. Shallow carved pointed niche design on top surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Partially excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire (41:30-31).
- ... will be opened ... for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze (38:50-52). Allah, the Most Great has spoken the truth.

أ:

تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
 مَحْنٌ أُولِيَاءُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ.
 مُفْتَحَةً بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
 وَشَرَابٍ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
 أَتْرَابٌ. صدق الله العظيم.



FIGURE 2.132 Surface A, ABN36

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens.
- To them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. Allah and His Prophet have spoken the truth ... (2:255).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ

اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ، صدق الله ورسوله.....



FIGURE 2.133 Surface B, ABN36

C:

- ... should be read ... for his soul ...
And a part on his wife's grave, the
daughter of al-Sayyid Majid.
- ... Fruit ... Planting ... from dates crop
of palm gardens ...

ج: ... يقرأ... لروح... وجزء على قبر زوجته
بنت السيد ماجد.
..... ثمر..... صلح الغرس..... من
حاصل تمر النخل.....



FIGURE 2.134 Surface C, ABN36

D:

- This is the grave of the late ...
- al-Sayyid 'Ali bin Muhammad Abu
Shabanah al-Husayni

د: هذا ضريح المرحوم المبرور.....
(المقدس).
السيد علي بن السيد محمد ابو شبانة
الحسيني



FIGURE 2.135 Surface D, ABN36

E:

هـ:

- Written by the humble 'Ali bin Husayn al-Bahrani
- Oh grave, you should be equal with the stars in the sky, since you have embedded an innocent man.
- You embedded a faithful and virtuous man.
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Salih bin al-Sayyid Hashim.

كتبه الاقل علي بن حسين البهراني.
 جز على مطلع الثريا رقا، ايها القبر مذ حويت
 زكيا.
 فاضلا كاملا حويت نقا، سيد كان سهمه
 الشرعيا.
 نقشه السيد صالح بن السيد هاشم.



FIGURE 2.136 Surface E, ABN36

Reference Number: ABN37

Co-ordinates: 26.21079° N 050.55126° E

Dimensions: 171 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 44 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in generally good condition. Shallow carved pointed niche design on upper surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces, with two only partially legible.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze. This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning ... (38:50-53)

أ:
 جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
 مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ
 كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
 الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوْعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
 الْحِسَابِ.....

-

.....



FIGURE 2.137 Surface A, ABN37

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him.
- Except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.

إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا
خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا
شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.138 Surface B, ABN37

C:

- He spent ... At the life and afterlife ...

-

ج

قضى بالدارين.....

.....



FIGURE 2.139 Surface C, ABN37

D:

- ... Muharram, year ...
-

د:

..... من محرم سنة.....
.....



FIGURE 2.140 Surface D, ABN37

E:

- Written by the humble Mas'ud
- Oh grave, you should be boasted to other places ... and the seven heavens.
- Once you embedded a glorious person ... but he is better than others.
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Hashim.

ه:

كتبه الاقل مسعود

يا قبر طلت على البقاع برتبة***.....على
السبع العلاء.

لما حويت مجد... وهو واحد*** لكنه في
المجد عن كل العلاء.

نقشه السيد هاشم.....



FIGURE 2.141
Surface E, ABN37

Reference Number: ABN38

Co-ordinates: 26.21080° N 050.55125° E

Dimensions: 130 cm (l) × 25 cm (w) × 38 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single narrow limestone slab gravestone with some areas of bad erosion and damage. No niche design on surface E. Raised decoration cut off at both ends. Partial inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Very deteriorated. Unable to read

أ:
النقش غير واضح

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that.....
- Except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter ... (2:255)

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي.....

إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.....



FIGURE 2.142 Surface B, ABN38

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

D:

- Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

د:
النقش غير واضح

E:

– Engraved by al-Sayyid Hashim

–

هـ:
نقشه السيد هاشم.

.....

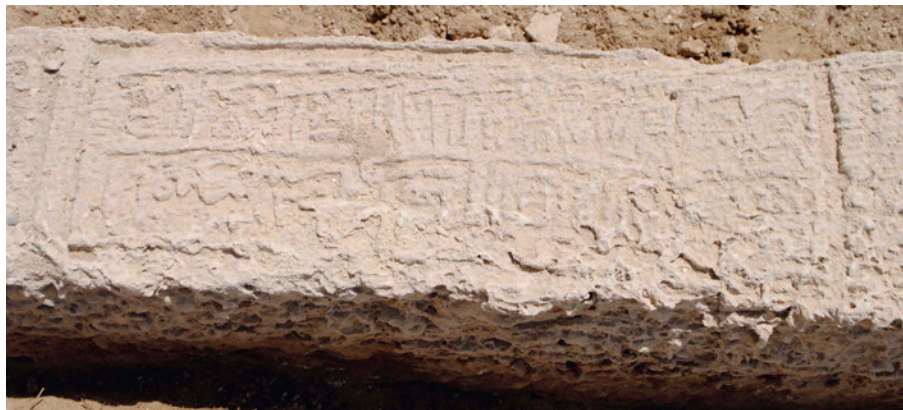


FIGURE 2.143 Surface E, ABN38

Reference Number: ABN39**Co-ordinates:** 26.21082° N 050.55124° E**Dimensions:** 184 cm (l) × 40 cm (w) × 25 cm (h)**Orientation:** NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone broken into three pieces (Figure 2.144). Very eroded on top but with flat sides suggesting it is unfinished. No inscriptions. Raised decoration cut off at one end and eroded rectangular roughed out block for unfinished raised decoration at the other end.



FIGURE 2.144 ABN39

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN40

Co-ordinates: 26.21077° N 050.55125° E

Dimensions: 179 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 26.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Carving very sharp and well-executed. Shallow carved rounded niche design on the upper surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plint at both ends, one of which is eroded. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- They will be served by immortal boys, with cups, and jugs, and a glass from the flowing wine, where from they will get neither any aching of the head, nor any intoxication. And fruit; that they may choose. And the flesh of fowls that they desire. And there will be fair females with wide and lovely eyes, like unto preserved pearls. A reward for what they used to do. No evil vain talk will they hear therein, nor any sinful speech. But only the saying of: Peace! Peace! (56:17-26)
- ... trays of gold and cups, therein all that inner-selves could desire, and all that eyes could delight in and you will abide therein forever. This is the Paradise which you have been made to inherit because of your deeds which you used to do. Therein for you will be fruits in plenty, of which you will eat (43:71-73). Eat and drink with happiness because of what you used to do (52:19).

يُطَوَّفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَدَانُ مُخَلَّدُونَ، بِأَكْوَابٍ
وَأَبَارِيقٍ وَكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ، لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ
عَنْهَا وَلَا يُنْزِفُونَ، وَفَاكِهَةٍ مِّمَّا يَخْتِرونَ،
وَلَحْمِ طَيْرٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ، وَحُورٍ عِينٍ،
كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكْنُونِ، جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ، لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا تَأْثِيمًا،

إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا سَلَامًا. بَصِحَافٍ مِّن ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ
وَفِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِيهِ الْأَنْفُسُ وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ
وَأَنْتُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ، وَتِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي
أُورِثُوهَا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ، لَكُمْ فِيهَا
فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ مِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ. كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا
هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ. صدق الله العلي

العظيم.



FIGURE 2.145 Surface A, ABN40

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except
- That which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks, and beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages (38:50–52). Allah, the Most Great has spoken the truth.

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا

بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.
جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
أَثْرَابٌ، صدق الله العظيم.



FIGURE 2.146 Surface B, ABN40

C:

ج:

- Every day, reading two parts of the Book of God for two baskets ...
 - One basket from al-Kharajat garden, half basket from western garden and another half from the eastern and al-Sabkha.
- القراءة (القراءة) كل يوم جزآن من كتاب
الله العزيز بجلتين سالمة.....من.
منها جلة في قفل الخراجات، ونصف
جلة في قفل الغربي (و) نصف جلة في
الشرقي والصبخة

FIGURE 2.147
Surface C, ABN40

D:

- The death date of the Late Maymunah bint al-Hajj 'Ali bin Muhammad

كانت وفاة المرحومة المبرورة ميمو
(ميمونة) بنت المرحوم الحاج علي بن
محمد.

- Al-Manami in ninth of Safar, one thousand and hundred and eight

المنامي في يوم تاسع من شهر صفر سنة
الثامنة والماية بعد الالف من الهجرة
النبوية.



FIGURE 2.148 Surface D, ABN40

E:

- Written by 'Ali bin Husayn bin Zayn al-Din, May Allah forgive them

كتبه الاقل علي بن حسين بن زين الدين
عفى الله عنهم.

هـ:

- May Allah bless a grave embedded a person like the sun, and made the clouds mourning it.
- It is difficult that this chastity disappeared in the soil but unfortunately it has disappeared.
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid ... al-Husayni, God Bless them, in 1110.

نور الله تربة حوت الشمس، وابكى بها
عيون الغمام.

فعزيز علي (علي) العفاف توار بها،
وبالرغم كونها في الرغام.

نقشه السيد الاجل ناصر بن السي.....ا.....
الحسيني عفي عنهما، سنة 1110.



FIGURE 2.149
Surface E, ABN40

Reference Number: ABN41

Co-ordinates: 26.21080° N 050.55122° E

Dimensions: 121 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 37.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Some erosion on top surface (E). Shallow carved rounded niche design on top surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Verily! The pious will be in a place of Security. Among Gardens and springs; dressed in fine silk and also in thick silk, facing each other and we shall marry them to female fair ones with wide, lovely eyes. They will call therein for every kind of fruit in peace and security; they will never taste death therein (44:51–56).
- إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُنْدُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ كَذَلِكَ وَرَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ آمَنِينَ لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ.
- The Angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; but receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire, and all that you ask for (41:30–31).
- تَنْزِيلٌ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ.



FIGURE 2.150 Surface A, ABN41

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him
- Except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.

إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.151 Surface B, ABN41

C:

- At al-Bahrain land should be given the priority from the other income until
 - God inherited the earth and what ever on it ... (Mani) ...
 -chosen.....God paradise ... seventh ... year ...
- جنة
 بسبح البحرين مقدما على غيره من
 المخرجات الى
 أن يرث الله الارض ومن عليها جاريا.....
 (ماني).....
اختاره.....جنة الله.....سابع.....سنة.....



FIGURE 2.152 Surface C, ABN41

D:

- Fare of reading five parts of the Glorious Book of God everyday on the grave of al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Ra'uf bin al-Sayyid Husayn.

د:
اجرة (الواظف) للقاري على قبر السيد
عبدالرؤوف (عبدالرؤوف) بن السيد
حسين من كل يوم تلاوة خمسة اجزاء
من كتاب الله المجيد.

- Three big baskets from ... at Hillat al-Sayf, and two baskets for al-Hujja from Sihat Albalad garden ... buried in Awal.

لكل ثلاث (ثلاث) جلات كبيرة يوزن
يومئذ من ال..... بحلة السيف وجلتين
للحجة بسيحة البلد باوال دفيئا.



FIGURE 2.153 Surface D, ABN41

E:

- Written by 'Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad, May Allah forgive them.

ه:
رسمه الجاني علي بن عبدالله بن عبدالصمد
عفى عنهم.

- The grave of 'Abd al-Ra'uf is pleasant since he went to Allah with an innocent heart. طاب ثرى عبد رؤوف الورى*** من قد اتى الله بقلب سليم.
- Because he was good outward and inward, he has got a high status. من ظاهر بر(ن)ومن باطن*** مقعد صدق ومقام كريم.
- نقشه الحبر الماهر السيد ناصر بن السيد
- Engraved by the skilled, al-Sayyid Naser bin Hashim, May Allah forgive them. هاشم عفى عنهم.



FIGURE 2.154
Surface E, ABN41

Reference Number: ABN42

Co-ordinates: 26.21079° N 050.55122° E

Dimensions: 127.5 cm (l) × 18 cm (w) × 49.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone lying on its side (Figure 2.155). No inscriptions or carving except for raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and central rounded arch at both ends. The position and the absence of carving or inscriptions suggests the gravestone was cut to shape, partly worked on, and then abandoned for an unknown reason. Partially excavated to expose position.

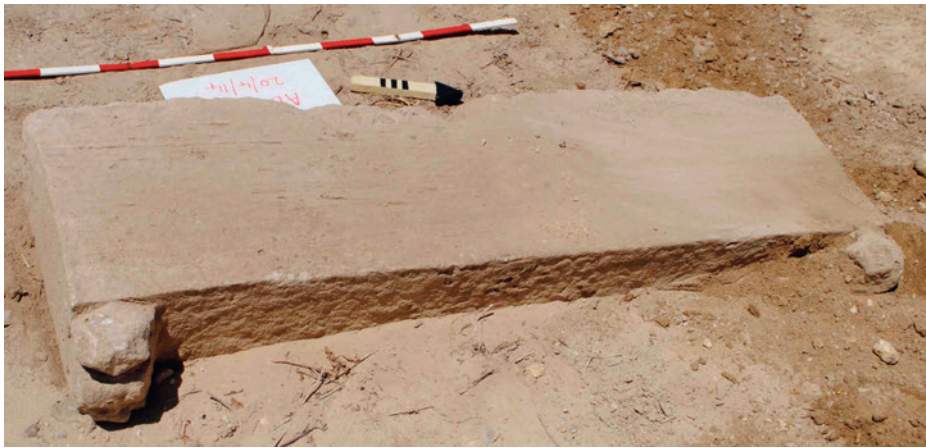


FIGURE 2.155 ABN42

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN43

Co-ordinates: 26.21083° N 050.55120° E

Dimensions: 88 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 29 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single small limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.156). Badly eroded. No carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.156
ABN43

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN44

Co-ordinates: 26.21079° N 050.55126° E

Dimensions: 107 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 21 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.157). Significant erosion on one side surface. Next to and given the same co-ordinates as ABN37. Lying on side or upside down. No inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.157
ABN44

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN45

Co-ordinates: 26.21074° N 050.55118° E

Dimensions: 227 cm (l) × 57 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Very large. Raised decoration at both ends, three elements formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at one end and a single rounded arch on a rectangular plinth at the other end. Lacks any carving on the top surface (E). Reasonable condition, but with some general erosion. Inscriptions on four surfaces. Excavated to expose complete gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- No fear shall be on you this day, who believed in Our Ayat and were Muslims, enter Paradise, you and your wives, in happiness (43:68–70).

أ:
 الْيَوْمَ وَلَا أَتَمُّ تَحْرُوتُونَ، الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِآيَاتِنَا
 وَكَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ، ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ أَتَمُّ
 وَأَزْوَاجَكُمْ تُحْبَرُونَ.

- Peace be upon you, for you preserved in patience. Excellent indeed is the final home (13:24). Whatsoever is on the earth will perish. And the Face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour will remain forever (55:26–27).

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى
 الدَّارِ. كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ، وَيَبْقَى وَجْهُ رَبِّكَ
 ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ.



FIGURE 2.158 Surface A, ABN45

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His pleasure and of Gardens for them. They will dwell therein
- forever. Indeed, Allah has with Him a great reward (9:21–22). They shall enter them and also those who are righteous from among their fathers, and their wives and their children and angels (13:23).

ب:
 بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، یُبَشِّرُهُمْ
 رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ
 فِیْهَا نَعِیْمٌ مُّقِیْمٌ خَالِدِیْنَ فِیْهَا.
 اَبَدًا اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهُ اَجْرٌ عَظِیْمٌ. یَدْخُلُوْنَهَا
 وَمَنْ صٰلَحٌ مِّنْ اٰبَائِهِمْ وَاَزْوَاجِهِمْ
 وَذُرِّیَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ.



FIGURE 2.159 Surface B, ABN45

C:

- My worshipper! No fear shall be on you (43:68).
- Enter unto them from every gate (13:23).

ج:
 یَا عِبَادِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَیْكُمْ.
 یَدْخُلُوْنَ عَلَیْهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ.

FIGURE 2.160
Surface C, ABN45

D:

- ... Muhammad bin al-Sa'id Sa'id bin Ma'ali.
- He died in nineteenth of
- Safar, year of seven hundred and fifty-four.

هـ: محمد بن السعيد سعيد بن معالي.
توفي الى رحمة الله تاسع عشر شهر.
صفر سنة اربع وخمسين وسبع مائة.



FIGURE 2.161 Surface D, ABN45

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.162 Surface E, ABN45

Reference Number: ABN46

Co-ordinates: 26.21070° N 050.55127° E

Dimensions: 127.5 cm (l) × 25.5 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Found lying on its side in centre of collapsed shrine (Figure 2.163). No inscriptions and a section is split off the top. Series of cup marks on one side surface comprising at least 19 smaller and three larger ones. It is possible that these were made to play the mancala type game. Another identification of a Mancala game board carved onto a gravestone is provided by NOA3. Roughed out rectangular blocks for unfinished raised decoration at both ends. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.163 ABN46

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN47

Co-ordinates: 26.21060° N 050.55135° E

Dimensions: 160.5 cm (l) × 37.5 cm (w) × 57 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Elaborate shallow carved rounded niche design with the top of the niche separated by a horizontal bar and the rounded end demarcated with a carved double line. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at both ends. Generally good condition but with some patches of damage. Surface C has been crudely repaired. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Found within a small collapsed mosque that was excavated.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze (38:50-52) ... Allah.

أ:
جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ،.....
الله.

- The angels will descend on them, (saying:) Fear not, nor grieve; but receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the (41:30-31) ...

تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآ.....



FIGURE 2.164 Surface A, ABN47

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.

- Except ... except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). May peace of Allah be upon Muhammad and his family.

إِلَّا يَبْنَ خَلْفَهُمْ إِلَّا
 بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
 وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.
 وصلى الله على محمد وآله.



FIGURE 2.165 Surface B, ABN47

C:

- Received ... five ... (years) ... Rabi' al-thani.
- In the year of one thousand and sixty-seven of Hijra ...
- Ten parts of the Book of God the Powerful everyday, on the ...

قبض خمس ... (سنتين) ... ابيع (ربيع)
 الثاني.
 السنة السابعة والستين وألف على
 (هجرة) ... قمر
 كل يوم عشرة اجزاء من كتاب الله
 العزيز على ال.....



FIGURE 2.166 Surface C, ABN47

D:

- This shrine of ... Al ... al-Bahir ... San.
- ... The holy, Haji.
- Total ... From ... income / crop ...

هذا ضريح المندرج ال..... الباهر...
 سان.
 ولتجا... الع... المقدس حاجي.
 مجمو..... من..... حاصل.....



FIGURE 2.167 Surface D, ABN47

E:

هـ:

- Written by the humble 'Abd Muhammad bin Ahmad ... Al-Asba'i
- The far part ... three hundred from ... with crop ... Al ... eighth.

كتب الاقل عبد محمد بن احمد..... الاصبعي.
السطر الداني..... ثلثمائة من..... مع
غلات..... الا..... الثمن.

Reference Number: ABN48

Co-ordinates: 26.21080° N 050.55132° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 98 cm (l) × 48 cm (w) × 54 cm (h)

Slab 2: 98 cm (l) × 47 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs (Figure 2.169). Damaged three element raised decoration formed of, seemingly, two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at both ends. Illegible inscription on one surface. Traces of shallow carved rectangular niche decoration with a unique demarcated domed end on upper surface (E). Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.169 ABN48

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No legible inscriptions

Reference Number: ABN49

Co-ordinates: 26.21080° N 050.55127° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 93 cm (l) × 29 cm (w) × 49 cm (h)

Slab 2: 94 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Well preserved inscriptions on five surfaces but with some small areas of damage. Ornate shallow carved pointed niche decoration with elaborate vegetal pattern terminal carved into the upper surface (E). Damaged three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded or pointed arch at both ends. The rear of the central arch on the end surfaces (C and D) has inscriptions on it. A roll of brown plastic containing the powdered remains of herbs or a plant-based charm or medicine was found 50 cm below ground surface in the northern vicinity of the gravestone (Chapter 3). Excavated to expose whole gravestone. This also uncovered the rougher integral plinth of the gravestone that was intended to be below ground.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The gardens of Eden, which they shall enter and also those who acted righteously from among their fathers, and their wives, and their offspring (13:23) ... immortal boys will go around will wait upon them with cups, and jugs, and a glass of flowing wine. Wherefrom they will get neither any aching of the head ...

أ:
جَنَاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ
آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ.....
يُطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُخَلَّدُونَ بِأَكْوَابٍ
وَأَبَارِيقٍ وَكَأْسٍ مِنْ مَعِينٍ لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ
عَنْهَا وَلَا.....

- And with fruit that they may choose. And with the flesh of fowls that they desire. And there will be fair females with wide, lovely eyes. Like unto preserved pearls. A reward for what they used to do. No evil vain talk will they hear therein, nor any sinful speech. But only the saying of Salam, Salam. And those on the Right Hand – how will be those on the Right Hand? They will be among thorn less lote-trees. And among banana-trees with fruits piled one above another. And in shade long-extended. And by water flowing constantly (56:17).

وَفَاكِهَةٍ مِمَّا يَتَخَيَّرُونَ وَلَحْمِ طَيْرٍ مِمَّا
يَشْتَهُونَ وَحُورٍ عِينٍ كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكْنُونِ
جَزَاءَ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا
لَعْوًا وَلَا تَأْثِيمًا إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا سَلَامًا
وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ فِي
سِدْرٍ مَخْضُودٍ وَطَلْحٍ مَنضُودٍ وَظِلِّ مَمْدُودٍ
وَمَاءٍ مَسْكُوبٍ.



FIGURE 2.170 Surface A, ABN49

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High,
- The Most Great (2:255). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Gardens (Paradise) for them wherein are everlasting delights (9:21). The angels will descend on them, (saying:) 'Fear not, nor grieve; but receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends (41:30-31).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ اللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِنْدِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهٗ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ

العظیم. یُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُم بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنّٰتٍ لَّهُمْ فِیْهَا نَعِیْمٌ مُّقِیْمٌ. تَنْزِلُ عَلَیْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ اِلَّا تَخَافُوْا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوْا وَاَبْشِرُوْا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِیْ كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُوْنَ. نَحْنُ اَوْلِیَاؤُكُمْ.



FIGURE 2.171 Surface B, ABN49

C:

-

- This is the grave of the late ... Shaikh 'Abd Allah

- bin Naser bin Husayn Bin Muqallad.

ج:

.....

هذا ضريح المرحوم المبرور..... الشيخ

عبدالله.

بن ناصر بن حسين بن مقلد.....



FIGURE 2.172 Surface C, ABN49

D:

- ... this is...the savant ...
- ... these will be the nearest to Allah, in the Gardens of Delight, a multitude of those will be from the first generation.
- And a few of those will be from the later generations, they will be on thrones woven with gold and precious stones, reclining thereon face to face (56:11-16).

..... هذا...العالم.....
 أُولَئِكَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ، فِي جَنَّاتِ
 التَّعِيمِ، ثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ.
 وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ، عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَّوْضُونَةٍ،
 مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَيْهَا مُتَقَابِلِينَ.



FIGURE 2.173
Surface D, ABN49

E:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily! We have sent it down in the night of al-Qadr. And what will make you know what the night of al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Spirit by Allah's Permission with all Decrees. Peace! All that night until the appearance of dawn (97:1-5).
- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. May the peace of Allah be upon Prophet Muhammad, 'Ali, al-batul, The Grandsons, al-Sajad, al-Baqir, al-Sadiq, al-Kadhim, al-Rida, al-Taqi, al-Naqi, al-Askari and al-Mahdi Muhammad.
- This blessed room is waqf for the great Shaikh, 'Abd Allah bin Naser bin Husayn bin Muqallad.

هـ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي
لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ
لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ تَنَزَّلُ
الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّن
كُلِّ أَمْرٍ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ
عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ وَعَلَى وَآلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ
وَالسَّجَادِ وَالْبَاقِرِ وَالصَّادِقِ وَالكَاطِمِ
وَالرَّضِيِّ وَالتَّقِيِّ وَالنَّقِيِّ وَالْعَسْكَرِيِّ
وَالْمَهْدِيِّ صَاحِبِ الزَّمَانِ، مُحَمَّدِ الْعَتَرَةِ
الْخَيْرَةِ.

هذه الحجرة المباركة وقف الشيخ
الافخم الاعظم عبدالله بن ناصر بن
حسين بن مقلد.



FIGURE 2.174 Surface E, part 1, ABN49



FIGURE 2.175 Surface E, part 2, ABN49

Reference Number: ABN50

Co-ordinates: 26.21085° N 050.55127° E

Dimensions: 140 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Significant erosion in places. No niche design on surface E. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a narrow, rounded arch at both ends. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– Very deteriorated. It cannot be read.

– ...

أ:
نقش متآكل لا يمكن قراءته

B:

– He is the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes

ب:
.....هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue

- ... and believes in Allah, ... And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light (2:255-257). God ... has spoken the truth.

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ
مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ
بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ.

..... وَيُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ..... وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ
عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَبِئْسَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ
الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ. صدق الله.....



FIGURE 2.176 Surface B, ABN50

C:

- Eight shares from ... garden
- Located behind Mani, one part is for the night ...
- Big basket by Bahraini weight.

ج: ثمانية اسهم من صرمة (الهم....)
وجوبارها.
موقعها في ظهر مني يخص جزء ليلة.....
جلة كبرى بوزن البحرين.....



FIGURE 2.177 Surface C, ABN50

D:

- Very deteriorated. It cannot be read.

د:
النقش متآكل لا يمكن قراءته

E:

- ... Muhammad, seventeenth of Rajab, year of one thousand, one hundred and two.

ه:
.....محمد الاحد سابع عشر شهر رجب
سنة الثانية والمئة والالف.

- Oh grave ... neighbour

يا قبر (س)...ها.....** جوار.

- ... chastity, your neighbour has the neighbourhood rights.

.....العفاف وسره ** جارك فارغ
(سقيت) حق الجار.

- ... the late ... Bint...the late...

.....المرحومة..... بنت.....المرحوم.....



FIGURE 2.178 Surface E, ABN50

4 Abu Saiba (ABS)

Location: Abu Saiba village cemetery

Reference Number: ABS1

Co-ordinates: 26.21770° N 050.50523° E

Dimensions: 151 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone enclosed in a glass display case inside a modern cement block shrine structure that was still in the process of construction in 2015. According to local informants the gravestone was found whilst digging new graves along with a pre-Islamic Tylos upright limestone stela (41 cm [l] × 29 cm [w] × 11.5 cm [depth]). The stele is missing its upper figure, assuming one was present, and has two carved columns represented at the side of an upright central rectangular block (cf. Boucharlat and Salles 1989: 130–131; Lombard 1999: 212–215 for parallels). The stele has been transferred to the archaeological store in the Bahrain National Museum. The gravestone has three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.
- Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256).

أ: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.179 Surface A, ABS1

B:

ب:

- Cannot be read because it is covered with glass.

النقش مغطى بزجاج حاجب

C:

ج:

- Death of Shaikh Muhammad bin Shaikh 'Ali was ...

كان وفاة المرحوم الشيخ محمد بن الشيخ
علي رحمه الله من بعد.

- The seventh day of Muharram, year ... forty ... and thousand

اليوم السابع من محرم سنة.....
(الاربعين).....والف.



FIGURE 2.180 Surface C, ABS1

D:

د:

- Reading one part every day on the grave of Shaikh Muhammad, and al-Fatiha, ...

القرارة (القرارة) على قبر (المعا) الشيخ
محمد كل يوم جزا (جزء) من كتاب الله.

وسورة الفاتحة،.....



FIGURE 2.181 Surface D, ABS1

E:

- The one, who engraved it, is entreating ... mercy.
- His worshipper and his slave, al-Sayyid Naser.
- The one, who wrote it, is entreating the mercy of his glorious god.
- His worshipper and his needy, 'Abd al-Nabi bin Ahmad
- That home of the Hereafter, We shall assign to those who rebel not against the truth with pride and oppression in the land nor do mischief by committing crimes. And the good end is for the pious (28:83).

هـ:
ناقشه يرجو...اه...رحمة

عبده ومملوكه السيد ناصر.

كاتبه يرجو رحمة ربه الامجد.

عبده وفقيره عبد النبي بن احمد.

تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا
يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فُسَادًا
وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقِيْنَ.

- Allah and also His angels send their Blessings and Mercy on the Prophet. O you who believe! Ask Allah to bless him, and you should greet him with the Islamic way of greeting (33:56). So whosoever does good equal to the weight of a small ant shall see it (99:7).

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا
 أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.
 فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ.



FIGURE 2.182 Surface E, part 1, ABS1



FIGURE 2.183 Surface E, part 2, ABS1



FIGURE 2.184 Surface E, part 3, ABS1

5 Askar (ASK)

Location: Mosque containing a shrine, and associated village cemetery, all no longer in use.

Reference Number: ASK1

Co-ordinates: 26.05656° N 050.61818° E

Dimensions: Two slabs measured as one unit – 153 cm (l) × 16 cm (w) × 49 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs housed within a damaged shrine inside a vandalised mosque complex. The gravestone was set against a hollow cement superstructure ridged on top and filled with rubble. Partially legible inscriptions were found on one visible surface.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- ... The great Shaikhالشيخ الاجل.....-
- ... the Shaikhs ... Shams al-Dinالمشايخ.....شمس الدين.....-
- ... (one thousand and sixty-six)(ست وستين والالف).....-



FIGURE 2.185 ASK1

Reference Number: ASK2

Co-ordinates: 26.05639° N 050.61821° E

Dimensions: 160 cm (l) × 57 cm (w) × 26 cm maximum surviving height

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Partly destroyed gypsum gravestone in cemetery south of mosque and shrine. Scrolling vegetal decoration on four surfaces and partially legible inscription on one surface. The gypsum panels had been constructed around a stone rubble core. Excavated to expose the sides of the gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

– ... There is no God but Allah ...

.....لا اله الا الله.....



FIGURE 2.186 ASK2

6 Barbar (BAR)

Location: Private house. The gravestone was formerly in the village cemetery in Barbar but was removed for safe keeping by its current custodian who now stores it in his sitting room (*majlis*).

Reference Number: BARI

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 76 cm (l) × 29 cm (w) × 36 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone. Generally good condition. Shallow carved rectangular panel on upper surface (E) which was probably part of a niche design. Raised decoration has been cut off one end.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. Those ...
- Those are the dwellers of the Fire.
- And they will abide therein forever. Verily, those who say: Our ... Allah (2:255-256).

أ: وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ، وَالَّذِينَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ. إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا... اللَّهُ



FIGURE 2.187 Surface A, BARI

B:

ب:

- On the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills ... extends over ...
- Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, then has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break (2:255-256).

فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا
بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ
وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
وَسِعَ ...

تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ
وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى
لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا.



FIGURE 2.188 Surface B, BARI

C:

ج:

- ... Alhaj, two parts every day.
- From The Holy Quran ... all from Um Al-Suli Garden which is located at Jid Alhaj.

... القرا... الحاج جزئين في كل يوم.

من كتاب الله ... من كامل صرمة أم
الصولي الواقعة بسيحة جدالحاج.



FIGURE 2.189 Surface C, BARI

D:

- This part is lost.

د:
مفقود

E:

- The writer is seeking the mercy of his God, Abdalnabi Bin Ahmed.
- *(The remainder is an incomplete poem which cannot be translated)*

ه:
كاتبه يرجو رحمة ربه الامجد عبده
عبد النبي بن احمد
... وبل بشارك العفواذ...
... لك الذكر والتاريخ قدرك الذكر



FIGURE 2.190
Surface E, BARI

7 Beit al-Quran (BEIT)

Location: On display in the lobby of the private Beit al-Quran Museum in Manama. The original location of the gravestone is not known.

Reference Number: BEIT1

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 139 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in good condition. Shallow carved pointed niche design on upper surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central narrow rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold (2:255–256).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ.



FIGURE 2.191 Surface A, BEIT I

B:

ب:

- That will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer All-Knower (2:255-256). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and that He is pleased with them, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21-22). Therein they will recline; therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks; And beside them will be chaste
- females (virgins) restraining their glances only for their husbands, and of equal ages. This it is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning (38:51-53). The Angels will descend on them, saying: Fear not, nor grieve; but receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire (41:30-31).

الوثنى لَا انفصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.
يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.
مُتَكَبِّرِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ.

الظَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
الْحِسَابِ، تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْأُ
تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ
تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي
الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ.

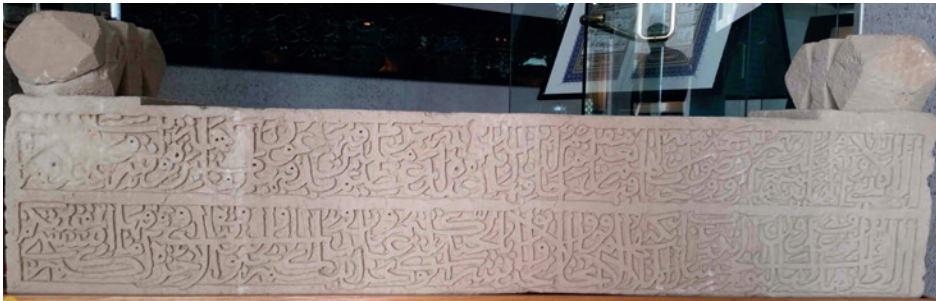


FIGURE 2.192 Surface B, BEIT1

C:

- this is the shrine of Shaikh Yusuf bin Shaikh

ج:
هَذَا ضَرْحُ الْفَرْدَوْسِيِّ الشَّيْخِ يُوسُفَ بْنِ
الشَّيْخِ الْمَرَضِيِّ.

- ‘Ali bin Kinbar, his death was in one thousand and eighty-nine. علي بن كئبار، وكانت وفاته في السنة
التاسعة والثمانين والـف



FIGURE 2.193 Surface C, BEIT1

D:

- Reading a one part of the Book of God the Powerful every day. قراءة كل يوم جزء من كتاب الله العزيز.
- Proceeds of Um.....palm garden located at Al-Bilad. بمحصل صرمة أم..... الواقعة بسيحة
البلاد.



FIGURE 2.194 Surface D, BEITI

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid 'Alawi, son of the good and the pious al-Sayyid Salih.
- Oh grave, you embedded a full moon with a high rank, and famous person.
- You should thank Allah because He gave you a unique thing that He did not give to others

هـ:
 نقشه السيد علوي بن السيد الصالح
 التقي السيد صالح.
 يا ضريحاً حويت بدر الكمال *** وسنام
 العلي وعين المعالي.
 فاحمد الله حيث ولاك ما لم *** يوله من
 سواك دان وعالي.

- Written by the humble ‘Abd Allah bin علي كته الاقل الجاني عبدالله بن علي
 ‘Ali al-Biladi al-Bahrani. البلادي البحراني



FIGURE 2.195
 Surface E, BEITI

8 Bilad al-Qadim (BAQ)

Location: The road outside the Nasrudin Mosque. The cemetery, if one originally existed, has disappeared under modern development.

Reference Number: BAQ1

Co-ordinates: 26.20597° N 050.54979° E

Dimensions: 124 cm (l) × 26 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone with some erosion, modern cement on top, and staining on one side surface (Figure 2.196). The gravestone appears unfinished. It has been cut to size and has no carving or inscriptions other than three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central narrow rounded or pointed arch at both ends. Recorded next to the original foundations of the Nasrudin mosque which has been recently rebuilt. The gravestone has been moved from its primary position as the original plaster base setting for the gravestone is next to its current location.



FIGURE 2.196 BAQI

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

9 Daih (DAI)

Location: Daih village cemetery. The cemetery contains a mosque but it is not known if it was originally a shrine that developed into a mosque.

Reference Number: DAI1

Co-ordinates: 26.22513° N 050.53376° E

Dimensions: 92 cm (l) × 25.5 cm (w) × 31.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone not in original position. Eroded. Inscriptions on three surfaces. Decorated on top surface (E) with a shallow carved rectangular panel which is not a niche with an engraved circle and two connected triangles above it. Red paint/pigment on the lettering at one end. Found buried under leaves and rubbish in a clump of trees. Now kept in a glass case made by the local community for its display in the cemetery.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.....



FIGURE 2.197 Surface A, DA11

B:

- We are your protectors in this world and in the other world, your souls can find in it what they desire ... (41:31)

ب:
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ
.....اللَّهُ.....



FIGURE 2.198 Surface B, DA11

C:

- ... and 650 ... God ...

ج: وخمسين وستماية.....الله.....

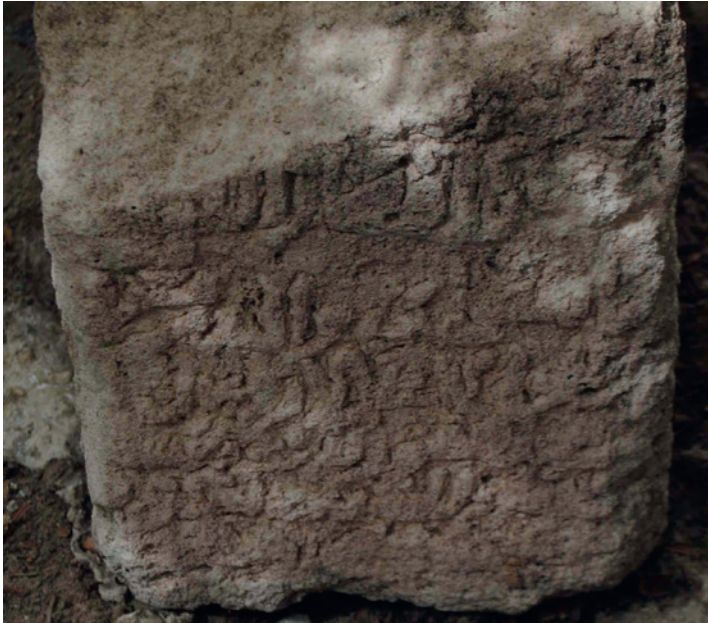


FIGURE 2.199
Surface C, DA11

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.200
Surface D, DA11

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

FIGURE 2.201 Surface E, DAI1

10 Hoorā (HOO)**Location:** Large urban cemetery for the Shi'a population of Manama**Reference Number:** HOO1**Co-ordinates:** 26.23116° N 050.58330° E**Dimensions:** 134 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)**Orientation:** NNW-SSE**Description:** Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.202). Some erosion. Cut to size and left unfinished possibly because the stone surface is pitted. Roughed out rectangular blocks for unfinished raised decoration at both ends. No inscriptions. Partially excavated to expose the whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.202 H001

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H002

Co-ordinates: 26.23128° N 050.58313° E

Dimensions: 84 cm (l) × 44.5 cm (w) × 10 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Unusually shaped flat single limestone slab gravestone with rounded sides and shoulders leading to a narrower upper section culminating in two carved points on top. Eroded, and with partial inscription in Farsi on one surface. Possibly gravestone is of Iranian origin. Fixed flat onto the ground surface with plaster.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- In 1210. في سنة 1210.
- He is the Ever Living. هو الحي الذي لا يموت.
- And ... The Most Merciful ... The ... و.....الرحمن....ال.....
- The eternal houses. (تا ابد آشیان ها) ترجمة (اليوت الابدية)



FIGURE 2.203
H002

Reference Number: H003

Co-ordinates: 26.23106° N 050.58335° E

Dimensions: 130 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Narrow single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.204). Eroded and roughly cut into shape with rectangular block for unfinished raised decoration at one end. No inscriptions. It seems this gravestone is an early stage roughout that was used as a grave marker but never finished for an unknown reason. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.204 H003

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H004

Co-ordinates: 26.23107° N 050.58332° E

Dimensions: 138 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone found lying on its side (Figure 2.205). Eroded and roughly cut to size and left unfinished. Roughed out raised decoration formed of what appear to be two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch. At one end a faceted cube can be seen clearly emerging from the stone where it has been left partially unfinished. No inscriptions. Two large cup marks, one carved on the upper surface (E) and another on one side surface, that appear to be intentional but for an unknown purpose.



FIGURE 2.205 H004

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H005

Co-ordinates: 26.23124° N 050.58547° E

Dimensions: 163 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Well carved but with significant erosion in places. Partial shallow carved rectangular panel design on top surface (E), probably a niche. Raised decoration cut or broken off both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Found tilted to the west. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Gardens of Eden, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages (38:50–52). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of mercy from Him, and of His pleasure, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will abide therein forever. Verily, with Allah there is a great reward (9:21–22).

جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ
كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ. يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ
مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ
مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ
أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.

- The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30–32). Year 1107.

تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبَشِّرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُتِبَتْ لَكُمْ تُوْعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدَّعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ عَفْوَرٍ رَّحِيمٍ. سَنَةٌ
.1107



FIGURE 2.206 Surface A, H005

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge
- Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold (2:255-256).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ.

إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ.



FIGURE 2.207 Surface B, H005

C:

- Every Tenth, eighty mann take from this ...
- At Abu Mandah field ...

ج: كل عاشر ثمانون مناً من هذا
 (ياخذ) عن (الحم...د).
 بسيح ابو مندة عبر ثمره (تمره) (معصور)
 من سهام... النخيل من.....



FIGURE 2.208 Surface C, H005

D:

د:

-

- ... the late ... bint Shaikh ...

.....
المرحومة..... بنت الشيخ.....



FIGURE 2.209 Surface D, HO05

E:

ه:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Habr.... al-Sayyid Hashim ...

نقشه السيد ناصر بن الحبر..... السيد
 هاشم.....

- ... Soil ... Abu ... al-Karam it appeared ... 'Abd ... (al-Samad)

..... الثرى..... ابو... الكرم *** قد بدا....
 عبد..... (الصمد).



FIGURE 2.210 Surface E, HO05

Reference Number: H006

Co-ordinates: 26.23070° N 050.58462° E

Dimensions: 130 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 30 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single small limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.211). Very badly eroded. No carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.211 H006

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H007

Co-ordinates: 26.22981° N 050.58467° E

Dimensions: 120 cm (l) × 61 cm (w) × 6 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Flat slab gravestone, possibly made of sandstone (Figure 2.212). Some erosion. Described as of a type bought already inscribed with the name etc. in Iran and the date of death was then added, when required, in Bahrain. Inscription on one surface.



FIGURE 2.212 H007

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- I went to the Generous God taking with me only the good works and sweet heart.
- Taking food with you is the worst if you are going to the Generous God.
- The late, 'Abd al-Hasan Jawad.

وفدتُ على الكريمِ بغيرِ زادٍ *** من
 الحسناتِ والقلبِ السليمِ
 وحملُ الزادِ اقبحُ كلِّ شئٍ *** اذا كان الوفودُ
 على الكريمِ
 المرحومِ الحاجِ عبدِ الحسنِ جوادِ.....

Reference Number: H008

Co-ordinates: 26.23061° N 050.58352° E

Dimensions: 149 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone found lying on its side (Figure 2.213). The side that was exposed above the ground surface is eroded. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin slab at both ends. Shallow carved rectangular panel on top surface (E) has been started. No chisel marks evident. No inscriptions. Gravestone was possibly left unfinished as the stone surface was found to be pitted after cutting. Excavated to expose the whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.213 H008

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H009

Co-ordinates: 26.23160° N 050.58337° E

Dimensions: 80 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 8 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Oval flat slab gravestone, possibly made of sandstone (Figure 2.214). Very eroded. Inscribed on one surface.



FIGURE 2.214 H009

Arabic Transcription and Translation: Inscriptions are illegible

Reference Number: H0010

Co-ordinates: 26.23140° N 050.58487° E

Dimensions: 157 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 50 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.215). Rather than being due to erosion, the bad surface but relatively sharp lines of the different surfaces suggests it was never finished as the limestone was found to be of too poor quality to take inscriptions once the initial shape had been cut. No inscriptions or carving other than rectangular roughed out blocks at each end that would have formed raised decoration if the gravestone was completed.



FIGURE 2.215 H0010

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H0011

Co-ordinates: 26.23141° N 050.58489° E

Dimensions: 160 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 56 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.216). It is heavily eroded on one side, but as with H0010, the relatively sharp lines of the opposite surface suggest it was never finished as the limestone was found to be of too poor quality to take inscriptions once the initial shape had been cut. No inscriptions or carving other than rectangular roughed out blocks at each end that would have formed raised decoration if the gravestone was completed.



FIGURE 2.216 H0011

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: H0012

Co-ordinates: 26.23139° N 050.58508° E

Dimensions: 170 cm (l) × 25 cm (w) × 46 cm (h)

Orientation: NE-SW

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone found lying on its side (Figure 2.217). Rather than being due to erosion processes, as with H0010 and H0011, the relatively sharp lines of the exposed surfaces suggest it was never finished as the limestone was found to be of too poor quality to take inscriptions once the initial shape had been cut. No inscriptions or carving other than roughed out rounded off downward sloping blocks at each end that would have formed raised decoration if the gravestone was completed.



FIGURE 2.217 H0012

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

11 Hunaniyah (HUN)

Location: Urban cemetery for Riffa and also used for burial by the Al-Khalifa Royal Family of Bahrain

Reference Number: HUN1

Co-ordinates: 26.12262° N 050.55739° E

Dimensions: (of total grave) 263 cm (l) × 143 cm (w) × 84 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Relatively recent cement tomb with a laser engraved single upright marble slab gravestone. Inscription on one surface.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- Shaikh Salman bin Ahmad al-Khalifa.
- The second ruler of the al-Khalifa family.
- Died in 1236 AH.

الشيخ سلمان بن احمد الخليفة.

الحاكم الثاني في اسرة الخليفة.

المتوفى سنة 1236هـ.



FIGURE 2.218
HUN1

12 Jebelat Habshi (JBH)

Location: Jebelat Habshi village cemetery

Reference Number: JBH1

Co-ordinates: 26.21646° N 050.53079° E

Dimensions: 83.5 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 39.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NE-SW

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone. Half of a double slab gravestone. Eroded unidentifiable three element raised decoration at one end. Inscriptions on two surfaces. The letter carving is quite crude and part of a side surface (A) is cut by a vertical intentionally chiselled semi-circular channel.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– The earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His permission.

أ:
الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا
بِإِذْنِهِ.

– He knows what happens to them in this world and what will happen to them in the hereafter. And they will never compass (2:255).

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا
يُحِيطُونَ.



FIGURE 2.219 Surface A, JBH1

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists.
- Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever in (2:255).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ.

لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي



FIGURE 2.220 Surface B, JBH1

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.221
Surface C, JBH1

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.222
Surfaces D and E, JBH1

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.222

Reference Number: JBH2

Co-ordinates: 26.21656° N 050.53088° E

Dimensions: 150 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 50 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.223). No inscriptions. Some erosion on top surface (E) and side surfaces (A and B). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. The gravestone has been cut to size and left unfinished.



FIGURE 2.223 JBH2

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: JBH3

Co-ordinates: 26.21658° N 050.53093° E

Dimensions: 142 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 54.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.224). No inscriptions. Eroded and cement covered three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at both ends. The gravestone has been cut to size and left unfinished.



FIGURE 2.224 JBH3

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: JBH4

Co-ordinates: 26.21659° N 050.53098° E

Dimensions: 75 cm (l) × 25 cm (w) × 48.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone, broken in two. Half of a double slab gravestone. Unidentifiable eroded raised decoration at one end. Some erosion on the upper surfaces and has a hole drilled in surface C. Partial inscriptions on three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- ... opened ... Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance ... (38:50-51)
- Receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask (41:30-31).

أ:
 مفتحة..... مُتَكِّينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا
 بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ.....
 وَأَبَشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ
 أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا نَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
 مَا تَدْعُونَ.



FIGURE 2.225 Surface A, JBH4

B:

- The One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede.
- ... Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب:

الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي
يَشْفَعُ.

..... إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.226 Surface B, JBH4

C:

ج: محمد بن حسين (جعفر)... كا.....
 - ... Muhammed bin Hassan, engraved by Abdalhussain Alsyed.
 (نقشه) نفسه.....



FIGURE 2.227
 Surface C, JBH4

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.228
Surfaces D and E, JBH 4

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.228

Reference Number: JBH5

Co-ordinates: 26.21655° N 050.53094° E

Dimensions: Hollow fragment 51 cm (l) × 31.5 cm (w) × 31 cm (h). Inscribed fragment 35 cm (l) × 21 cm (w) × 22 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Group of four fragments of limestone gravestone (Figure 2.229). The largest fragment is hollow. One small fragment has a partial inscription.



FIGURE 2.229 JBH5

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

Original Surface Unknown

–

.....

– ... in this world and ... (2:255).

..... بين أيديهم و.....



FIGURE 2.230 Partial inscription, JBH5

Reference Number: JBH6

Co-ordinates: 26.21654° N 050.53095° E

Dimensions: 102 cm (l) × 23 cm (w) × 30 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Very eroded. Remnants of unidentifiable raised decoration at both ends. Partial inscription on one surface.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

–

.....

– ... their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear ... (32:16).
عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا.....

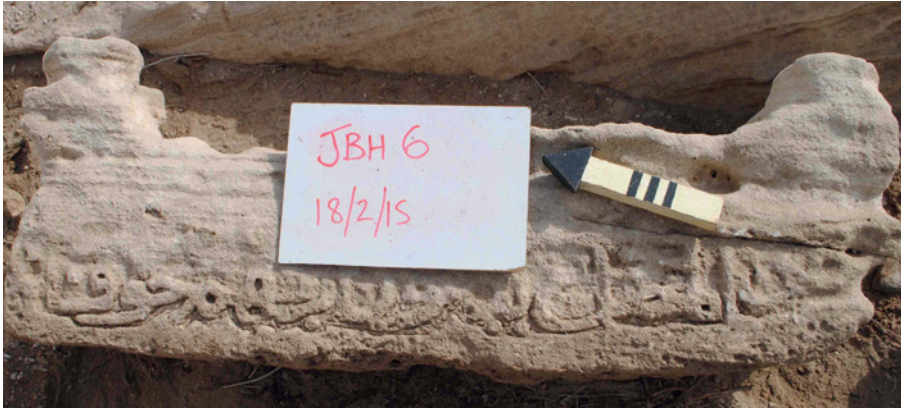


FIGURE 2.231 Surface A, JBH6

B:

ب:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش وكتابات

C:

ج:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش وكتابات

D:

د:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش وكتابات

E:

ه:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش وكتابات

Reference Number: JBH7

Co-ordinates: 26.21664° N 050.53097° E

Dimensions: 163 cm (l) × 26 cm (w) × 57 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded flat slab all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. The raised decoration is partially broken off at one end and the back of the raised decoration on one end surface (D) has traces of what appears to be rosette carving. Badly eroded in places where above ground. Full inscriptions on two surfaces, and partial inscriptions on two other surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

—
 — ... the pious. Those whose lives the angels take while they are in a pious state saying ... on you ... paradise, because of that which you used to do (16:31–32).

أ:

 المتقين، الذين توفاهمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ
 طَيِّبِينَ يَقُولُونَ..... عَلَيْكُمْ..... الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ
 تَعْمَلُونَ.



FIGURE 2.232 Surface A, JBH7

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills.
- His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, and then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256). God Almighty has spoken the truth.

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ.

وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یُـُٔوِدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ، لَا اِكْرَاهَ فِی الدِّیْنِ قَدْ تَبَیَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَیِّ فَمَنْ یَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَیُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اَسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقٰی لَا اِنْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِیْعٌ عَلِیْمٌ، صدق الله العلي العظيم.



FIGURE 2.233 Surfaces B and E, JBH7

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.234
Surface C, JBH7

D:

- This is the grave of the late, the forgiven, Shaikh 'Ali bin Shaikh Ahmad
- bin 'Abd al-Salam, died in the fifteenth of Rajab, 1098.

هـ:
 هذا ضريح المرحوم المبرور الشيخ علي
 بن الشيخ احمد.
 بن عبد السلام وتوفي خامس عشر شهر
 رجب سنة 1098.



FIGURE 2.235 Surface D, JBH7

E:

- Written by al-Sayyid ...

هـ:
 كتبه السيد.....

See Figure 2.233

Reference Number: JBH8

Co-ordinates: 26.21653° N 050.53095° E

Dimensions: 116.5 cm (l) × 23 cm (w) × 42 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone. Very eroded on top and on some other areas. Partially legible inscriptions on four surfaces. Unidentifiable raised decoration at both ends. Excavated to expose complete gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them ... (38:50) جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُّفْتَحَةً لَّهُمْ الْأَبْوَابُ
- Grieve not, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask ... (41:30-31) God Almighty ... has spoken the truth. وَلَا تَحْزُنُوا وَأَبشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
مَحْنٌ أُولِيَاءُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ..... صدق الله..... العظيم.



FIGURE 2.236 Surfaces A and E, JBH8

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede
- With Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ

عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ اَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُوْنَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهٗ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا يَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيْمُ



FIGURE 2.237 Surface B, JBH8

C:

- ... from crop ... from ... at land ...

ج: من حاصل من بسيحة.....



FIGURE 2.238 Surface C, JBH8

D:

د:

-

- ... The holy ... Shaikh ... bin Naser ...

.....المقدس.....الشيخ...بن ناصر.....



FIGURE 2.239 Surface D, JBH8

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.236

Reference Number: JBH9

Co-ordinates: 26.21651° N 050.53094° E

Dimensions: 66 cm (l) × 22 cm (w) × 34.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone. Very eroded. Probably once one part of a double slab gravestone. Unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Partial inscriptions on two surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– No carving or inscriptions.

أ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.240 Surface A, JBH9

B:

–
– ... Allah ...

ب:
.....
.....الله.....



FIGURE 2.241
Surface B, JBH9

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.242
Surfaces C and E, JBH9

D:

د:

-

.....

- ... The late Shaikh 'Ali bin 'Abd بن الشيخ علي بن المرحوم عبدالحسين.
al-Husayn.



FIGURE 2.243 Surface E, JBH9

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.242

Reference Number: JBH10

Co-ordinates: 26.21650° N 050.53093° E

Dimensions: 155 cm (l) × 31.5 cm (w) × 55.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Shallow carved rounded niche design on upper surface (E). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin flat rounded slab all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. Well-carved inscriptions on five surfaces. The roughly carved base that was designed to be below the ground surface can be seen. In generally good condition but with some patches of erosion.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30-32). Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them, Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance
- And drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish (38:50-54). Eat and drink comfortably for that which you used to do. They will recline on thrones arranged in ranks. And shall marry them to ... (52:19-20).

أ:

تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ عَفْوٍ رَّحِيمٍ. جَنَاتٍ
عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةً لَّهُمُ الْبُيُوتُ، مُتَّكِنِينَ فِيهَا
يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ.

كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ.
كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ مُتَّكِنِينَ
عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَّصْفُوفَةٍ وَرَوَّجَاتِهِمْ.....



FIGURE 2.244 Surfaces A and E, JBH10

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills.
- His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the right path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever ... (2:255-256).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ.

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
يُؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا
إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ
اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.245 Surface B, JBH10

C:

ج:

- Accomplishment of the Quran..... followed by sixteen muhammadiyah from the income Baskets ...
- Twenty shares ... completeness ... is ten shares ... Ten shares from zakat ...

قراءتها ختم القرآن..... تتلى لكل ست
عشر محمدية من حاصل..... جلات.....
عشرين سهما... تمام... هي عشرة أسهما...
عشرة اسهما من سهام الزكات..... كما...
(من) (بتعف).

- Engraved by Muhammad Sa'id ...

نقشه الاقل محمد سعيد.....

FIGURE 2.246
Surface C, JBH10

D:

- This is the shrine of the late Hakima (possibly Halima) bint Shaikh 'Ali bin Shaikh Ahmad bin ...

هذا ضريح المرحومة حكيمة (حليمة) بنت
المبرور الشيخ علي بن الشيخ أحمد بن ...

- ... in twelfth of Jumada al-awwal in one thousand and one hundred.

..... في ثاني عشر جمادى الاولى
من السنة المائة والالف.



FIGURE 2.247 Surface D, JBH10

E:

- Written by Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din al-Bahrani, may Allah forgive them.

هـ:
كتبه الاقل حسين بن علي بن زين الدين
البحراني عفي عنهما.

- ... Oh how the soil embedded her until the cloud cried on her. صور كيف يواربها الثرى *** لا
غدت يسكبها دمع السحاب.
- She has got the happiness of the world and the afterlife, and she went to Allah until Allah showed her ... سعدت دنيا ودين واتت *** ربها حتى
اراهها.....
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser Bin al-Sayyid Hashim, May Allah forgive them. نقشه السيد ناصر بن السيد المرحوم
الاجل هاشم عفى الله عنهما.

See Figure 2.244

Reference Number: JBH11

Co-ordinates: 26.21654° N 050.53101° E

Dimensions: 127 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 41 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Shallow carved pointed niche design on upper surface (E). Eroded unidentifiable probably three element raised decoration at both ends. Double rosettes carved at each end on upper surface (E). Inscriptions on five surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- أ:
- The heavens and the earth. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). And those who kept duty to their Lord will be led to Paradise in groups, until, السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ. وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا
رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا
جَاؤُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ
خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا
خَالِدِينَ.
- When they reach it, and its gates are opened and its keepers say to them: peace be upon you, you have done well, so enter here to abide therein (39:73).



FIGURE 2.248 Surface A, JBH11

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over (2:255).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي

الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ



FIGURE 2.249 Surface B, JBH11

C:

ج:

- Written by the one who trusts in his God, 'Abd al-Husayn bin Muhammad.

رقه المعتصم بربه الاوحد
عبدالمحسن بن محمد.

- Engraved by the one who trusts in his Great God, Salman bin 'Ali, 1007.

نقشه الواثق بربه العلي سلمان بن علي

.1007



FIGURE 2.250 Surface C, JBH11

D:

- The death of the Blissful, 'Abd al-Salam bin Naser,

كان اندراج المحبور عبدالسلام بن
ناصر.

- The Truthful, the Beacon, was in eighth of Rabi',

الحق المنار العامر (باق) لثامنه من شهر
ربيع.

- After one thousand and three of the Prophet's migration.

الآخر بعد الثلاثة والالف من هجرة
النبي الطاهر.



FIGURE 2.251
Surface D, JBH11

E:

- The destiny engraved on stone. Death is the inevitable fate. هـ:
نقش القضاء على الحجر *** الموت
محتوم القدر
- And the grave is a lesson ... followed by the history. والقبر من احدى العبر *** يتبعها
الاثـر.



FIGURE 2.252 Surface E, JBH11

Reference Number: JBH12

Co-ordinates: 26.21634° N 050.52946° E

Dimensions: 151 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 56 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone. Found lying on its side and excavated to expose inscriptions on four surfaces, but too fragile to move to record the buried surface (B). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded slab all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Shallow carved pointed niche design on upper surface (E).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask (41:30-31).
- Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish (38:50-54). God Almighty has spoken the truth.

أ:

تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ.

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُمْتِنَةٍ مُفْتَحَةً لَهُمْ أَبْوَابٌ، مُتَكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا الرِّزْقَ مَا لَهُ مِنْ تَفَادٍ. صدق الله العظيم



FIGURE 2.253 Surface A, JBH12

B: ب:
 - Not able to read.

C: ج:
 - ... This is ... al-Bahrayn ... Al ... هذا البحرين الا
 -



FIGURE 2.254 Surface C, JBH12

D: د:
 - This is the grave of the late Hajj مبرك بن اسماعيل (اسماعيل). هذا ضريح المرحوم الحاج مبارك بن اسماعيل (اسماعيل).
 - Died after one thousand and two. توفي بعد سنة اثنين والالف.



FIGURE 2.255
Surface D, JBH12

E:

- Written by the least, the one who stands in need of the Only Owner of the Day of Reckoning, Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din.
- Be aware that the grave is the place of bodies but the souls go to the Generous.

هـ:

كتبه الاقل الفقير لملك يوم الدين حسين
بن علي بن زين الدين.
صح ان الثرى مقر الجسوم*** ومصير
الارواح عند الكريم.

- You are really blessed and a lover of 'Ali, so in the afterlife you will live in happiness. انت حقا مبارك وموال *** لعي فاثبت
غدا بالنعيم.
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni. نقشه السيد ناصر بن السيد الفاخر سيد
هاشم الحسيني.



FIGURE 2.256 Surface E, JBH12

Reference Number: JBH13

Co-ordinates: 26.21656° N 050.53002° E

Dimensions: 104 cm (l) × 44 cm (w) × 23 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.257). No inscriptions. Excavated to move it from an upside-down position to check for inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.257 JBH13

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

13 Jidhafs (JID)

Location: Jidhafs village cemetery

Reference Number: JID1

Co-ordinates: 26.22020° N 050.53889° E

Dimensions: 122 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 25.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs measured as one unit because of its poor condition. Very eroded with traces of cement between the two slabs. Partial inscriptions on two surfaces. Excavated to expose gravestone as almost completely buried and tilted on its side.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious,.....

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ
.....

– Whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them (2:255).

مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا.



FIGURE 2.258 Surface A, part 1, JID1



FIGURE 2.259 Surface A, part 2, JID1

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:

لا توجد كتابات

C:

-

- Month of Jumada II, year 903.

ج:

.....

شهر جمادى الاولى لسنة 903.



FIGURE 2.260 Surface C, JID1

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد كتابات

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد كتابات

14 Jidhafs al-Imam (JAI)

Location: Jidhafs village cemetery**Reference Number:** JAI1**Co-ordinates:** 26.21914° N 050.53564° E**Dimensions:** 162 cm (l) × 23.5 cm (w) × 54 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single solid limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.261). No inscriptions. Three element raised decoration formed of two badly carved and mis-shapen faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at both ends. The sides are roughly cut and carved with possible chisel marks at one end. The gravestone was possibly left unfinished because of the poor surface quality of the side surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.261 JAI1

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: JAI2

Co-ordinates: 26.21891° N 050.53574° E

Dimensions: 155 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.262). Very badly eroded. No inscriptions. Unidentifiable raised decoration at one end represented by an eroded mis-shapen lump. The gravestone appears to have been re-used or re-appropriated fairly recently, as indicated by the erection of a rectangular boundary around it made from a single course of unmortared cement blocks set upright.



FIGURE 2.262 JA12

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: JA13

Co-ordinates: 26.21879° N 050.53586° E

Dimensions: 136 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 48,5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Very eroded on top and parts of upper surface. Remains of three element unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Partial inscriptions on four surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

–

.....

- Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21–22).
Enter ...

يَبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُم بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.

ادخلوا.....



FIGURE 2.263 Surfaces A and E, JAI3

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). God's blessings and peace be upon Muhammad and his family.

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ. وصل
الله على محمد وآله الطاهرين.



FIGURE 2.264 Surface B, JAI3

C:

- This is the grave ... Fifteen.

ج: هذا ضريحخمس عشر.

- ... Ramadan, year one thousand,
forty-six.

..... رمضان سنة سادسة والاربعين
والف.



FIGURE 2.265 Surface C, JA13

D:

- This grave of the late ...

د: هذا ضريح المندر.....(المندرج)....لي.....

- His God, Shaikh Muhammad bin
'Abd Allah ... Abu ...

ربه الفرد الشيخ محمد بن عبدالله... ابو
ر.....

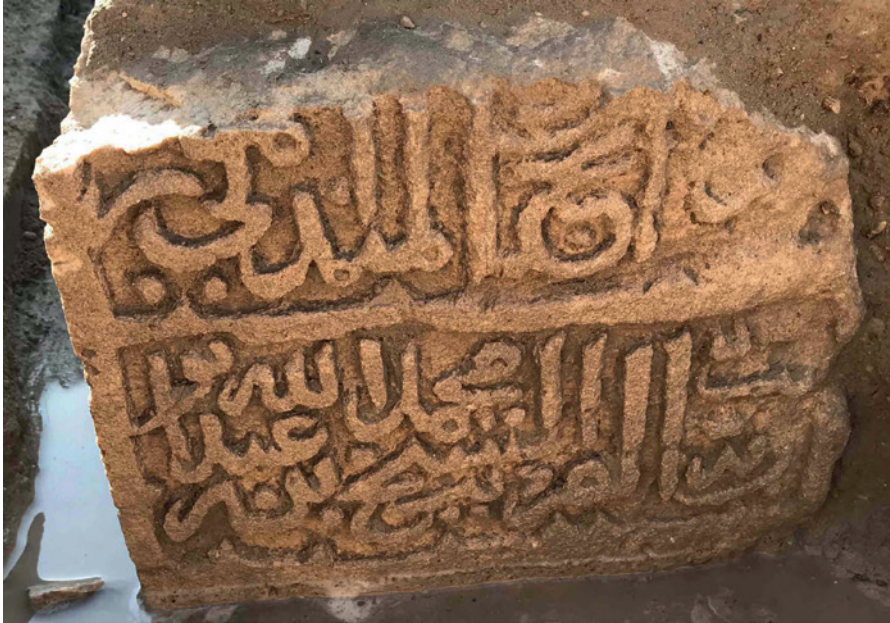


FIGURE 2.266 Surface D, JA13

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات

See Figure 2.263

15 Karranah (KAR)

Location: Karranah village cemetery. Gravestones are only found in one part of the cemetery; the other part of the cemetery is separated as it is bisected by a road where it was around the al-Rabi mosque/shrine. This part of the cemetery is the only one recorded with a pre-Islamic site beneath it. Rescue excavations during 2010–2012 found clay tub burials of Late Dilmun date (c. 1000–400 BC; cf. Lombard 1988: 80 for examples). The al-Rabi mosque/shrine has been extensively rebuilt (Chapter 3) and the graves that surrounded it have now gone, being replaced by recent housing development.

Reference Number: KAR1**Co-ordinates:** 26.22647° N 050.51442° E

Dimensions: Not measured

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Grave covered in concrete (Figure 2.267). Probable inscribed gravestone underneath.



FIGURE 2.267 KARI

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No Inscriptions

Reference Number: KAR2

Co-ordinates: 26.22675° N 050.51525° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 62 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Slab 2: 72 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs (Figure 2.268). Eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at one end and partially identifiable 3-element raised decoration at the other end comprising one faceted cube and two unidentifiable elements on a rectangular plinth. No inscriptions but traces of shallow carved

pointed niche design on top surface (E). The gravestone had been bedded into the ground with stones. This gravestone, alongside KAR3, was set within the remains of small mosque on a low mound. Small stones marked the former walls and mihrab (180 cm × 90 cm) of the mosque which covered an area of c.8m (l) × 6m (w). The mihrab contained KAR4. Excavated to expose the whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.268 KAR2

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KAR3

Co-ordinates: 26.22676° N 050.51526° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 72 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Slab 2: 59 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs. Eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at both ends. Badly eroded on top and upper parts of all the side and end surfaces where they were above the ground surface. Inscriptions on four surfaces and bottom half of shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably a niche, on upper surface (E). Traces of red paint/pigment on the lettering on two surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge
- Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

أ:
يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِندِهِ
إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ
الْعَظِيمُ



FIGURE 2.269 Surfaces A and E, KAR3

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs
- Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! (2:255)

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ



FIGURE 2.270 Surface B, KAR3

C:

-

- ... year eight hundred and forty-seven.

ج:

.....

.....سنة سبع واربعين وثمانمايه



FIGURE 2.271 Surface C, KAR3

D:

- ... Allah ...
- The chaste lady, Bi Bi Shah Zanan bint Mansur bin 'Ali bin 'Abd al-Amir (al-Naser) Muhammad. May Allah have mercy on her.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
 العفيفة الخفيرة بي بي شاه زنان بنت
 منصور بن علي بن الامير (النصير) محمد
 يرحم (ها) الله.



FIGURE 2.272 Surface D. KAR3

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هنا
 لا توجد كتابات

See Figure 2.269

Reference Number: KAR4

Co-ordinates: 26.22670° N 050.51522° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 74 cm (l) × 49 cm (w) × 43 cm (h)

Slab 2: 96 cm (l) × 48.5 cm (w) × 36 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double hollow limestone slabs (Figure 2.273). These were found buried just south of the mihrab in the small mosque that also contained KAR2 and KAR3. Very eroded. Remains of possible unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. No inscriptions. An invocation for magical purposes written on paper was found placed in a small bottle and buried under one of the slabs. It had written on it the words “buried old grave” in Arabic. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.273 KAR4

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KAR5

Co-ordinates: 26.22861° N 050.51462° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 99.5 cm (l) × 40 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Slab 2: 100 cm (l) × 42 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Gravestone formed of two limestone slabs set into the floor in the Sheikh Nasser bin Muhammad bin Shaikh Abdullah al-Rabi shrine/mosque. Eroded (due to moisture) inside shrine structure. Modern tile flooring that covered the gravestone was removed to expose it. Eroded and unidentifiable raised rectangular decoration at both ends. Remains of decoration including a carved circle, and shallow carved rounded niche design with an arrow carved within a small rectangle above the rounded end of the niche on the top surface (E). Inscriptions on four surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:**A:**

– Praise be to Allah. There is no god but Allah. Praise be to Allah. God's blessings upon Muhammad al-Mustafa, God's blessings upon Ali al-Murtada, God's blessings upon Fatimah al-Zahra', God's blessings upon al-Hasan, God blessings upon al-Husayn, God's blessings upon 'Ali bin al-Husayn, God's blessings upon Muhammad, God's blessings upon Ja'far, God's blessings upon Musa, God's blessings upon 'Ali, God's blessings upon Muhammad, God's blessings upon 'Ali, God's blessings upon al-Hasan al-'Askari, and God's blessings upon al-Hujjah al-Khalaf al-Hadi al-Mahdi. God's blessings upon all of them ...

أ:
الحمد لله لا اله الا الله الحمد لله كثيرا اللهم
صل على محمد المصطفى وصل على علي
المرتضى وصل على فاطمة الزهراء وصل
على الحسن وصل على الحسين وصل
على علي ابن الحسين وصل على محمد
وصل على جعفر وصل على موسى وصل
على علي وصل على محمد وصل على علي
وصل على الحسن العسكري وصل على
الحق الحجة الخلف الهادي المهدي
صلوات الله عليهم.....

- Verily, We have sent it down in the al-Qadr night. And what will make you know what the night of al-Qadr night is. The al-Qadr night is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Spirit by Allah's Permission with all decrees. There is peace until the appearance of dawn (97:1-5).

أَنَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ، وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ
 مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ، لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ
 شَهْرٍ، تَنْزَلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ
 رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ، سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّى مَطْلَعِ
 الْفَجْرِ.....



FIGURE 2.274 Surfaces A and E, KAR5

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that ... (2:255)
-

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
 هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
 مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
 الَّذِي.....



FIGURE 2.275 Surface B, part 1, KAR5



FIGURE 2.276 Surface B, part 2, KAR5

C:

- nine hundred and sixty five وخمس وستين وتسعمائة.....
 endowment ... Muhammad ... Naser وقف... محمد... ناصر بن ربيع... قراءة
 bin Rabi' ... reading of Allah's book, كتاب الله من حاصل.....
 from crop of ...



FIGURE 2.277 Surface C, KAR5

D:

- ... six ... Allah ... His mercy ستة... الله..... رحمته..... بربغي.....
 Barbaghi ... ناصر بن عبدالله بن ربيع الأولي في
 - Naser bin 'Abd Allah bin Rabi' al- عشرين رجب ستة وخمسين وتسعمية
 Awali, in twentieth of Rajab, nine (تسعمية).....
 hundred and sixty-five.



FIGURE 2.278 Surface D, KAR5

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات

See Figure 2.274

16 Al-Khamis (KHA)

Location: Archaeological site of former urban cemetery with associated mosque and shrine. The cemetery overlies and cuts down into an earlier phase of residential, commercial, and industrial occupation dated to between the eighth/ninth to fourteenth centuries AD (Insoll et al 2016: 240). Not all the gravestones are in their original positions as some were moved in the 1980s or earlier as part of restoration work at the site.

Reference Number: KHA1**Co-ordinates:** 26.22861° N 050.51462° E**Dimensions:** 33 cm (l) × 36 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)**Orientation:** NA

Description: Single limestone slab, part of double slab gravestone. Eroded. Not in original position. Eroded three element raised decoration at one end with one faceted cube identifiable. Partial inscriptions on three surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 21, Kalus (1990: 53).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah.
- His Seat ... the heavens and the earth (2:255).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ.
كُرْسِيِّهِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ.



FIGURE 2.279 Surface A, KHA1

B:

-
- Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut (2:256).

ب:
.....
فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ



FIGURE 2.280 Surface B, KHAI

C:

- And believes in Allah, then he has grasped.
- The most trustworthy handhold that will never break (2:256).

ج:

وَيُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا.



FIGURE 2.281 Surface C, KHA1

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد كتابات

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد كتابات

Reference Number: KHA2

Co-ordinates: 26.20849° N 050.54841° E

Dimensions: 83.5 cm (l) × 36 cm (w) × 42 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone, part of double slab gravestone. Not in original position and not associated with neighbouring stone. Eroded and unidentifiable three element raised decoration at one end. Inscriptions on three surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number S6, Kalus (1995: 137–138).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

– Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased and of Gardens from them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever (9:21–22).

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا أَبَدًا.

– Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised (41:30). Whatsoever is on the earth will perish (55:26).

أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي
كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ. كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ.



FIGURE 2.282 Surface A, KHA2

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, we have given you a manifest victory.

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِينًا.

- Straight path. And that Allah may help you with strong help (48:1-3). Gardens of Eden, which they shall enter (13:23).

صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِیْمًا وَیَنْصُرْكَ اللّٰهُ نَصْرًا عَزِیْزًا. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ یَدْخُلُونَهَا.



FIGURE 2.283 Surface B, KHA2

C:

- No carving or inscriptions

ج:

لا توجد كتابات

D:

- The blessed late, the example of great masters has died ...
- Glory of the religion, 'Abd al-Aziz bin Ibrahim bin Salih. God rest his soul.

د: توفی المولی السعید المرحوم قدوة أعظم السادات والا.....
عز الملة والحق والدين عبدالعزیز بن ابراهیم بن صالح طاب ثراه.



FIGURE 2.284 Surface D, KHA2

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات

Reference Number: KHA3

Co-ordinates: 26.20847° N 050.54841° E

Dimensions: 60 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone, part of double slab gravestone. Not in original position and not associated with neighbouring stone. Inscriptions on two surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number S4, Kalus (1995: 135).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The late ... , the honoured, the master was ...
- ... Kamal Aldain Muhammad Bin Ali Bin Esa Bin Ali Bin ...
- May Allah have mercy on them, in ... day of Sha'ban, year of ... And hundred ...

أ:
 كان... المرحوم المغفور له.....
 المعظم قطب دائرة.
 الصو..... الا... كمال الدين محمد بن علي
 بن عيسى بن علي بن محمد (قر).
 عليهم الرحمة والغفران في يوم..... من
 شهر شعبان سنة (ثمانى مائة).



FIGURE 2.285 Surface A, KHA3

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, we have given you a manifest victory.
- That Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future. And complete His favour on you,
- And guide you on the straight path. And that Allah may help you with strong help (48:1-3).

ب:
 بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ.
 فَتْحًا مُّبِیْنًا لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللّٰهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ
 ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَاَخَّرَ وَتُمْ نِعْمَتُهُ.
 عَلَيْكَ وَيَهْدِيْكَ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيْمًا وَيَنْصُرَكَ
 اللّٰهُ نَصْرًا عَزِيْزًا.



FIGURE 2.286 Surface B, KHA3

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ج: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

د: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ه: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

Reference Number: KHA4**Co-ordinates:** 26.20848° N 050.54844° E**Dimensions:**

Slab 1: 80 cm (l) × 32 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Slab 2: 57 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Significant erosion in places, particularly where it was exposed above the surface of the shrine mound. Three element raised decoration at one end formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch and eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at the other end. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably part of a niche, on the

top surface (E) of the less eroded slab. Partially legible inscriptions on three surfaces. Excavated to expose associated shrine and whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– ... Muham ... And those ...

–

أ:
.....محم.....والذين.....
.....



FIGURE 2.287 Surface A, KHA4

B:

– ... the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, there is no deity but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter (2:255).

ب:
.....الرحمن الرحيم، الله لا إله إلا هو
الحي القيوم لا تأخذه سنة ولا نوم له ما
في السموات وما في الأرض من ذا الذي
يشفع عنده إلا بإذنه يعلم ما بين أيديهم
وما خلفهم.



FIGURE 2.288 Surfaces B and E, KHA4

C:

- Grave of Shaikh Has ...

- Has ...

- Al ...

ج:

.....ضريح الشيخ حس

.....حس

.....ال



FIGURE 2.289 Surface C, KHA4

D:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

هـ: حالة النقش سيئة جدا، لا يمكن قراءته

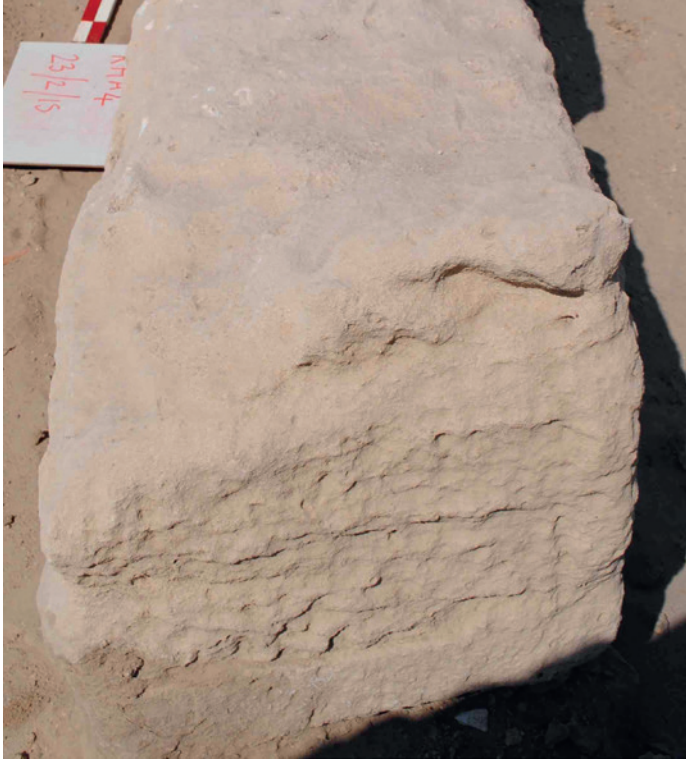


FIGURE 2.290
Surface D, KHA4

E:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

هـ: حالة النقش سيئة جدا، لا يمكن قراءته

See Figure 2.288

Reference Number: KHA5**Co-ordinates:** 26.20851° N 050.54845° E**Dimensions:**

Slab 1: 61 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Slab 2: 70 cm (l) × 22 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Unidentifiable three element raised decoration at both ends. Shallow carved rounded niche design on top surface (E). Red paint/pigment on the lettering on two surfaces. Inscriptions on four surfaces. Excavated within collapsed shrine.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- May peace from Allah be upon Muhammad al-Mustafa and Imam 'Ali al-Murtada. Peace be upon al-Hasan al-Radi. Peace be upon the martyr at Karbala, al-Husayn bin 'Ali. Peace be upon Zayn al-'Ubad. Peace be upon Muhammad al-Baqir. Peace be upon Ja'far al-Sadiq.
- And Musa al-Kadhim ... upon 'Ali bin Musa al-Rida. Peace be upon Muhammad al-Naqi. Peace be upon 'Ali al-Taqqi. Peace be upon al-Hasan al-'Askari. Peace be upon al-Hujjah al-Mahdi. May peace from Allah be upon all of them.

أ:
 اللهم صل على محمد المصطفى وعلى
 الامام علي المرتضى وصل على الحسن
 الرضي وصل على الحسين بن علي الشهيد
 بكر بلاء وصل على زين العباد وصل على
 محمد الباقر وصل على جعفر الصادق.
 وموسى الكاظم وص... على علي بن موسى
 الرضا وصل على محمد النقي وصل على
 علي النقي وصل على الحسن العسكري
 وصل على الخلف الحجة القائم
 المهدي صلوات الله عليهم اجمعين.



FIGURE 2.291 Surface A, KHA5

B:

- Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows
- what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). The angels will descend on them, saying: Fear not, nor grieve; but receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised (41:30).

ب:

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ
سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا
فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا
بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ

مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ
بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ. تَنْزِيلٌ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ
أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي
كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ.



FIGURE 2.292 Surface B, KHA5

C:

- ... in the eleventh.
- Of Muharram, in nine hundred and ninety-seven.

ج:

.....بتاريخ اليوم الحادي عشر.
محرم سنة سبع وتسعين وتسعمائة.



FIGURE 2.293 Surface C, KHA5

D:

– The noble and chaste lady,

توفيت الشريفة الطاهرة.

– Muluk bint al-Sayyid ‘Abd al-‘Aziz,
died.

العفيفة ملوك بنت السيد عبدالعزيز.



FIGURE 2.294 Surface D, KHA5

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.295
Surface E, KHA5

Reference Number: KHA6

Co-ordinates: 26.20850° N 050.54847° E

Dimensions: 74.5 cm (L) × 19 cm (W) × 40 cm (H)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab, part of a double slab gravestone. Cracked. Eroded and unidentifiable three element raised decoration set on a rectangular

plinth at one end. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel design on the top surface (E). Red paint/pigment on lettering on all three inscribed surfaces. Inscriptions on three surfaces. Excavated within collapsed shrine.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- May peace from Allah be upon Muhammad al-Mustafa and ... upon 'Ali al-Murtada. Peace be upon Al Hasan.
- And Peace be upon Ja'far al-Sadiq and Musa al-Kadhim. Peace be upon 'Ali bin Musa al-Rida. Peace be upon Muhammad al ...

أ:
اللهم صل على محمد المصطفى و.... على
علي المرتضى.... وصل على الحسن.

وصل على جعفر الصادق وصل على
موسى الكاظم وصل على علي الرضا
وصل على محمد ال.....



FIGURE 2.296 Surface A, KHA6

B:

- nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission!
- His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب:
وَلَا تَوَدُّ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ.

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
يُؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.297 Surface B, KHA6

C:

- In the beginning of the month of
- Jumada al-awwal.
- In the year of four hundred and seven.

ج: بتاريخ غرة شهر.

جمادى الاولى.

سنة سبع واربعماية.

FIGURE 2.298
Surface C, KHA6

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.299
Surfaces D and E, KHA6

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.299

Reference Number: KHA7

Co-ordinates: 26.20843° N 050.54847° E

Dimensions: 156 cm (l) × 29.5 cm (w) × 39 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Cracked and broken on top where it was exposed above the ground surface. Possible traces of red paint/pigment on some of the lettering. Raised decoration, which was possibly set on rectangular plinths has been cut off each end. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Shallow carved rounded niche design on the top surface (E). Excavated inside the main room of a collapsed shrine. The gravestone states that the shrine was built for the person it commemorates, Shaikh Muhammad bin al-Mabrur Shaikh Majid.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and then they stand firm, The angels will descend on them, (saying:) 'Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire and all that you ask for.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا
تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا نَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ.

- As hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30-32). Gardens of Eden whose gates will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be maidens of equal age with modest gaze. This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our Provision which will never finish (38:50-54).

نُزُلًا مِّنْ غُفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ
مُّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكِينِينَ فِيهَا
يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ،
وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ،
هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا
لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ.



FIGURE 2.300 Surface A, KHA7

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows ... And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends
- over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in Guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Allah, then has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer All-Knower (2:255-256). Allah and His Great Prophet have spoken the truth.

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ اَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُوْنَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهٗ

السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا يَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيْمُ، لَا اِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّيْنِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِیْعٌ عَلِیْمٌ. صدق اللّٰهُ العظيْم وبلغ رسوله النبي الكريم.



FIGURE 2.301 Surface B, KHA7

C:

- This is the shrine of the late Shaikh Muhammad bin al-Mabrur Shaikh Majid, may Allah be merciful to him, he died on Friday, nineteenth

ج: هذا... ح (ضريح) المرحوم المقدس
الشيخ محمد بن المبرور الشيخ ماجد
رحمه الله وكانت... ته (وفاته) ليوم الجمعة
تاسع عشر.

- of Sha'ban, year one thousand one hundred and five.

شهر شعبان سنة الخامسة بعد المائة
والف.



FIGURE 2.302 Surface C, KHA7

D:

- Reading one part of the Book of God the Powerful, for fifteen Muhammadiyyah.
- From income of the al-Mahall palms which are located in the backyard of Mani in al-Bahrayn.

قراءة جزء من كتاب الله العزيز...
 (مقابل) خمس عشر محمدية.
 من حاصل نخل المحل وتوابعه موقعه
 بسيحة ظهر مني من البحرين



FIGURE 2.303 Surface D, KHA7

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser Bin the late al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni, May Allah forgive them.
- Oh grave, be proud you embedded ... and illuminated ... sadness ...
- ... paradise ... offered to me ... may be ... people
- ... them.

هـ:
 نقشه السيد ناصر بن الفاخر المرحوم
 السيد هاشم الحسيني عفى الله عنهما.
 ظل ضريحاً حوى ط..... لي *** وسنا.....
 الحزن.....
 الخلد..... مقدم لي *** عسى.....
 خلق.....
 عنهم.



FIGURE 2.304 Surface E, KHA7

Reference Number: KHA8

Co-ordinates: 26.20837° N 050.54841° E

Dimensions: 168 cm (l) × 36 cm (w) × 46 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Very eroded except on one surface. Inscription on one surface, and partially legible inscription on another surface. Not in original position.

Previous Publication: Number 17, Kalus (1990: 48).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Gardens of Eden whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages (38:50–52). The angels will descend on them, (saying:) ‘Fear not, nor grieve; But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and in the Hereafter.

أ:

جَنَاتِ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
 مُتَكِّئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
 وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
 أَتْرَابٌ. تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْأَلَا
 تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ
 تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا
 وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ.

- Therein you shall have all that your souls desire and all that you ask for as hospitality from One, the Forgiving, the Most Merciful (41:30–32). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased and of gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21–22). Eden Gardens which they shall enter and also those who acted righteously from among their fathers, and their wives, and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate (13:23).

وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزُلًا مِنْ غُفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ. يَبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُقِيمٌ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ.



FIGURE 2.305 Surface A, KHA8

B:

ب:

- No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.306 Surface B, KHA8

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.307
Surfaces C and E, KHAS

D:

-
- Year ...

د:

.....
السنة ال.....

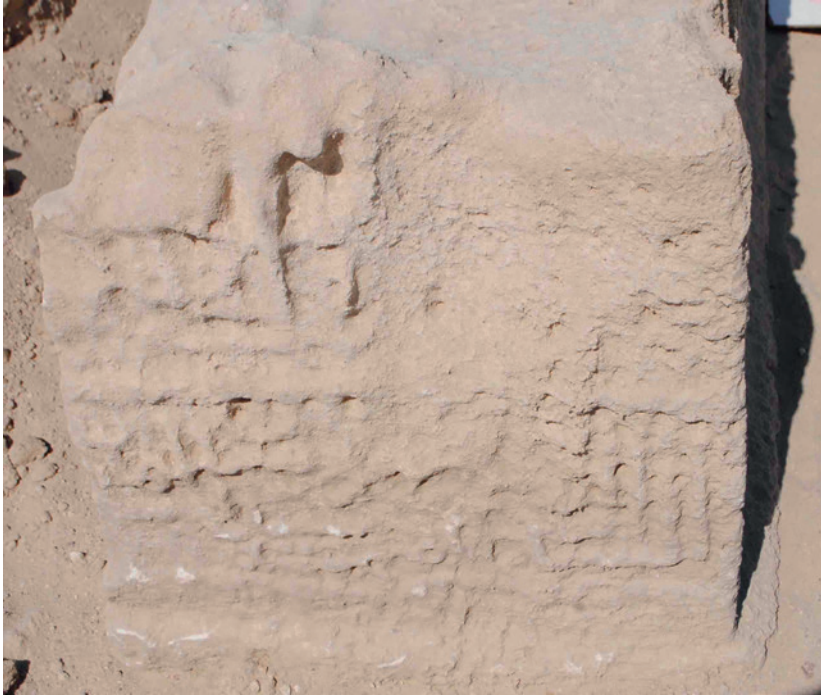


FIGURE 2.308 Surface D, KHA8

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هنا
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.307

Reference Number: KHA9**Co-ordinates:** 26.20838° N 050.54844° E**Dimensions:** 141 cm (l) × 40 cm (w) × 60 cm (h)**Orientation:** NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.309). It is roughed out and was probably left unfinished as it has been irregularly cut into shape on one side

and thus is not the regular rectangular block usually found. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end, but irregularly cut and of poor quality. Chisel marks can be seen on one side. Not in original position



FIGURE 2.309 KHA9

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KHA10

Co-ordinates: 26.20836° N 050.54842° E

Dimensions: 157 cm (l) × 37 cm (w) × 53 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Heavily eroded on top surface (E) and one side surface (A). Inscriptions on four surfaces. Raised decoration broken or cut off at one end and eroded or the other end, but with one faceted cube and a central rounded arch identifiable. Not in original position.

Previous Publication: Number 13, Kalus (1990: 37). The raised decoration from the one end has disappeared since it was recorded by Kalus (cf.1990: Pl. xv).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- No carving or inscriptions.

أ:
لا توجد نقوش أو زخارف



FIGURE 2.310 Surface A, KHA10

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens.
- And the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes

ب:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ

وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا

in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their supporters are Taghut (2:255-257).

انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَيُّ
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى
النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ.



FIGURE 2.311
Surface B,
KHA10

C:

– ... unless ... Allah ... night between ...
thirty-seven ...

ج: الا لله ليلة بين السابعة
والثلاثين



FIGURE 2.312
Surface C, KHA10

D:

- Grave of the late, the blessed, al-Sayyid Darwish bin

قبر ومستقر المرحوم السيد
درويش بن.

- al-Sayyid Naser Bin al-Mutawwaj al-Sayyid Sulayman.

السيد ناصر بن المتوج السيد سليمان
تغمدهم الله برحمته.

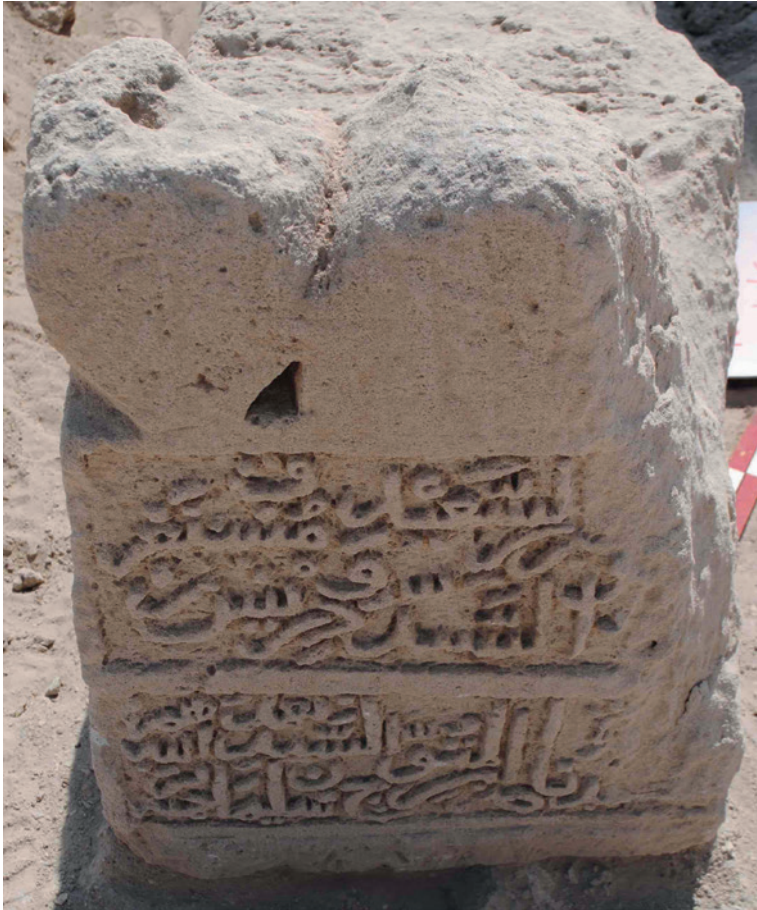


FIGURE 2.313 Surface D, KHA10

E:

- Inscribed by al-Sayyid Hashim ...

ه:
نقشه السيد هاشم.....

- al-Sayyid 'Ali ...

السيد علي.....



FIGURE 2.314
Surface E, KHA10

Reference Number: KHA11

Co-ordinates: 26.20836° N 050.54845° E

Dimensions: 178 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 64 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single hollow limestone slab gravestone. No inscriptions. Three element raised decoration at one end formed of two faceted cubes and a central

rounded arch. At the other end the raised decoration has been cleanly cut off. The gravestone is unfinished and there are cut marks on the one side surface (A) where the stone has been roughly sawn into shape (Figure 2.315). The other side surface (B) has been broken recently but has a short carved raised plinth at its base (Figure 2.316). Not in original position.

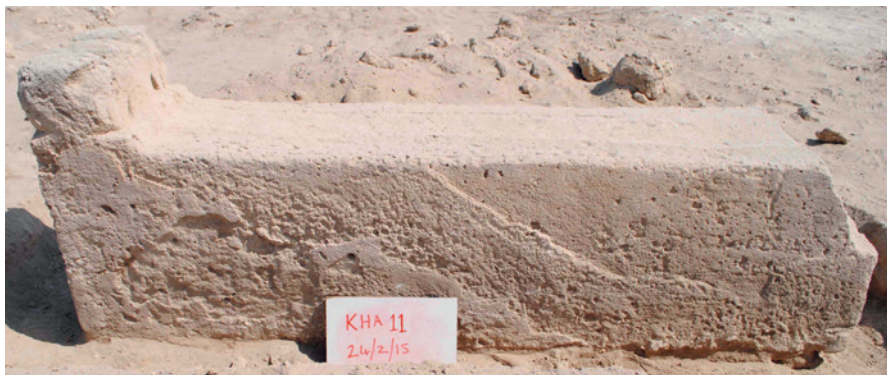


FIGURE 2.315 Surface A, KHA11



FIGURE 2.316 Surface B, KHA11

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KHA12

Co-ordinates: 26.20834° N 050.54844° E

Dimensions: Two slabs measured as one unit – 127 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Some erosion on top. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Possibly in original position close to mosque wall. Inscriptions on five surfaces. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break.
- And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their supporters are al-Taghut.

وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ
تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ
وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى
لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا.

وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ
كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاءُ لَهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ.



FIGURE 2.317 Surface A, KHA12

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا.

- Except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them (2:255-257).

عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا.



FIGURE 2.318 Surface B, KHA12

C:

- Glad Mercy from Him, and His being pleased with them, and of Paradise for them wherein are everlasting delights.
- They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21-22).

ج: بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا اَبَدًا اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهٗ اَجْرٌ عَظِيْمٌ.



FIGURE 2.319 Surface C, KHA12

D:

- Darkness, those are the dwellers of the Fire.
- And they will abide therein forever (2:257). Their Lord gives them (9:21-22).

د:

الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ.
هُم فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ. يَبْشُرُهُم رَبُّهُمْ.



FIGURE 2.320
Surface D, KHA12

- E: هـ:
- ... the soil and he is the moon of science and work. الشرى وهو بدر العلم والعمل.
 - ... eighty-six, Awal Island. ست وثمان جزيرة اوال.
 - ... blessed grave ... 'Ali leaves قبر طاب.....يرحل علي.



FIGURE 2.321 Surface E, KHA12

Reference Number: KHA13

Co-ordinates: 26.20835° N 050.54846° E

Dimensions: 143 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 39.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Top surface (E) eroded but a shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably a niche is identifiable. Inscriptions on five surfaces, two only partially legible. Raised decoration has been cut off at each end and these were set on rectangular plinths which remain. Not in original position.

Previous Publication: Number 19, Kalus (1990: 50)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- A: أ:
- Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright, the angels descend upon them, saying: إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا

Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask (41:30–31).

- Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish. This is so, and for the disobedient to Allah will be an evil final return (38:50–55).

تَحْرَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
مَخْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤَكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا نَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ.

جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتُوحَةً لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
مُتَكِّئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ،
إِنَّ هَذَا الرِّزْقُ مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ، هَذَا وَإِنَّ
لِلظَّالِمِينَ لَشَرَّ مَأْبٍ.



FIGURE 2.322 Surface A, KHA13

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ

the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth.

- And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light (2:255-257).

أَيَّدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ.

وَلَا يَؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ،
لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ.



FIGURE 2.323 Surface B, KHA13

C:

- This is the grave of the blessed ... The Prophet ... Mercy on him ...
- ... Thousand ... in ...

ج: هذا ضريح المبرور النبي
رحمه
..... الألف في



FIGURE 2.324 Surface C, KHA13

D:

- Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

حالة النقش سيئة جدا، لا يمكن قراءته

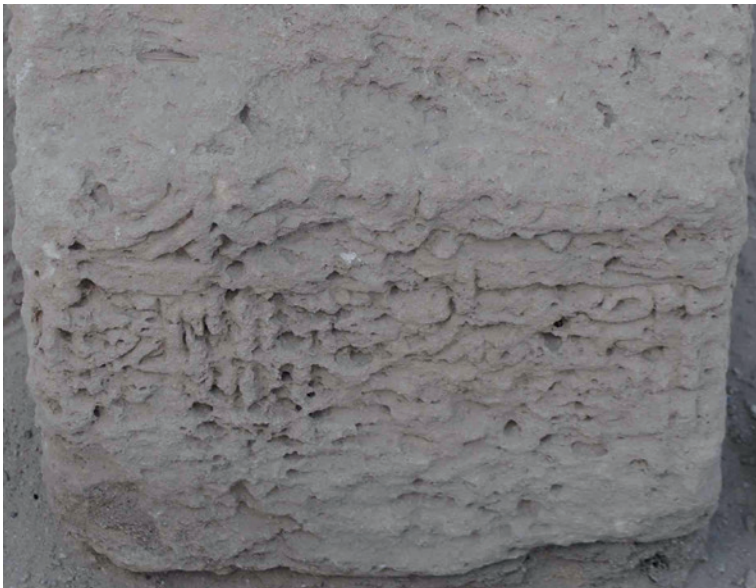


FIGURE 2.325 Surface D, KHA13

E:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

هـ:
حالة النقش سيئة جدا، لا يمكن قراءته

FIGURE 2.326
Surface E, KHA13

Reference Number: KHA14

Co-ordinates: 26.20833° N 050.54845° E

Dimensions: 138 cm (l) × 37 cm (w) × 54.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.327). No inscriptions. Rather than being due to erosion, the bad surface but relatively sharp lines of the different surfaces suggests the gravestone was left unfinished as the limestone was found to be of too poor quality to take inscriptions once the initial shape had been cut. Badly cut three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end, one of which is eroded. Not in original position. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.327 KHA14

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KHA15

Co-ordinates: 26.20831° N 050.54846° E

Dimensions: 126.5 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Some erosion at the base and at one end, suggesting it was upended and left exposed for some time. Not in original position. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded arch all set on a shallow rectangular plinth at each end. Shallow carved rounded riche design on upper surface (E). Hole drilled into one end surface (C). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 12, Kalus (1990: 35)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Inscription cannot be read.

أ:
نقش غير واضح



FIGURE 2.328 Surface A, KHA15

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him
- ... His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut ... in Allah (2:255-256).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ.

.....وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا
إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ
يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ.....بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ.



FIGURE 2.329 Surface B, KHA15

C:

- ... from proceeds...share ... known as ... located ... Katkatan ... every-day one part of the Quran should be read ...
-

ج: من حاصل سهم المعروفة...
 الكائن ككتان يقرء كل يوم جزء
 من القرآن.....



FIGURE 2.330
 Surface C, KHA15

D:

- ... six hundred and fifty-four ...

د:
..... اربع وخمسين وستماية.....

- Known as ...

المعروف.....



FIGURE 2.331 Surface D, KHA15

E:

- Engraved by Husayn bin 'Ali Bin Fardan al-Manami.

ه:
نقشه الاقل حسين بن علي بن فردان
المنامي.

- Oh grave, you embedded Naser who is great, dignified and polite

يا قبر واريت المقدس ناصرا*** ذات
الوقار مهذب الاخلاق.

- ... proud ... highclass ...

.....الفخر.....***.....الرفعة راقى.

- Written by Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din, may Allah forgive him.

كتبه الاقل حسين بن علي بن زين الدين
عفى عنهما.



FIGURE 2.332
Surface E, KHA15

Reference Number: KHA16

Co-ordinates: 26.20832° N 050.54847° E

Dimensions: 138 cm (l) × 31.5 cm (w) × 51.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.333). No inscriptions. Roughed out unfinished gravestone which has been cut to size but left decoratively uncarved. A rectangular block for raised decoration is cut at one end with a shallow rectangular plinth below it. Chisel marks on the upper surface (E) indicate that the rectangular block that would have formed the raised decoration has been cleanly cut off, but the lower rectangular plinth step has been left. Three small circular cup marks are cut into the upper surface (E). Not in original position.



FIGURE 2.333 KHA16

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KHA17

Co-ordinates: 26.20829° N 050.54847° E

Dimensions: 175 cm (l) × 33.5 cm (w) × 60 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Eroded three element raised decoration with one faceted cube and central rounded arch identifiable at one end, decoration cut off at the other end. Inscriptions on four surfaces. Not in original position.

Previous Publication: Number 18, Kalus (1990: 49)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world.
- And will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا

خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا
بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ،
لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
فَمَنْ



FIGURE 2.334 Surfaces A and E, KHA17

B:

- Disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. Allah is the Protector of those who believe. He brings them out from
- Darkness into light. But as for those who disbelieve, their supporters are Taghut, they bring them out from light into darkness. Those are the dwellers of the Fire, and they will abide therein forever (2:255-257). Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright (41:30-32).

ب:

يَكْفُرُ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ
اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ، اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِّنْ

الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
أُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ مِّنَ النُّورِ
إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ
فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ. إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ
اسْتَقَامُوا.



FIGURE 2.335 Surface B, KHA17

C:

- Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of paradise

ج:

لَا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزِنُوا وَأَبَشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ.



FIGURE 2.336 Surface C, KHA17

D:

- which you have been promised (41:30). We have been your friends in the life
- of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire,
- And therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:31-32).

د:

الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ
الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي
أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزَلًا مِّنْ
غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ.



FIGURE 2.337 Surface D, KHA17

E:
 – No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
 لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.334

Reference Number: KHA18

Co-ordinates: 26.20830° N 050.54849° E

Dimensions: 127 cm (l) × 22.5 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Heavily eroded. Raised decoration cut off at both ends. The gravestone has been deliberately recut on one surface (B) to remove the inscriptions except in the lower right corner where a fragment of the original inscribed surface remains. Partially legible inscriptions on four surfaces. Not in original position.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the name of Allah ... none has the right to be worshipped ...
- No ... al-Taghut, they bring them out ... (2:257).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ لَا إِلَهَ
لَا الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ



FIGURE 2.338 Surface A, KHA18

B:

- No legible inscriptions.

ب:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.339 Surface B, KHA18

C:

– ... and the holy ...

ج:والمقد (المقدس).....

– Al-Firdawsi Shaikh Muhammad bin Shaikh ‘Abd a[l].....bin Hasan.

الفردوسي الشيخ محمد (احمد) بن الشيخ

عبد ا.... (الله) بن حسن.



FIGURE 2.340 Surface C, KHA18

D:

د:

–

– Glorious Ramadan, year of one thousand, one hundred thirty-eight.

.....
رمضان المعظم السنة الثامنة والثلاثين
بعد مائة والالف.



FIGURE 2.341 Surface D, KHA18

E:

ه:

– Engraved by ... al-Sayyid ...

شه (نقشه).... يد (السيد)..... مر.....



FIGURE 2.342
Surface E, KHA18

Reference Number: KHA19

Co-ordinates: 26.20828° N 050.54845° E

Dimensions: 156 cm (l) × 44 cm (w) × 50 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone (Figure 2.343). Possibly in original position near mosque wall. No inscriptions. Cut roughly into shape and with

rectangular blocks at each end for raised decoration. The upper surface (E) is badly shaped so that a downward sloping surface has been produced with clear chisel marks evident. This might be the reason the gravestone was left unfinished along with the poor quality of the stone which would have been evident once it had been cut into shape. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.343 KHA19

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: KHA20

Co-ordinates: 26.20828° N 050.54849° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 73.5 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 40.5 cm (h)

Slab 2: 58 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Damage on one side surface (A) and some erosion including surface flaking on the other (B). Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at one end, and remains of broken unidentifiable raised decoration at the other end. Inscriptions on four surfaces. Not in original position.

Previous Publication: Number S5, Kalus (1995: 136–137), and Number S7, Kalus (1995: 138–139). It is unclear why Kalus separately catalogued the two halves of one gravestone (cf. Kalus 1995: Figures 2 and 4), presumably because they had been separated when Kalus was completing his recording.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, we have given you a manifest victory. That Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future.
- And complete His favour on you, and guide you on the straight path. And that Allah may help you with strong help (48:1–3). Eden Paradise, which they shall enter and also those who acted righteously

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ
فَتْحًا مُبِينًا لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ
ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ
وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَيَهْدِيكَ صِرَاطًا
مُسْتَقِيمًا، وَيَنْصُرَكَ اللَّهُ نَصْرًا عَزِيمًا.
جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ.



FIGURE 2.344 Surfaces A and E, KHA20

B:

- From among their fathers and their wives and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate saying, peace be upon you, for you preserved in patience.

ب:
مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ
وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ،
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ.

- Excellent indeed is the final home (13:23-24). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased with them, and of Paradise for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21-22).

عُقْبَى الدَّارِ. يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ
وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ،
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ
عَظِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.345 Surface B, KHA20

C:

- The late, the blessed Muhammad died ...
- ... al-Din ... bin Husayn bin Mubarak ...

ج: توفى المرحوم المبرور السعيد محمد
- الدين بن حسين بن مبارك



FIGURE 2.346 Surface C, KHA20

D:

- In the Monday night, ninth of Jumada
- The first, year eight hundred and forty-six

هـ: في ليلة الاثنين تاسع شهر جمادى

الاول سنة ست واربعين وثمان مائة

هجرية



FIGURE 2.347 Surface D, KHA20

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.344

Reference Number: KHA21

Co-ordinates: 26.20829° N 050.54851° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 96 cm (l) × 38 cm (w) × 53 cm (h)

Slab 2: 63 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. The smaller slab is very eroded and the raised decoration has been cut off and the area where it was subsequently eroded. The larger slab has the remains of raised decoration, likely formed of three elements, with one faceted cube identifiable. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably a niche, on the upper surface (E) of the larger slab. Partially legible inscriptions on three surfaces of the smaller slab and two surfaces of the larger slab. Not in original position.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

أ:
النقوش تالفة و يصعب قراءتها.



FIGURE 2.348 Surfaces A and E, KHA21

B:

-
- The heavens ...

ب:
.....
.....السموات



FIGURE 2.349 Surface B, KHA21

C:

-
- ... the most merciful.

ج:

.....
 الرحيم.....



FIGURE 2.350 Surface C, KHA21

D:

- This is the grave ... Ahmad ... al-Sa'îd ...
-

هـ: هذا ضريح احمد... السعيد.....



FIGURE 2.351 Surface D, KHA21

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ: لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.348

Reference Number: KHA22

Co-ordinates: 26.20851° N 050.54860° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 77.5 cm (l) × 37 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Slab 2: 38.5 cm (l) × 37 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Parts of a gravestone formed of double limestone slabs (Figure 2.352). The slabs were unfortunately moved by the workmen during excavation of the collapsed shrine and it appears that they are not connected. The smaller slab is eroded on the top and upper side surfaces and has partially legible inscriptions on two surfaces. The larger slab has no inscriptions. Not in original position.



FIGURE 2.352 KHA22

Previous Publication: Number 20, Kalus (1990: 52)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

-

.....

- Religion. Verily, the right path has become distinct from the wrong path (2:256).

الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ.



FIGURE 2.353 Surface A, small slab, KHA22

B:

ب:

- None has the right to be worshipped but Him, the Ever Living, the One who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither
- Intercede with Him except with His permission (2:255).

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا.

الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ.



FIGURE 2.354
Surface B, small slab,
KHA22

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

د:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ه:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

Reference Number: KHA23

Co-ordinates: 26.20839° N 050.54814° E

Dimensions: 63 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone. Eroded. Traces of red paint/pigment on some of the lettering on one surface. Partially legible inscriptions on two surfaces and carved double interlocking circle decoration on the upper surface (E). Three element eroded raised decoration at one end formed of two faceted cubes each with a cupmark on top and a central rounded arch. Additional carved geometric patterns are on the external side surfaces and rear of the raised decorative blocks. Not in original position. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A: أ:
 – In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful ... بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.....
 –



FIGURE 2.355 Surface A. KHA23

B: ب:
 – The inscription cannot be read. (نقش قراءني غير واضح)



FIGURE 2.356 Surface B, KHA23

C:

- This is the grave of the Late al-Sayyid هذا ضريح المرحوم السيد (السعيد)
 ... Naser ... ناصر....
- al-Husayni الحسيني.....



FIGURE 2.357 Surface C, KHA23

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات أو نقوش

FIGURE 2.358
Surfaces D and E, KHA23

E:

– No inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات.

See Figure 2.358

Reference Number: KHA24

Co-ordinates: 26.20839° N 050.54811° E

Dimensions: 74.5 cm (l) × 22 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone. Eroded and with areas of damage. Eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at one end. Traces of shallow carved recessed rectangular panel on the top surface (E), probably a niche. Inscriptions on three surfaces. Not in original position. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased and of Gardens for them wherein are (9:21).

أ:
يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا

.....الجنة.....

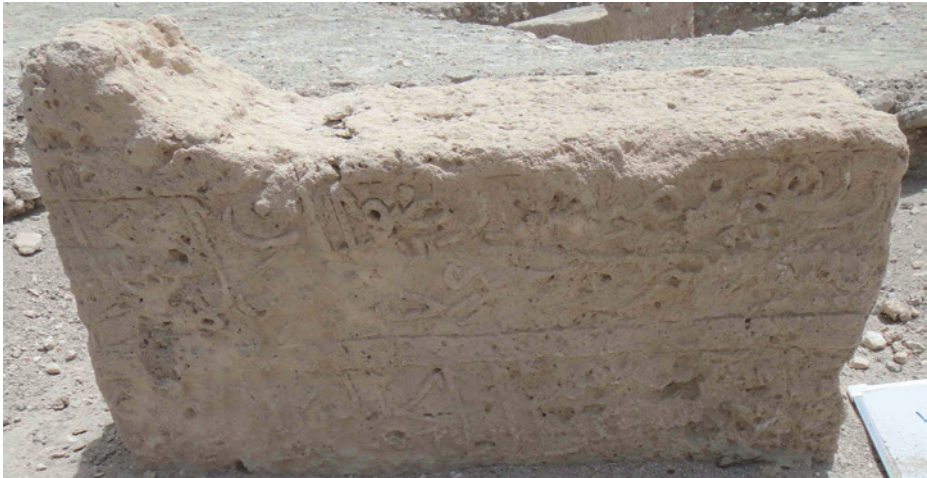


FIGURE 2.359 Surface A, KHA24

B:

ب:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Their Lord gives them glad tidings.
- ... Allah has ... (9:21-22).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، يَبْشُرُهُمْ

.....اللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ.....



FIGURE 2.360 Surface B, KHA24

C:

ج:

- ... Grave of the Inviolable lady ...
- The chaste lady ... bint 'Ali bin al-Ha ...
- Muhammad bin Razzak, May Allah have mercy on him

.....قبر المصونة.....

المخدرة (غير معروفة) بنت علي بن
الحا.....

محمد بن رزاق طيب الله ثراها.



FIGURE 2.361 Surface C, KHA24

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.362
Surfaces D and E, KHA24

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد كتابات

See Figure 2.362

Reference Number: KHA25

Co-ordinates: 26.20839° N 050.54811° E

Dimensions: 77 cm (l) × 24 cm (w) × 38 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone. Eroded on the upper surface (E), on the upper side surfaces (A and B), and the bottom of one end surface (D). Inscriptions on three surfaces. Broken and eroded unidentifiable raised decoration at one end but with rectangular plinth present. Not in original position. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- A: أ:
- From among their fathers and their wives and their offspring, and angels shall enter (13:23). وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ.
 - Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks (38:51). مُتَكِّئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ.



FIGURE 2.363 Surface A, KHA25

- B: ب:
- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful ... wherein are everlasting delights. بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ،.....فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ.
 - ... therein ... (9:21–22)فِيهَا.....



FIGURE 2.364
Surface B,
KHA25

C:

– No carving or inscriptions.

ج
لا يوجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.365
Surfaces C and E, KHA25

D:

– Hasan Bin ‘Abd Allah

– ... al ...

هـ:

حسن بن عبدالله.

.....ال.....



FIGURE 2.366 Surface D, KHA25

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

See Figure 2.365

هـ:

لا يوجد نقوش أو كتابات

17 Mahooz (MAH)

Location: Urban district cemetery in Manama containing a shrine within a mosque.

Reference Number: MAH1

Co-ordinates: 26.21069° N 050.58792° E

Dimensions: 147 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Roughed out, cut to shape and left unfinished. Eroded rectangular block at one end for raised decoration and stump of similar block at the other end. Saw marks visible on one side (Figure 2.367). No inscriptions. Located within a partially discernible small building that was visible only by fragments of wall stumps. The precise function of the building is unknown and a mihrab niche was not seen, but based on parallels with other structures recorded (e.g. ABN47), it was probably a small mosque, shrine, or tomb.



FIGURE 2.367 MAH1

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: MAH2

Co-ordinates: 26.21042° N 050.58794° E

Dimensions: 155.5 cm (l) × 36.5 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone housed inside a shrine within a mosque. The top surface and upper part of the side surfaces are rendered in cement covering a significant portion of the inscriptions. The gravestone is set within a modern aluminium and wooden cover with wooden grilles allowing a partial view of the gravestone within (Figure 2.368). It is a focus of devotion as indicated by the various 100 Fils coins that had been pushed through the grilles and were on the tiled floor next to the gravestone. Inscriptions on four surfaces but none could be read as their position made them impossible to read or photograph successfully.



FIGURE 2.368
MAH2

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No legible inscriptions

18 Malkiya (MAL)

Location: Shrine inside the Amir Zaid Mosque

Reference Number: MAL1

Co-ordinates: 26.09651° N 050.48169° E

Dimensions: 181 cm (l) × 50 cm (w) × 48 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Raised decoration at both ends formed of double square pillars with rounded tops (Figure 2.369). Some cracking and cement staining on the top surface (E). No inscriptions. Located inside a sunken room accessed by a staircase and partitioned off by a wooden screen from the rest of the mosque. A neighbouring door has various Arabic graffiti scribbled in marker pen on its interior surface. These are all personal names and were written there to invoke the help of the Saint. The gravestone is situated within a modern aluminium and glass canopy covered with cloth shrouds at the far end of the sunken room.

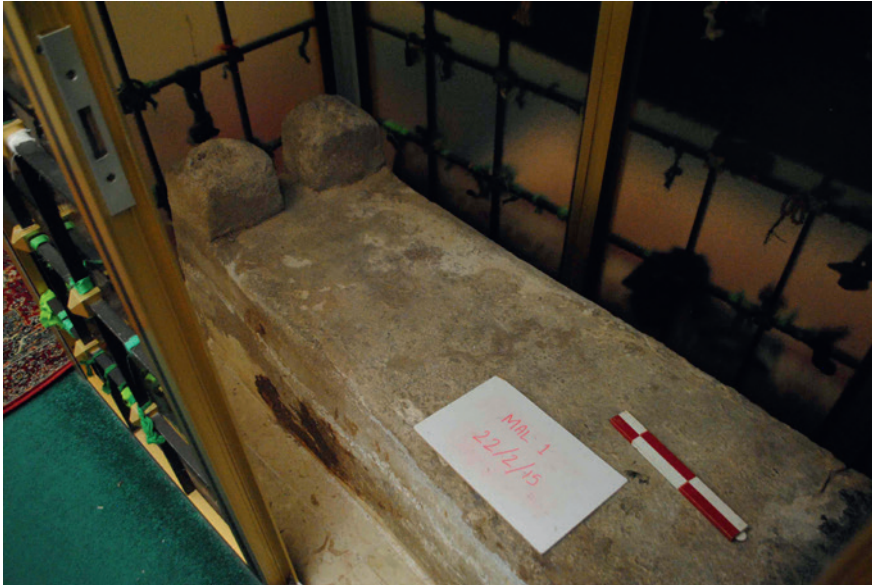


FIGURE 2.369 MAL1

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

19 Al Maqsha (MAQ)

Location: Village cemetery

Reference Number: MAQ1

Co-ordinates: 26.22138° N 050.51798° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 63 cm (l) × 20.5 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Slab 2: 73 cm (l) × 20 cm (w) × 46 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Gravestone formed of double solid limestone slabs. Some erosion and, unusually, patches of green moss/algae on the upper surface indicating water exposure. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end, but missing a section of the raised decoration and surface below at one end. The intact end has an unclear carved design on the rear of the central rounded arch. Inscriptions on three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, ...

أ: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اِنَّ الَّذِیْنَ قَالُوْا
رَبُّنَا.....وَلَا.....

- ... Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings ... (41:30)

..... اَلَّا تَخَافُوْا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوْا وَاَبَشِّرُ
وَا.....



FIGURE 2.370 Surface A, MAQ1

B:

– ... Hereafter ... therein ...

ب:الآخرة.....فيها.....

– ... paradise ...

.....جنات النعيم.....



FIGURE 2.371 Surface B, MAQ1

C:

– Preserving them ...

ج: حفظهما

– The good people ... the late lady ...
the blessed ...

.....الصالحين.....المرحومة.....المغفور.....

– ... the late ...

.....المرحوم.....



FIGURE 2.372
Surface C, MAQ1

D:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.373
Surfaces D and E, MAQ1

E:

- No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.373

Reference Number: MAQ2

Co-ordinates: 26.22144° N 050.51812° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 69 cm (l) × 24.5 cm (w) × 34.5 cm (h)

Slab 2: 85 cm (l) × 24.5 cm (w) × 31 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Gravestone formed of double limestone slabs. Very well carved with inscriptions on five surfaces but only partially legible on three surfaces, and illegible on one surface. Severely damaged in places with the raised decoration cut off but with the rectangular plinth still present at each end and major patches of erosion on one side surface (A).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- A: أ:
- They will be served by immortal boys ... from ... nor any intoxication. And fruit; that they may choose. And the flesh of fowls that they desire ...
 يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلِدَانٌ مُخَلَّدُونَ..... من.....
 وَلَا يُزِفُونَ، وَفَاكِهَةٍ مِّمَّا يَخْتِرونَ، وَلَحْمِ
 طَيْرٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ.....
 - Like unto preserved pearls ...
 كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكْنُونِ.....
 (56:17-23).



FIGURE 2.374 Surface A, MAQ2

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything
- Of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taḡhut and believes in Allah, and then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اللّٰهُ لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّوْمُ لَا تَاْخُذُهٗ سِنَةٌ وَّلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِی السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِی الْاَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِیْ یَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهٗ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِهٖ یَعْلَمُ مَا بَیْنَ اَیْدِیْهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا یُحِیْطُوْنَ بِشَیْءٍ

مَنْ عِلْمِهٖ اِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِیُّهُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْاَرْضَ وَلَا یَـُٔوْدُهٗ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ، لَا اِكْرَاهَ فِی الدِّیْنِ قَدْ تَبَیَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَیِّ فَمَنْ یَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوْتِ وَیُؤْمِنْ بِاللّٰهِ فَقَدْ اَسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقٰی لَا اِنْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللّٰهُ سَمِیْعٌ عَلِیْمٌ



FIGURE 2.375 Surface B, MAQ2

C:

- ... Allah ... half of the great month of رمضان
Ramadan. المعظم.
- one thousand, one hundred twelve. الثامنة عشره بعد المائة والالف.



FIGURE 2.376 Surface C, MAQ2

D:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

هـ:
النقش تالف ولا يمكن قراءته



FIGURE 2.377 Surface D, MAQ2

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid ‘Alawi bin al-Sayyid Naser al-Asba‘i, God bless them, 1121.
- Reading three parts of the Book of God the Very High ... tributes on the grave of the noble lady with a total of one third of the palms.
- Which are known as girl's part, which is located at Sar area in al-Bahrayn, after ploughing ... and cultivating it ... until God inherits the earth.

هـ:
نقشه السيد الأجل علوي بن المرحوم
السيد ناصر الاصبغي عفي عنهم 1121.
قراءة ثلاثة اجزاء من كتاب الله تعالى....
وخراجات على قبر الذات الشريفة
بمحصل ثلث النخل.

المعروف بسهم النبات (البنات) الواقع
بسيحة سار من البحرين بعد الحراث
الديونية... والتعمير..... الى ان يرث الله.....

- ... The lowest Muhammad bin Sa'īd. الاقل الجاني محمد بن سعيد.
- bin Muhammad bin 'Abd Allah al-Muqabi, God bless all of them. بن محمد بن عبدالله المقابي عفي عنهم أجمعين.



FIGURE 2.378 Surface E, part 1, MAQ2



FIGURE 2.379 Surface E, part 2, MAQ2

Reference Number: MAQ3

Co-ordinates: 26.22166° N 050.51788° E

Dimensions: 72.5 cm (l) × 21 cm (w) × 43 cm (h)

Orientation: N-S

Description: Single hollow limestone slab from a double slab gravestone. Badly eroded on one side surface (B) where exposed above the ground surface. Poorly carved three element raised decoration formed of three rounded rectangular blocks. Inscriptions on two surfaces, but only one is partially legible. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright, ... descend
- ... your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter ... (41:30-31).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا
رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَرَدَّدُونَ.
..... أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي
الْآخِرَةِ.....



FIGURE 2.380 Surface A, MAQ3

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.381 Surfaces B and E, MAQ3

C:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

ج:

النقش تالف ولا يمكن قراءته



FIGURE 2.382
Surface C, MAQ3

D:
– No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

E:
– No carving or inscriptions.

ه:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.381

20 Bahrain National Museum (MUS)

Location: Archaeological stores and Islamic archaeology gallery in the National Museum in Manama

Reference Number: MUS1

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 143 cm (l) × 34 cm (w) × 60 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in the store at Bahrain National Museum. Partly damaged unusual thin and high raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at one end, broken off at the other end. Shallow carved rectangular panel design on upper surface (E), probably a niche. Serious erosion in places. Inscriptions on four surfaces of which one is illegible and two partially legible.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:
– In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي

- Can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them (2:255).

يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ
وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا
بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا.



FIGURE 2.383 Surfaces A and E, MUSI

B:

- And He is the Most High, the Most Great. God's blessings upon Muhammad al-Mustafa, God's blessings upon 'Ali ... , God blessings upon al-Hasan, God blessings upon al-Husayn, God's blessings upon ... ,
- God's blessings upon al-Jawad ... God's blessings upon al-Hasan al-'Askari, God's blessings upon al-Hujjah al-Qa'im al-Mahdi bin al-Hasan ... Imams ... al-Jawad ... upon all of them.

ب:
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ. وصل على محمد
المصطفى وصل على علي..... وصل
على الحسن وصل على الحسين وصل
على.....
وصل على الجواد..... وصل على الحسن
العسكري وصل على الحجة القائم
المهدي ابن الحسن..... الأئمة... الجواد.....
عليهم اجمعين.



FIGURE 2.384 Surface B, MUS1

C:

-
- ... al-Rashid ...

ج:

.....
 الرشيد.....

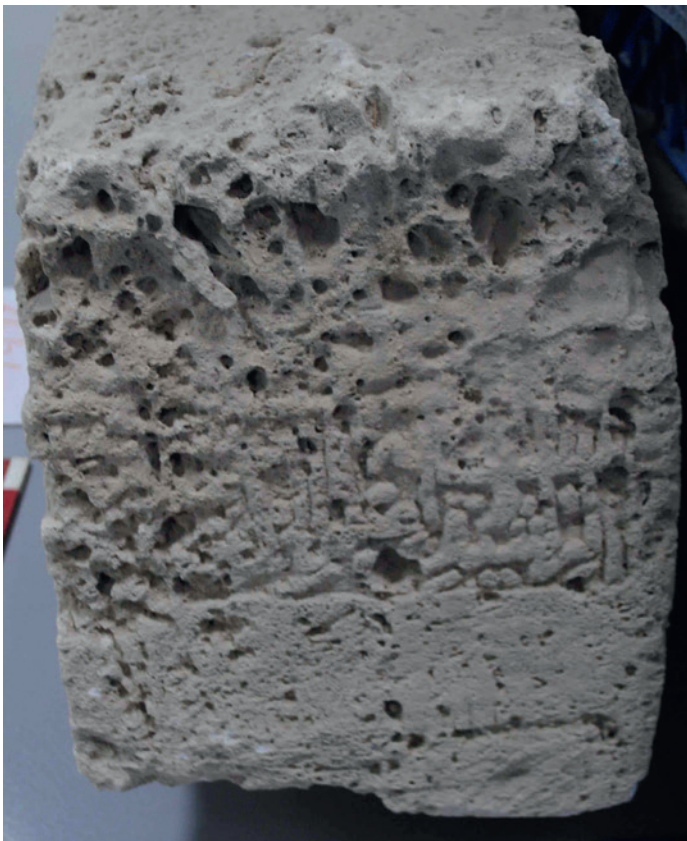


FIGURE 2.385 Surface C, MUS1

D:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

النقش متآكل ولا يمكن قراءته

FIGURE 2.386
Surface D, MUS1

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.383

Reference Number: MUS2**Co-ordinates:** NA**Dimensions:** 149.5 cm (l) × 35.5 cm (w) × 54 cm (h)**Orientation:** NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Originally from the Al-Khamis Mosque cemetery. When recorded it was in the store at the Bahrain National Museum, and was subsequently transferred to public display in the gallery at the Al-Khamis Mosque Visitor Centre. Three element raised decoration at both ends, formed of a central point and two triangles at one end and a central point and slightly rounded rectangle with the third element broken off at the opposite end. Inscriptions on four surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 45, Kalus (1990: 81). The original location, where it is shown in-situ (cf. *ibid*: Pl. LXIV) is given as a small cemetery to the right of the Karbabad road.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who
- Is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth (2:255).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ.

ذَ الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ.



FIGURE 2.387 Surfaces A and E, MUS2

B:

ب:

- And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. God's blessings upon Muhammad al-Mustafa, God's blessings upon 'Ali al-Murtada, Fatimah al-Zahra', al-Hasan, al-Husayn, 'Ali, Muhammad, Ja'far,
- Musa, 'Ali, Muhammad, 'Ali, al-Hasan al-'Askari and al-Khalaf al-Hujjah al-Qa'im Muhammad bin al-Hasan. God's blessings and peace upon all of them.

وَلَا يَؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.
اللهم صل على محمد المصطفى وصل
على علي المرتضى وفاطمة الزهراء
والحسن والحسين وعلي ومحمد وجعفر.

وموسى وعلي ومحمد وعلي والحسن
العسكري والخلف الحجة القائمة محمد
ابن الحسن صلوات الله وسلامه عليهم
اجمعين.



FIGURE 2.388 Surface B, MUS2

C:

- ... The one who shows the wonders, he will assist you during crises.
- Every grief and anxiety will go by the blessing of Muhammad and by loving 'Ali.
- He died in thirteenth of Muharram, year 1014.

ج:مظهر العجائب، تجده عون لك في
النائب.
كل هم وغم سينجلي، بنبوتك يا محمد
بولايته يا علي.
كان وفاته في اليوم الثالث عشر من محرم
سنة 1014.



FIGURE 2.389 Surface C, MUS2

D:

- This is grave of the blessed late, the Innocent (*possibly* Wardi Abak)
- Brother of the greatest and generous ...

هذا ضريح المغفور المبرور السعيد
(وردى أبى).
اخ الاعظم والاكرم.....

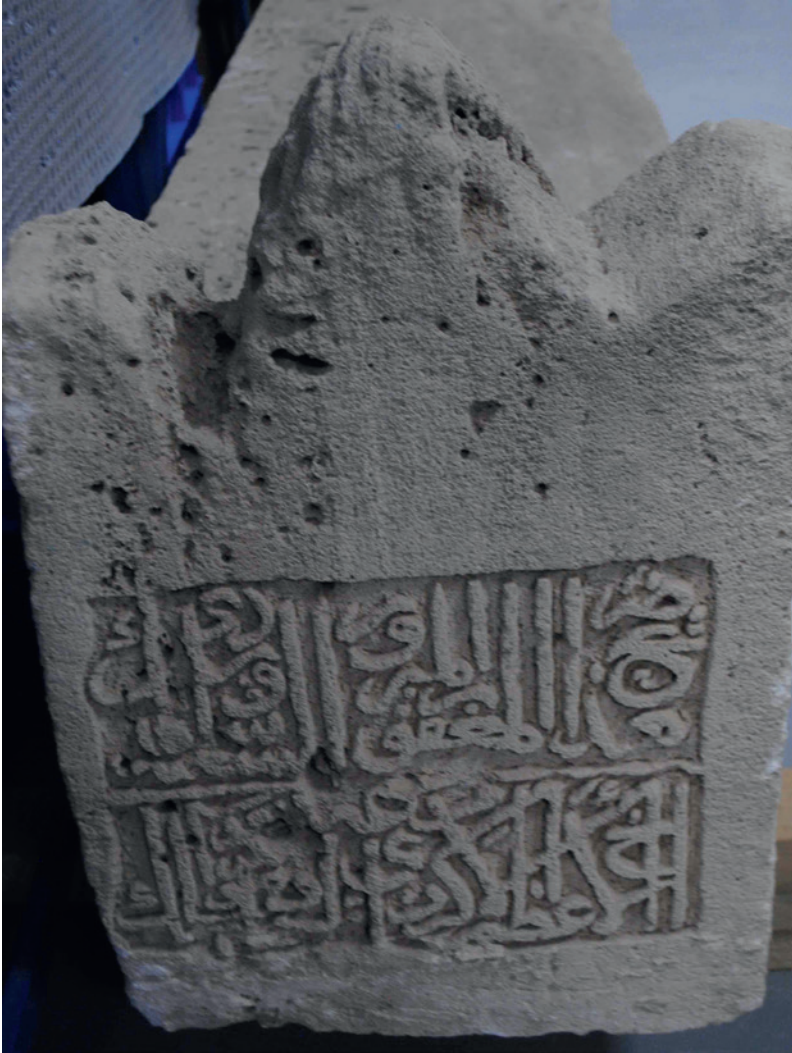


FIGURE 2.390 Surface D, MUS2

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات

See Figure 2.387

Reference Number: MUS3

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 66 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone in the store at Bahrain National Museum. Impact damage on one side surface (A), and significant erosion in places. Inscriptions on two surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 44, Kalus (1990: 80). The original location is given as found re-employed in Qala'at al-Bahrain (Bahrain Fort) presumably as spolia in construction. This would possibly explain the unusual impact damage perhaps sustained during its removal.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– ... that Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future, and complete His Favour on you ... (48:2).

أ: لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكُمْ
وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ.

– ... none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him (2:255).

.....إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ
سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ.

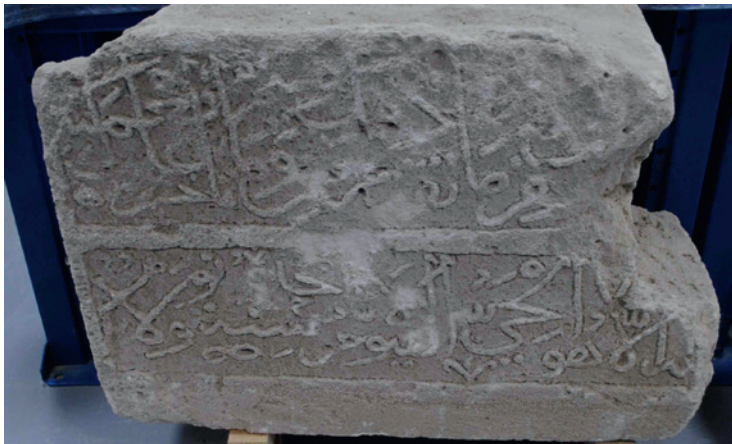


FIGURE 2.391
Surface A, MUS3

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.392
Surface B, MUS3

C:

-
- Rabi' al-thani, year of eight hundred and fifty four.

ج:

ربيع الثاني لسنة اربع وخمسين وثمانماية.



FIGURE 2.393
Surface C, MUS3

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.394
Surface D, MUS3

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.395
Surface E, MUS3

Reference Number: MUS4

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 150 cm (l) × 33.5 cm (w) × 64 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. When recorded it was in the store at the Bahrain National Museum, and it was subsequently transferred to public display in the gallery at the Al-Khamis Mosque Visitor Centre. Three element raised

decoration at both ends formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth. At one end the raised decoration is damaged with one of the three elements partially broken off. Shallow carved pointed niche design on the upper surface (E). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number S13, Kalus (1990: 53). Original location given as in a palm garden near Zallaq (ibid: 142).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ.

– Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth (2:255).

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ
يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا
يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِنْدِهِ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ.

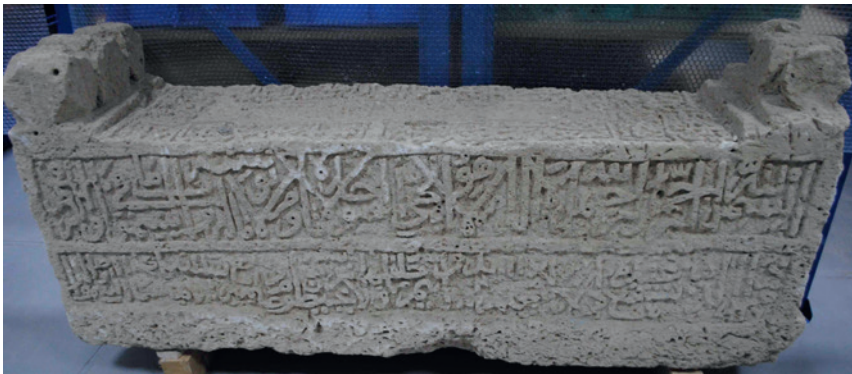


FIGURE 2.396 Surface A, MUS4

B:

ب:

- Endowments of the late, Shaikh Husayn Bin Hurz al-Din for Imam al-Qa'im ... thirty-four shares, one share ...
 اوقاف المرحوم الشيخ حسين بن حرز الدين للامام القائم..... اربعة وثلاثين سهما سهم.....
- From the garden of bin al-Zayid (*possibly* al-Din) for the reader at Hilal mosque, (*possibly* Shu'ayb) southern garden of al-Kharajat ... proceeds ... part of ...
 منهم في صرمة ابن الزايد والذي (الدين) للدارس في مسجد هلال صرم (شعيب) الجنوبي..... الخراج... (الخراجات)..... جزء منا.....



FIGURE 2.397 Surface B, MUS4

C:

- Grave ... 'Abd Allah ('Abd al-Samad) who died on tenth of Muharram (al-Husayn).
 ج: مرقد..... عبدالله (عبد الصمد) توفي عاشر محرم الحسين).
- Year nine hundred and eighty-five ...
 من عام خمسة وثمانون وتسعمئة.....



FIGURE 2.398
Surface C, MUS4

D:

– ... Month of Rabi‘, who was born in
1007 (possibly 1017).

..... شهر ربيع المولود سنة 1007 (1017) د:



FIGURE 2.399 Surface D, MUS4

E:

- | | |
|--|--|
| - ... And reading for a quarter of income of ... Garden. | هـ: وقراءة بحاصل ربع (ربع) صرمت..... |
| - Ibrahim bin Sinan after planting ... | ابراهيم بن سنان بعد الاصلاح..... |
| - ... has got the happiness ... | *** وحل في... السعد..... |
| - bin (bint) Sa'd ... | بن (بنت) سعد تسعد...***..... |
| - Written by Mas'ud, and engraved by | كتبه مسعود ونقشه. |
| - al-Sayyid Hashim | السيد هاشم. |



FIGURE 2.400
Surface E, MUS4

Reference Number: MUS5

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 131 cm (l) × 33 cm (w) × 49 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in the store at Bahrain National Museum. Poorly carved three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end. Erosion to upper surface (E) and parts of both the side surfaces (A and B). Partially legible inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass.
- Anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ.

بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ
تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ
وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى
لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.401 Surface A, MUS5

B:

ب:

- ... whose doors will be opened for them. ... will recline, therein ... for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised ... (38:50–53).
- ... Therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:22). The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised (41:30).
- Bequeathed for reading on ... the cherished, six ... half of palm garden ... the western ... and half on ...

..... لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَّكِنِينَ..... فِيهَا
بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الطَّرْفِ.....، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ.....
..... فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ.
تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْأَتَّخَفُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا
وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ. اوقف
عنده للقراءة على..... (ذا)..... العزيز
ست..... نصف صرمة..... الغربية.....
ونصف على.....

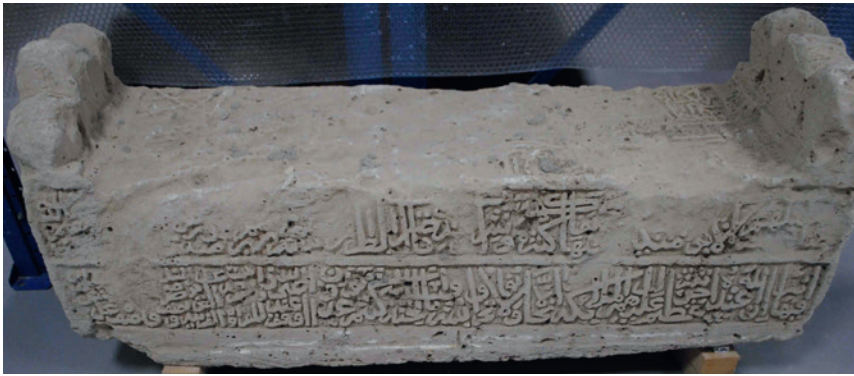


FIGURE 2.402 Surface B, MUS5

C:

ج:

- This is a grave of the one who went to the highest place
- Of paradise, Haji Najm bin 'Ali bin (Hiz)... God forgive him.

هذا ضريح المندرج الى اعلى درجات.
الجنان الحاجي نجم بن علي بن (حز)
عفي عنه.



FIGURE 2.403
Surface C, MUS5

- D:
- ... Muharram al-Haram, complete reading ... Muhammad. شهر محرم الحرام (ختم) قراءة)..... (محمد)....
 - ... one thousand and one hundred ... لاي.....ومائة والف خلت (خلد).



FIGURE 2.404
Surface D, MUS5

E:

- ... Hashim 'Ali al-Husayni ...

هاشم علي الحسيني.....

هـ:

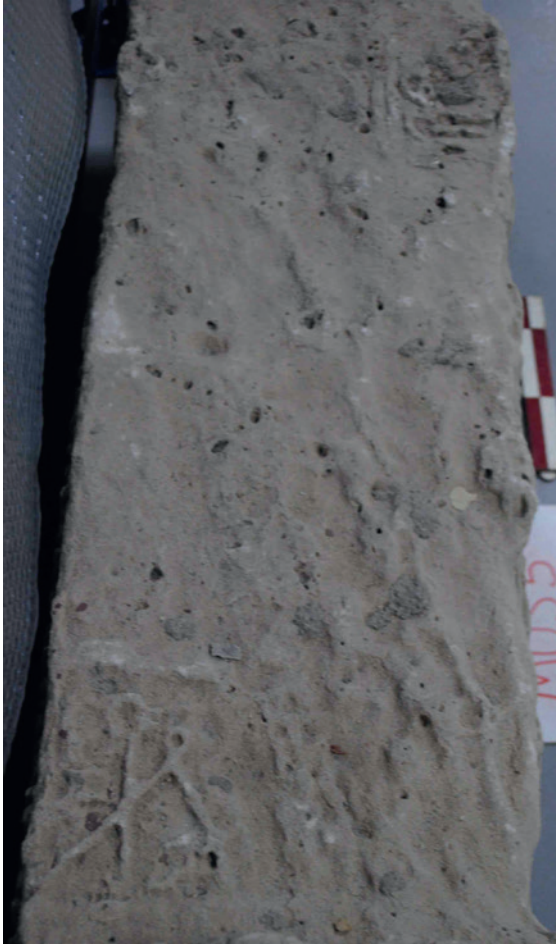
.....
الاخ.....

FIGURE 2.405
Surface E, MUS5

Reference Number: MUS6

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 142 cm (l) × 39.5 cm (w) × 39 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Originally from the Al-Khamis Mosque cemetery. When recorded it was in the store at the Bahrain National

Museum, and it was subsequently transferred to public display in the gallery at the Al-Khamis Mosque Visitor Centre. Well carved. Some unusual damage on the top surface (E) that appears to have been made with a chisel and the raised decoration has been cleanly cut off at both ends. Circular hole drilled in one side surface (A), and damage to both end surfaces (C and D). Elaborate shallow carved pointed niche design with a double border and a flower or abstract symbol in the point of the niche on the upper surface (E). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 16, Kalus (1990: 45)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.
- And they will never compass. Anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
يُؤُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ لَا
إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ
اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.406 Surface A, MUS6

B:

- Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages (38:50–52). The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire
- And therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30–32). Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward (9:21–22). Eden Paradise, which they shall enter and those who acted righteously from among their fathers, and their wives, and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them every gate (13:23). God Almighty has spoken the truth.

ب:

جَنَاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
 مُتَكِبِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
 وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
 أَتْرَابٌ. تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْأَطْرَافِ
 تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ
 تُوعَدُونَ، لَحْنٌ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا
 وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزُلًا مِنْ غُفُورٍ
 رَحِيمٍ. يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنْهُ
 وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَاتٍ لَهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ
 مُقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ
 أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ. جَنَاتٌ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ
 صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ
 وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ.
 صدق الله العظيم.



FIGURE 2.407 Surface B, MUS6

C:

- This is ... the blessed ... هذا السعيد لـ
- The one who has got God's mercy and غريق الرحمة والرضوان السيد سليمان بن approval, al-Sayyid Sulayman bin al-Sayyid ناصر بن سليمان السيد ناصر بن سليمان

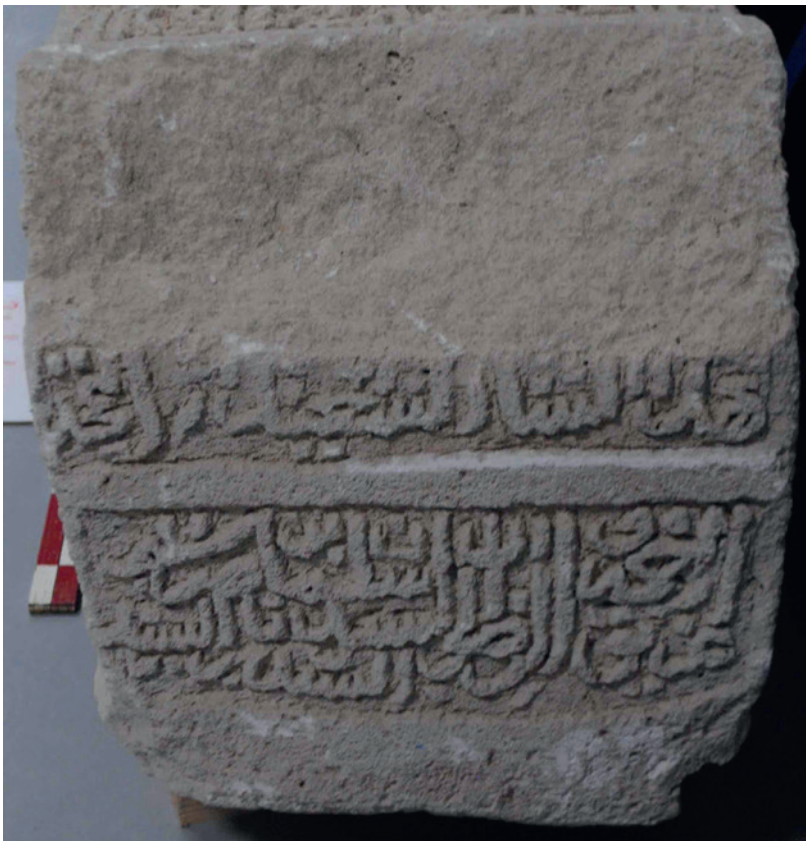


FIGURE 2.408 Surface C, MUS6

D:

– Date ...

تاريخ و.....

– Died on Thursday, twelfth of Rabi‘ al-
awwal ...توفي الخميس الثاني عشر ربيع
الاول.....

FIGURE 2.409 Surface D, MUS6

E:

– Engraved by ... al-Sayyid Hashim bin
al-Sayyid ‘Ali.هـ:
نقشه الاجل..... السيد هاشم بن
السيد علي.– Oh grave, you have a great glory ...
incomparable.ايها القبر حزت مجدا ائبلا***..... الا
يضاهها.– And you have a highness and pride
more than the stars with Sulayman ...وسموا على النجوم وفخرا**بسلیمان.....
طاها.

– Written by Ahmad bin Faraj al-M ...

كتبه الاقل عند ربه أحمد بن فرج
(المن).....



FIGURE 2.410
Surface E, MUS6

Reference Number: MUS7

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions:

Panel 1: 161 cm (l) × 22 cm (w)

Panel 2: 164.5 cm (l) × 21 cm (w)

Orientation: NA

Description: Two gypsum panels on display in the Islamic Gallery at the Bahrain National Museum (Figures 2.411 and 2.412). These are described in the gallery text

panel as “dating from the 13th and 13th centuries, were found in the ruins of a Dilmun temple near Sar village. They bear Arabic inscriptions and floral decorations which had been carved in wood and pressed into the wet plaster, section by sections. The inscriptions on one were inverted”.



FIGURE 2.411 Surface A, MUS7



FIGURE 2.412 Surface B, MUS7

Previous Publication: Number 40, Kalus (1990: 75–76)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

The inscriptions cannot be read

Reference Number: MUS8

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: Double slabs measured as single slab. 134.5 cm (l) × 27.5 cm (w) × 52 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Double limestone slab gravestone on display in the Islamic Gallery at the Bahrain National Museum. Roughed out unfinished gravestone which has been cut to size but left decoratively uncarved (Figure 2.413). A rectangular block for raised decoration is cut at each end with a rectangular plinth below it. Cut marks evident on the side surfaces (A and B), and chisel marks on the lower rectangular plinth. Four shallow linear cup marks cut into the upper surface. No decorative carving or inscriptions.



FIGURE 2.413 MUS8

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: MUS9

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 136.5 cm (l) × 32 cm (w) × 50.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone on display in the Islamic Gallery at the Bahrain National Museum. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Shallow carved rounded niche design on upper surface (E). Some localised impact damage on sides of the upper surface (E), and on one side surface (B). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 14, Kalus (1990: 39). The original location is given as the caretaker's garden, cemetery, Suq al-Khamis.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists.

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا

Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never

- Compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break.

الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا

يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ
كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ
حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي
الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا.



FIGURE 2.414 Surface A, MUS9

B:

- And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255–256). Their sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope, and they spend out of what We have

ب:

والله سميع عليم. تَجَافَىٰ جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ
الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا
وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ، فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا

bestowed on them. No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as reward for what they used to do (32:16–17). The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise

- Which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30–32). God Almighty has spoken the truth. And praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

أَخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا
يَعْمَلُونَ. تَنْزِيلٌ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا
وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي

كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ
الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا نَشْتَهِي
أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزْلًا مِّنْ
غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ. صدق الله العلي العظيم
والحمد لله رب العالمين.



FIGURE 2.415 Surface B, MUS9

C:

- This is the grave of the late, al-Hajj ‘Ali bin the late
- Naser bin Iskandar. His death was on second of Jumada al-awwal, year 1106.

ج: هذا ضريح المبرور الفاخر الحاج علي
بن المرحوم.
ناصر بن اسكندر وكانت وفاته لليلتين
خلتا من شهر جمادى الاول سنة

.1106



FIGURE 2.416 Surface C, MUS9

D:

- Reading one part of the Book of God
 every day, ... for twenty mann ...
 dates. قائه كل يوم جزء من كتاب الله.....
 بعشرين منا.....تمور.
- From half of Alkhaieb ... crops ... lo-
 cated ... من نصف حاصل نخل الخيب.....
 الواقع.....



FIGURE 2.417 Surface D, MUS9

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid 'Alawi bin al-Sayyid Naser.
- Oh grave, the paradise guard gave you the mercy because you embedded a faithful person who was praying all the time.

هـ:
 نقشه السيد الفاخر والحر الماهر السيد
 علوي بن السيد ناصر.
 يا قبر جادك رضوان الجنان
 برحمة***بالمؤمن المتعهد المتبتل.

- You are a part of paradise because you embedded a good man his name is 'Ali.
 - Written by 'Ali bin Abdullah ... al-Bahrani.
- ما انت الا روضة في جنة*** طابت
 بخير فتى يقال له علي.
 كتبه الاقل الجاني علي بن عبدالله.....
 البهراني.



FIGURE 2.418
Surface E, MUS9

Reference Number: MUS10

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 134 cm (l) × 30.5 cm (w) × 36 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone on display in the Islamic Gallery at the Bahrain National Museum. Some erosion. Raised decoration cut off at each end. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 15, Kalus (1990: 42). Number 14, Kalus (1990: 39). The original location is given as the caretaker's garden, cemetery, Suq al-Khamis.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter
- And they will never Compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold (2:255-256).

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ. وَلَا
يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا
إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ
اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى.

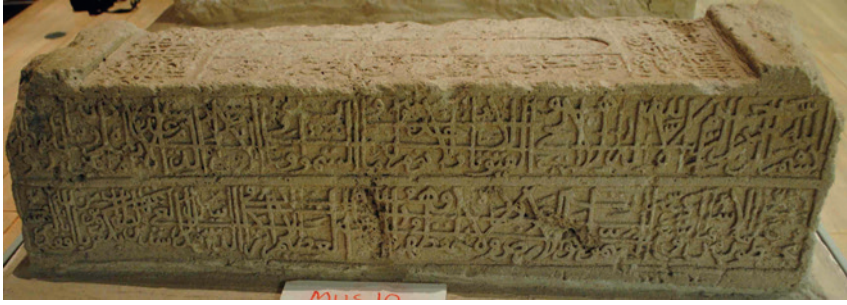


FIGURE 2.419 Surface A, MUSA10

B:

- ... Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever (9:21–22)

ب:
 يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
 وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ،
 خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا.

- ... Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30–32).

..... أَلَا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ
 الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، مَن أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ
 الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي
 أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدَّعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ
 عَفْوَِرٍ رَّحِيمٍ.

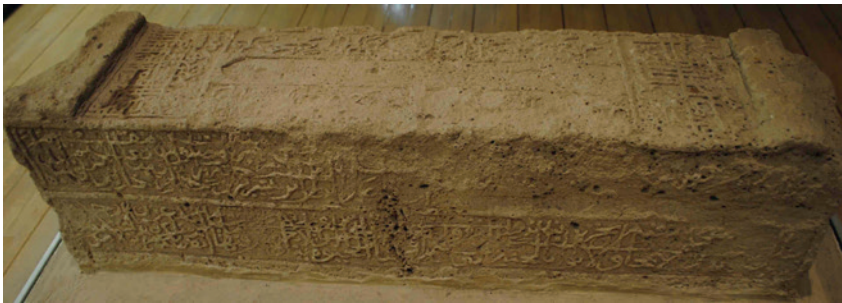


FIGURE 2.420 Surface B, MUSA10

C:

ج:

- ... in Rajab in the year of one thousand, one hundred and two, the Inviolable lady, Fa ... bint, died. بشهر رجب الاصم للسنة الثانية والماية والالف توفيت الحرة المصونة فا... بنت.
- Alsheikh ... this grave ... who read every day ... الشيخ.....وضمنت هذا الضريح ووظف من يقرأ كل يوم.....



FIGURE 2.421 Surface C, MUS10

D:

– ... part of ... its fruits ... twenty
maan

د: جزء من ... ثمره بسا عنده
عشرين منا.....

– Basanj at Awal, income of ... Alsahlan
of Sakyah.

بسنج من اوال حاصل ح... السهلان
من الساقية



FIGURE 2.422 Surface D, MUS10

E:

- Engraved by Sayed Hashem bin Sayed Naser Alhussaini Albahrani.

هـ:
نقشه السيد هاشم بن السيد ناصر
الحسيني البهراني

- Written by the one who stands in need of God Ali bin Abdullah bin 'Abd al-Samad Alosbai. May Allah forgive them.

رسمه الفقير الجاني علي بن عبدالله بن
عبد الصمد الاصبعي عفى عنهم.

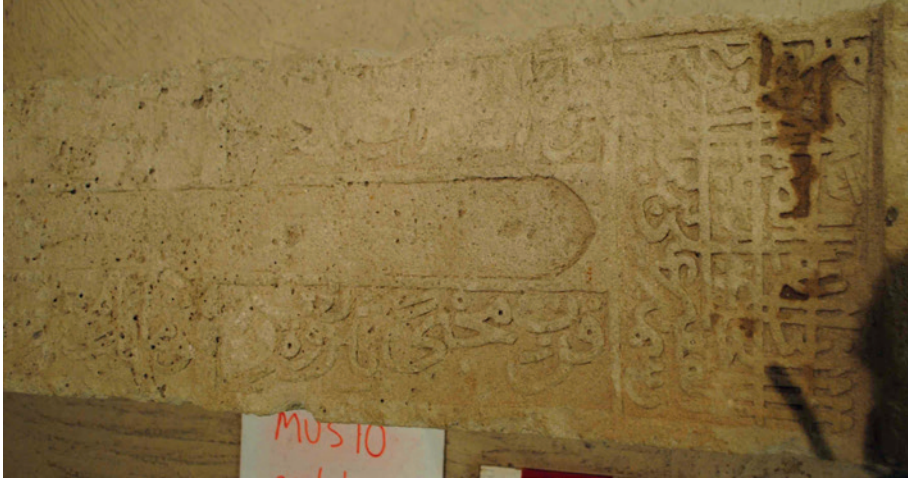


FIGURE 2.423 Surface E, part 1, MUS10



FIGURE 2.424 Surface E, part 2, MUS10

Reference Number: MUS11

Co-ordinates: NA

Dimensions: 153 cm (l) × 18.5 cm (w) × 28 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Double limestone slab gravestone in the store at Bahrain National Museum. Badly damaged in places, particularly on the upper surface (E). Traces of red paint/pigment on some of the lettering on three surfaces. Inscriptions on three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful ... that Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future, and complete His Favour on you, and ...
- the straight path. And that Allah may help you with strong help ... (48:2-3). The angels ... upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise
- Which you have been promised (41:31-32).

أ:
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ،..... لِيُغْفِرَ
 لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ
 وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَ.....
 صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا وَيَنْصُرَكَ اللَّهُ نَصْرًا
 عَزِيزًا،..... عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
 تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ



FIGURE 2.425 Surface A, part 1, MUS11

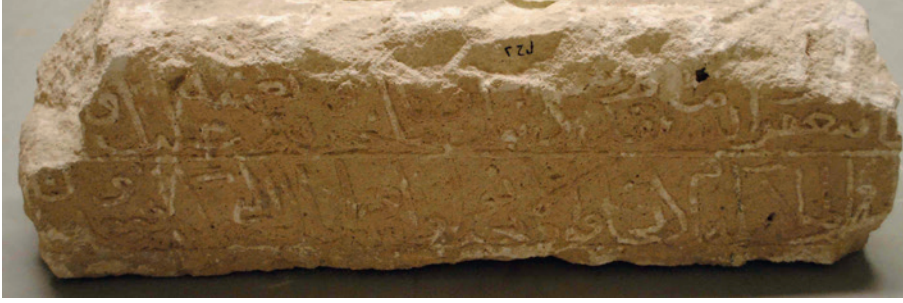


FIGURE 2.426 Surface A, part 2, MUS11

B:

- We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.
- Their Lord gives them glad tidings of Mercy from Him, and His being pleased, and of Gardens for them wherein are everlasting delights. They will dwell therein forever. Verily, with Allah is a great reward. Amin (9:21–22).

ب:

مَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ، نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ.

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ
وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ، خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ، آمِينَ



FIGURE 2.427 Surface B, part 1, MUS11



FIGURE 2.428 Surface B, part 2, MUS11

C:

- Grave of the Late, the Savant Shaikh
- Salman bin Husayn bin Majid

ج:
ضريح المرحوم الشيخ العالم
سلمان بن حسين بن ماجد



FIGURE 2.429
Surface C, MUS11

D:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

النقش متآكل ولا يمكن قراءته

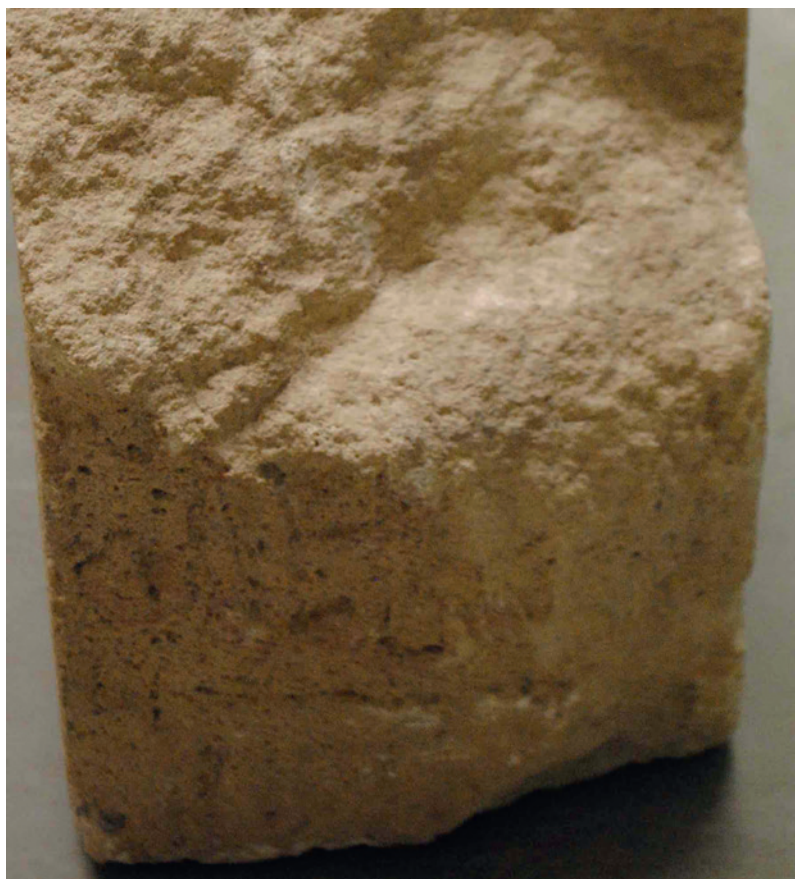


FIGURE 2.430 Surface D, MUS11

E:

– No carving or inscriptions.

هـ:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات**Reference Number:** MUS12**Co-ordinates:** NA**Dimensions:** 76 cm (l) × 48 cm (h) × 21 cm (w)**Orientation:** NA**Description:** Single limestone slab from a double slab gravestone in the store at Bahrain National Museum. Eroded on one end surface (D), on one side surface (A),

and on top surface (E). Possibly defaced on one side surface (B), which also has a circular hole drilled into it. Unusual raised decoration formed of a solid rectangular block that slopes downward to the upper surface (E). Partially legible inscription on one surface and illegible inscription on another.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- ... in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in al-Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:256).

أَلَّذِينَ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ
عَلِيمٌ

-

.....

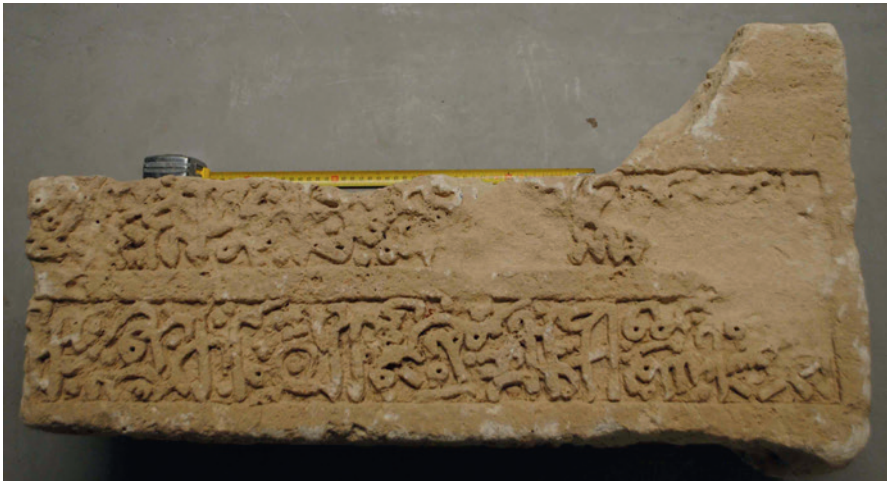


FIGURE 2.431 Surface A, MUS12

B:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ب:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.432 Surface B, MUS12

C:

- No carving or inscriptions.

ج:

لا توجد نقوش أو كتابات



FIGURE 2.433 Surface C, MUS12

D:

– No carving or inscriptions.

د:
لا توجد نقوش أو كتاباتFIGURE 2.434
Surface D, MUS12

E:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

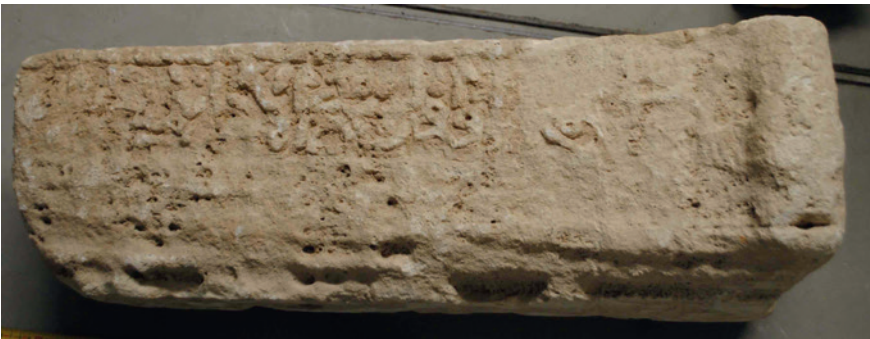
ه:
النقش تالف ولا يمكن قراءته

FIGURE 2.435 Surface E, MUS12

21 Noaim/Naim (NOA)

Location: Urban cemetery in Manama

Reference Number: NOA1

Co-ordinates: 26.22611° N 050.56799° E

Dimensions: 167 cm (l) × 30 cm (w) × 40 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Badly eroded on the top surface (E), on one side surface (A), and on one set of raised decoration. Traces of shallow carved rectangular panel design, probably a niche, on the top surface (E). Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number 43, Kalus (1990: 78)

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- The angels ... upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving ... (41:30-32). Paradise,

..... عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا
وَأَبَشِّرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ، نَحْنُ
أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزَلًا مِنْ غَفُورٍ... جَنَّتِ.....

- Whose doors ... Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this

لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكِنِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا
بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الْظَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ.

is our provision which will never finish (38:50–54). God Almighty and his Prophet have spoken the truth. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

صدق الله العظيم وصدق رسوله النبي
الكريم والحمد لله رب العالمين.



FIGURE 2.436 Surface A, NOAI

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge.
- Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255–256).

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ
مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ.

إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ
الْعَظِيمُ، لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ
مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ
بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا
انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.437 Surface B, NOA1

C:

ج:

- Reading parts of the Book of God the Powerful ... Shaikh. قراءة اجزاء من كتاب الله العزيز.....
- Good dates from crops of the palms which is known as (possibly Barbaghi al-'Ayn) at Buqwah area. الشيخ.
تمرا سالما من الحراجات من النخل
المعروف (بربغى العين) بسيحة بقوة (بو
قوة).



FIGURE 2.438
Surface C, NOA1

D:

- The blessed late, al-Hajj Naser bin al-Hajj 'Abd al-Husayn, God bless them.
- Died in the eighth of Jumada al-thani, year one thousand and seventy-six.

د: المقدس المرحوم المبرور الحاج ناصر بن الحاج عبدالحسين عفي عنهما. وتوفي في ثامن شهر جمدي (جمادى) الثاني من سنة ست وسبعين والف.



FIGURE 2.439
Surface D, NOA1

E:

- Written by the one who stands in need of the Only Owner of the Day of Reckoning ... 'Ali bin Husayn bin Zayn al-Din. God bless them.
-
-
- Engraved by al-Sayyid Hashim bin al-Sayyid Naser ...

ه: كاتبه الفقير لملك يوم الدين..... علي بن حسين بن زين الدين عفي عنهم
.....
.....
نقشه السيد هاشم بن السيد الاجل السيد ناصر.....



FIGURE 2.440 Surface E, NOA1

Reference Number: NOA2

Co-ordinates: 26.22606° N 050.56804° E

Dimensions: 152.5 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 63 cm (h)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Badly eroded in various areas and cracked and with a section missing on one side surface (B). Eroded three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Partially legible inscriptions on two surfaces and illegible inscriptions on the other three surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

–

– Inner-selves desire ... you ask ... انفسكم تدعون رحمة... الله.....
mercy ... Allah ...



FIGURE 2.441 Surface A, NOA2

B:

– In the name of Allah ... whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! ...His Seat ... the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255).

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ مَا فِي
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ.
الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ.....
كُرْسِيِّهِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ
حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ.



FIGURE 2.442 Surfaces B and E, NOA2

C:

ج:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

الكتابة متآكلة ولا يمكن قراءتها



FIGURE 2.443 Surface C, NOA2

D:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

الكتابة متآكلة ولا يمكن قراءتها



FIGURE 2.444
Surface D, NOA2

E:

هـ:

– Very deteriorated. Unable to read.

الكتابة متآكلة ولا يمكن قراءتها

See Figure 2.442

Reference Number: NOA3**Co-ordinates:** 26.22623° N 050.56821° E**Dimensions:** 139.5 cm (l) × 28.5 cm (w) × 52 cm (h)**Orientation:** NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Unfinished. The gravestone has been cut to size and the three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end has been finished, albeit crudely (Figure 2.445). No inscriptions or other decoration have been added. Some erosion to the upper parts of the raised decoration where it was above the ground surface. Fifteen rows of four shallow cup marks are cut into one corner of the top surface (E) (Figure 2.446). These are almost certainly connected with playing the Awari/Mancala type games discussed in relation to ABN46. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.



FIGURE 2.445 NOA3



FIGURE 2.446 Fifteen rows of four shallow cup marks, likely Awari/Mancala type game, NOA3

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: NOA4

Co-ordinates: 26.22652° N 050.56711° E

Dimensions: 56 cm (l) × 28 cm (w) × 45 cm (h)

Orientation: NA

Description: Broken fragment from either a single or double limestone slab grave-stone. Eroded on the inscribed surface. Hollow (Figure 2.447). Partial inscription on one surface.



FIGURE 2.447 Hollow cavity, NOA4

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

– ... preserving them ... And He ...

.....حَفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ.....

– ... Allah ...

.....الله.....



FIGURE 2.448 Inscription fragment, NOA4

22 Al-Qadem (QAD)

Location: Village cemetery containing a mosque

Reference Number: QAD1

Co-ordinates: 26.21629° N 050.51596° E

Dimensions: 132 cm (l) × 25.5 cm (w) × 47 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. The carver has had to compensate for a fault formed of an indentation in the stone on one side surface (A). Three

element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end. Inscriptions on five surfaces. The gravestone was covered with a recently made wooden green painted slatted canopy. Excavated to expose whole gravestone.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede?

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ
سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي
الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ
- With Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge. Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth (2:255).

عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا
خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا
شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا



FIGURE 2.449 Side A, QAD1

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Verily, your protector is none other than Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, those who establish regular prayers and regular charity, and they bow down humbly.
- And whosoever takes Allah, His Messenger, and the believers, it is the fellowship of Allah that must certainly triumph (5:55-56).

ب: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ، اِنَّمَا وَلِیْكُمْ اللّٰهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ وَالَّذِیْنَ اٰمَنُوْا الَّذِیْنَ یُقِیْمُوْنَ الصَّلٰةَ وَیُوْتُوْنَ.

الرِّبَاةَ وَهُمْ رَاكِعُوْنَ، وَمَنْ یَتَوَلَّ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوْلَهُ وَالَّذِیْنَ اٰمَنُوْا فَاِنَّ حِزْبَ اللّٰهِ هُمُ الْغٰلِبُوْنَ.



FIGURE 2.450 Side B, QAD1

C:

- It is the grave of Shaikh 'Ali
- bin 'Abd Allah al-Awali ...

ج: هذا مقر الشيخ علي.
بن عبد الله الاوالي (جا).



FIGURE 2.451 Side C, QAD1

D:

- The praise ...
- And the reading at ... two parts, al-Fatiha and al-Ikhlās for three times.
- And one part for him with his parents and his son Ibrahim and his wives.

الحمد.....
 والقراءة عنده..... جزآن والحمد
 والاخلاص ثلاثا.
 وجزء له مع ولديه وابنه ابراهيم
 وزوجاته.



FIGURE 2.452 Side D, QAD1

E:

هـ:

– Whatsoever is on the earth will perish. And the Face of your Lord full of Majesty and Honour will remain forever (55:26–27). Peace be on you, a Word from the Lord, Most Merciful (36:58).

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ، وَيَبْقَى وَجْهَ رَبِّكَ ذُو
الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ. سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِنْ رَبِّ
رَحِيمٍ.

– This shrine embedded ... it is surrounded with real knowledge.

هذا ضريح حوى...د***لحد محيط من
العلي (العلم) صدقا.

– ... his grave is as wide as the width of earths and skies.

ولا... حمامه من مقيم*** كعرض
السموات والارض حقا.



FIGURE 2.453 Side E, QAD1

Reference Number: QAD2

Co-ordinates: 26.21631° N 050.51609° E

Dimensions: 142.5 cm (l) × 38 cm (w) × (height not measurable)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Double limestone slab gravestone. An active shrine is centred around this gravestone which is sunk into the floor, cemented in place, and surrounded with green carpet. A moveable aluminium canopy has been placed over the gravestone. Coins (predominantly of 100 fils denomination), small glass perfume bottles, one dinar notes, stems of green or dried fragrant herbs (*mashmoom*, Basil, *Ocimum basilicum*) had been put through the canopy grille as offerings (Figure 2.454). The gravestone is exceptionally well carved with three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central rounded arch at each end. This is finished with carved calligraphy on the rear of each element and carved geometric star

patterns in the top of the faceted cubes (Figure 2.457). A shallow pointed niche design is carved on the upper surface (E) which incorporates a double scroll into the double border below the point of the niche. Inscriptions on five surfaces but only one is legible and two are partially legible because of the gravestone being partly buried in the shrine floor and covered with cement.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- Covered with cement and cannot be read.

أ:
مغطاة بالأسمنت ولا يمكن قراءتها



FIGURE 2.454 Surface A, QAD2

B:

- Covered with cement and cannot be read.

ب:
مغطاة بالأسمنت ولا يمكن قراءتها

C:

- I put my trust in Allah.
- Written by Hasan bin 'Ali.
- Abd Muhammad bin Ja'far.

ج:
توكلت على الله.
كتبه حسن بن علي.
عبد محمد بن جعفر.



FIGURE 2.455 Surface C, QAD2

D:

- This is the grave of the chaste, the enlightened mind.
- The one who has got paradise.
- Shaikh 'Ali bin Sulayman.

هذا قبر الاطهر الانور.

المندرج الى فردوس الجنان.

الشيخ علي بن سليمان.



FIGURE 2.456 Surface D, QAD2

E:

- May the blessing of Allah be upon Muhammad al-Mustafa, ‘Ali al-Murtada, Fatimah al-Zahra’, Khadija al-Kubra, al-Hasan al-Zaki, al-Husayn al-Shahid, ‘Ali, Muhammad, Ja‘far al-Sadiq, Musa al-Kadhim, Ali al-Rida, Muhammad al-Jawad, ‘Ali al-Hadi, al-Hasan al-‘Askari, and al-Khalaf al-Hujjah al-Qa’im al-Mahdi. May the blessing of Allah be upon all of them.

هـ:
 اللهم صل على محمد المصطفى وعلي
 المرتضى وفاطمة الزهري (الزهراء)
 وخديجة الكبرى والحسن الزكي والحسين
 الشهيد وعلي ومحمد وجعفر الصادق
 وموسى الكاظم وعلي الرضى (الرضا) ومحمد
 الجواد وعلي الهادي والحسن العسكري
 والخلف الحجة القائم المهدي صاحب
 الزمان وصلى الله عليهم اجمعين.



FIGURE 2.457 Surface E, part 1, QAD2



FIGURE 2.458 Surface E, part 2, QAD2

23 Sh. Abd al-Rauf al-Bahrani (Sh. AB)

Location: Mosque in Jidhafs village

Reference Number: Sh. AB1

Co-ordinates: 26.21703° N 050.53794° E

Dimensions: 156 cm (l) × 33.5 cm (w) × 35 cm (h)

Orientation: NW to SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Eroded and with patches of cement on it. Partially buried in cement under a metal and glass canopy inside a shrine. Approximately 70 cm below current ground level suggesting it is in its original position (Figure 2.459). The only accessible legible inscription is on the upper surface (E). Two inscriptions can be seen but are not accessible for adequate reading or photography on the side surfaces (A and B). Three element raised decoration at one end formed of two facetted cubes and a central thin rounded arch, broken or cut off at the other end. Shallow carved rounded niche design on top surface (E).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

– Difficult to read.

أ:
يصعب قراءته

B:

– Difficult to read.

ب:
يصعب قراءته

C:

Difficult to read.

ج:
يصعب قراءته بسبب الاسمنت

D:

– Difficult to read.

د:
يصعب قراءته بسبب الاسمنت

E:

– Written by ... Sheikh ... Lutf Allah
Lut Allah Bin Ali Lut Allah Aljedhafi
Albahrani, May Allah bless them.

ه:
كتبه العبد الجاني (الراجي).... الشيخ....
لطف الله لطف الله بن علي لطف الله
الجد حفصي البحراني عفى عنهم.

– Engraved by ... Ali Bin ...

نقشه الجانيعلي بن



FIGURE 2.459
Surface E, Sh. AB1

24 Sh. Latfulla (Sh. LA)

Location: Mosque in Jidhafs village

Reference Number: Sh. LA1

Co-ordinates: 26.21703° N 050.53794° E

Dimensions: 143 cm (l) × 32 cm (w) × 30.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW to SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone. Partly covered in modern green mosaic tiles. Flat rectangular slab, probably the plinth from which the raised decoration was removed, at each end. Accessible inscriptions only on two surfaces, and one of these (A) was only partially photographable (Figure 2.460). Located in a metal and glass canopy inside a shrine. Approximately 100 cm below current ground level suggesting it is in its original position.

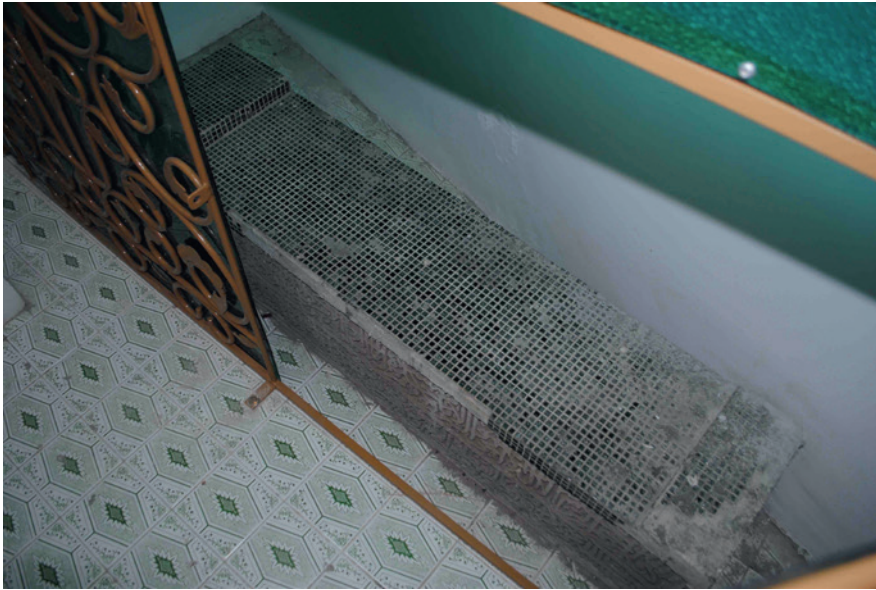


FIGURE 2.460 Sh. LA1

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter.

أ:
 بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
 هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
 مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا
 الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
 أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ.

- And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255–256).

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ
 وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا
 يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، لَا
 إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ
 فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ
 اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا
 وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ.



FIGURE 2.461 Partial view of surface A, Sh. LA1

B:

- Difficult to read.

ب:
 يصعب قراءته

C:

ج:

- reading part of the Holy Quran every day, with a fare of 2 baskets of palm dates ... from the crop of palm garden ... known as ... Mani land in al-Bahrayn, 1150.

قراءة كل يوم جزء من كتاب الله العزيز
بجلتين من تمر النخل..... من حاصل
صرمة النخل..... المعروف بسيحة
مني من البحرين سنة 1150.



FIGURE 2.462 Surface C, Sh. LA1

D:

- Difficult to read.

د:
يصعب قراءته بسبب الاسمنت

E:

- Difficult to read.

ه:
يصعب قراءته بسبب الاسمنت

25 Sh. Ahmed bin Muhammed Al-Khalifa Tomb (SHAM-ALK)

Location: Small walled plot in Manama containing the tomb of Sheikh Ahmed bin Muhammed Al-Khalifa.

Co-ordinates: 26.22725° N 050.58373° E

Dimensions: 288 cm (l) × 153 cm (w) × 131 cm (h) (maximum grave dimensions)

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Description: Upright flat marble headstone commemorating Al-Fattah es Sheikh Ahmed bin Muhammad Al-Khalifa, first Al-Khalifa ruler of Bahrain, d. 1209 AH, AD 1795. The inscription appears to be laser-etched onto the stone and was filled in with black paint, most of which has come off.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. You, the one in rest and satisfaction. Come back to your Lord well-pleased and well-pleasing. Enter you then among My honoured slaves. And enter you My Paradise (89:27-30). God Almighty has spoken the truth.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ
الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ، ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَةً،
فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي، وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي. صدق
الله العظيم.
- Al-Fatih, Shaikh Ahmad bin Muhammad al-Khalifa.

الفتاح الشيخ أحمد بن محمد الخليفة.
- Entered al-Bahrayn in 1198 AH-1783 AD, died in 1209 AH-1795 AD. May Allah abide him in His spacious paradise.

فتح البحرين عام 1197 هـ - 1783 م. وتوفي
عام 1209 هـ - 1795 م. اسكنه الله فسيح
جناته.

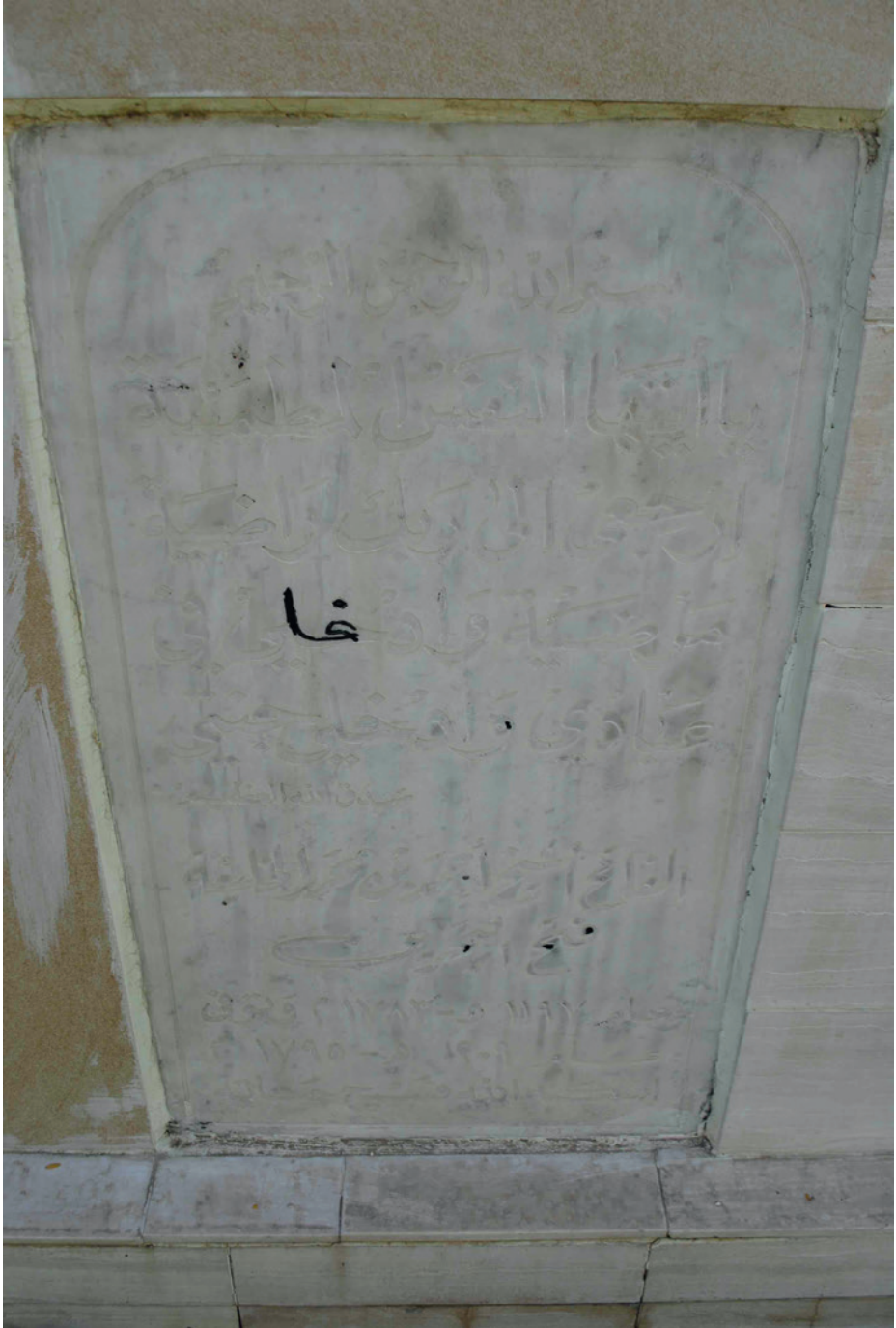


FIGURE 2.463 SHAM-ALK

26 Sayed Yahya Al Husseini (SYA)

Location: Tomb next to a mosque in Al Musalla village

Reference Number: SYA1

Co-ordinates: 26.21202° N 050.54042° E

Dimensions: 151 cm (l) × 33.5 cm (w) × 54 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone inside a small modern domed shrine with a tiled interior. Some erosion and small patches of cement adhering to the surface. Three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and central rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Eroded traces of shallow carved pointed niche design on the upper surface (E). Legible inscriptions on five surfaces, three of which were impossible to photograph (A, C, D), as although they could be read, they could not be accessed for adequate photography because of the position of the gravestone within the small shrine space (Figure 2.464).



FIGURE 2.464 SYA1

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask.

أ:
تَنْزَلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ. مَحْنُ أُولَئِكَ وَكُمُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ.

- An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30-32). Whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish (38:50-54).

نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ. مُمْتَحَنَةٌ لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكِّينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَثْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ.

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world,

ب:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ

- And will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). Allah and His Prophet have spoken the truth.

أَيَّدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلَفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ
الْعَظِيمُ. صدق الله وصدق رسوله.



FIGURE 2.465 Surface B, SYA1

C:

- Reading two parts ... from dates ... at Sanj in al-Bahrayn, from crop of
- Al-Ghara ... palms which is located ... al-Bahrayn.

ج:
قراءة جزئين من ثمر بصنج
البحرين من حاصل نخل.
الغرا الواقعة البحرين.

D:

- This is the grave of the late, al-Sayyid Yahya Bin al-Sayyid Muhammad.
- Abu Shabanah al-Husayni. May Allah forgive them and the other believers.

د:
هذا ضريح المرحوم السيد يحيى بن السيد
(محمد).
ابو شبانة الحسيني عفى عنهما وعن
المؤمنين.

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid Salih bin al-Sayyid Hashim. May Allah forgive them.
- O grave have a look on al-Husayni Yahya, the master of both the chandelier and the dust.

ه:
نقشه السيد صالح بن السيد هاشم عفى
الله عنهما.
طل على هامة الثرى والثريا*** ايها
القبر بالحسيني يحيى.

- ... his body ... paradise ... جنة جنة النعيم ويحيي.
- ... written by ‘Ali bin Husayn, May Allah forgive them, in 1093. (كتبه) الاقل علي بن حسين عفى عنهما سنة 1093.



FIGURE 2.466 Surface E, SYA1

27 Tubli (TUB)

Location: Village cemetery in Tubli adjacent to the Sheikh Hashem El Tublah mosque

Reference Number: TUB1

Co-ordinates: 26.18412° N 050.54807° E

Dimensions: 140 cm (l) × 26 cm (w) × 54.5 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone in Tubli cemetery. Well-carved three element raised decoration formed of two faceted cubes and a central thin rounded arch all set on a rectangular plinth at each end. Delineated central uncarved rectangular panel on the top surface (E) which, unusually, is not a niche. Several small circular holes drilled in one side surface (A), and some surface pitting in places. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

أ:

- Verily, those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright; the angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire,
- And therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment from the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (41:30–32). Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish (38:50–54). Praise be to Allah.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا
تَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي.

أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدَّعُونَ، نُزُلًا
مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ. جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مَّفْتَحَةٌ
لَّهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ، مُتَكِنِينَ فِيهَا يُدْعُونَ فِيهَا
بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ
الظَّرْفِ أَنْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ
الْحِسَابِ، إِنَّ هَذَا لِرِزْقِنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ.
والحمد لله.



FIGURE 2.467 Surface A, TUB1

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never
- Compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth.
- And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). God Almighty has spoken the truth. And His Messenger, the Generous Prophet proclaimed the message. And Ali, the commander of the faithful has spoken the truth.

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا

يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ. صدق الله العلي العظيم وبلغ رسوله النبي الكريم وصدق علي أمير المؤمنين.



FIGURE 2.468 Surface B, TUBI

C:

ج:

- Reading one part for twenty mann, al-Bahrayn's weight ... n ... from the crop of al-Ghara palms.
- ... in al-Kharajat which is located at Katkan in al-Bahrayn.

قراءة جزء بعشرين منا وزن البحرين...ن...
 من حاصل نخل الغرة.
 من الخراجات موقعها بسيحة
 ككان من البحرين.



FIGURE 2.469
 Surface C, TUB1

D:

- This grave of the noble, al-Sayyid Hasan bin al-Sayyid 'Ali bin al-Sayyid Muhammad.

هذا ضريح السيد الشريف السيد حسن
بن المؤمن المرحوم المبرور السيد علي
بن المقدس السيد محمد.

- Al-Qaruni al-Husayni who died seventh of Rajab, one thousand and ninety-five.

القاروني الحسيني كان وفاته سابع شهر
رجب سنة خمس وتسعين والالف هجرية.



FIGURE 2.470
Surface D, TUBI

E:

- Engraved by al-Sayyid Naser bin al-Sayyid Hashim al-Husayni. May Allah forgive them.
- This is a grave of prophet Muhammad's son, who is a viscount and saint.
- He was a good person and had a face as beautiful as his name Abu al-Husayn Hasan al-Husayni.
- Written by Husayn bin 'Ali bin Zayn al-Din. May Allah forgive them.

هـ:
نقشه السيد ناصر بن المرحوم السيد
الفاخر السيد هاشم الحسيني عفى الله
عنهما بمناه.

هذا ضريح السيد المكين*** كثر الفخار
والتقى والدين.

كان له خلقا وخلقاً كاسمه*** ابي الحسين
الحسن الحسيني.

كتبه الاقل لملك الدين حسين بن علي بن
زين الدين عفى الله عنهم بمناه اجمعين.



FIGURE 2.471
Surface E, TUB1

Reference Number: TUB2

Co-ordinates: 26.18419° N 050.54807° E

Dimensions:

Slab 1: 60 cm (l) × 31 cm (w) × 33.5 cm (h)

Slab 2: 71 cm (l) × 35 cm (w) × 37 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Double limestone slab gravestone in Tubli village cemetery. Cemented onto a modern concrete block base. Unfinished, mis-shapen and badly cut to size with saw and chisel marks evident (Figure 2.472). Roughed out but unfinished three element raised decoration at each end. No inscriptions or decorative carving.



FIGURE 2.472 TUB2

Arabic Transcription and Translation: No inscriptions

Reference Number: TUB3

Co-ordinates: 26.18507° N 050.54725° E

Dimensions: 120 cm (l) × 27 cm (w) × 33 cm (h)

Orientation: NW-SE

Description: Single limestone slab gravestone set on a plaster slab on top of a marble plinth under a glass case in the Sheikh Hashem El Tublah mosque. Some erosion, surface pitting, and also a small rectangular cut mark on one side surface (B). Raised decoration broken or cut off at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number S14, Kalus (1995: 147–148). Original location described as unknown but at the time of recording it was in the courtyard of a house in the village (ibid: 147).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.
- Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills.

أ:
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ
مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ
مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ
بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ



FIGURE 2.473 Surface A, TUB3

B:

- His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth. And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower (2:255-256). Allah ...

ب:
 كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ
 حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي
 الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
 بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
 بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ
 عَلِيمٌ اللَّهُ.....



FIGURE 2.474 Surface B, TUB3

C:

- This is the grave of ... the blessed
- al-Sayyid ... Muhamad bin ...

ج:
 هذا مقر الاجل.....المقدس....
 السيد.....محمد بن.....



FIGURE 2.475 Surface C, TUB3

D:

د:

-

.....

- ... month ... year of one thousand and eight.

.....
.....بشهر.....السنة الثامنة والالف.



FIGURE 2.476 Surface D, TUB3

E:

- ... between proudness and ...

هـ:***بين فخر و.....

- ... paradise ... At the end it happens ...

قل.....الجنان***جل الامر حادثة....

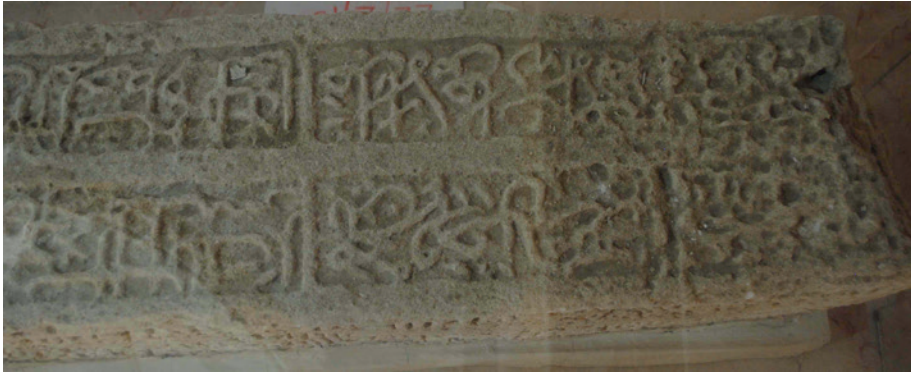


FIGURE 2.477 Surface E, part 1, TUB3

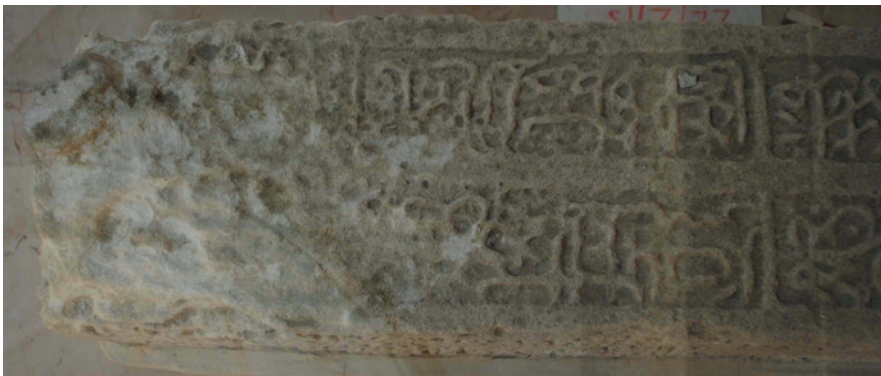


FIGURE 2.478 Surface E, part 2, TUB3

Reference Number: TUB4**Co-ordinates:** 26.18503° N 050.54732° E**Dimensions:** 145 cm (l) × 29 cm (w) × 34 cm (h)**Orientation:** NNW-SSE**Description:** Single limestone slab gravestone set on a plaster slab on top of a marble plinth under a glass case in the Sheikh Hashem El Tublah mosque. Significant

erosion on the top surface (E). Raised decoration broken or cut off at both ends. Inscriptions on five surfaces.

Previous Publication: Number S14, Kalus (1995: 145–147). Original location described as unknown but at the time of recording it was in the courtyard of a house in the village (ibid: 145).

Arabic Transcription and Translation:

A:

- The angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but receive the glad tidings of the paradise which you have been promised. We have been your friends in the life of this world and are in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have all for which you ask. An entertainment ... (41:30–32)
- Eden Paradise, whose doors will be opened for them. Therein they will recline, therein they will call for fruits in abundance and drinks. And beside them will be chaste females restraining their glances and of equal ages. This is what you are promised for the day of Reckoning. Verily, this is our provision which will never finish (38:50–54). God Almighty has spoken the truth. And His Messenger, the Generous Prophet proclaimed the message.

أ:
 تَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا
 تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ،
 نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا
 مَا تَدْعُونَ، نَزْلًا.....
 جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ مُمْتِنَةً لَهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ،
 مُتَكِنِينَ فِيهَا يُدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ
 وَشَرَابٍ، وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ
 أَثْرَابٌ، هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ،
 إِنَّ هَذَا لِرِزْقِنَا مَا لَهُ مِنْ نَفَادٍ. صدق الله
 العلي العظيم وبلغ رسوله الكريم.



FIGURE 2.479 Surface A, TUB4

B:

- In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but he, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission! He knows what happens to them in this world, and will happen to them in the Hereafter and they will never compass anything of His Knowledge
- Except that which He wills. His Seat extends over the heavens and the earth.
- And He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great (2:255). God Almighty has spoken the truth. And His Messenger, the Generous Prophet proclaimed the message. And Ali, The commander of the faithful has spoken the truth. And Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

ب: بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ، اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ

إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ، صدق الله العظيم وبلغ رسوله الكريم وصدق علي أمير المؤمنين والمحمد لله رب العالمين



FIGURE 2.480 Surface B, part 1, TUB4



FIGURE 2.481 Surface B, part 2, TUB4

C:

- This is ... the late, al-Sayyid ... هذا.....المرحوم السيد.....
- al-Sayyid Muhammad al-Qaruni who died in eighth of Dhu al-Hijjah, one thousand and ninety-three. السيد محمد القاروني توفي في ثامن شهر ذي الحجة سنة ثلاث وتسعين وألف.



FIGURE 2.482 Surface C, TUB4

D:

- Recite part of ... from the income ... from al-Kharajat ... with

د:
قراءة جزء من مرتلة سالمة من
الخراجات مع.

- Crop of palms known as al-shatib al-kabir which is located at Katkan area nearby the sea.

حاصل النخل المعروف بالشطيب
الكبير الواقع بسيحة ككان حده البحر.



FIGURE 2.483 Surface D, TUB4

- E: ه:
- Engraved by ... al-Sayyid Hashim ... نقشه... السيد هاشم... عفى عنهم.....
 may Allah forgive them.
-



FIGURE 2.484 Surface E, part 1, TUB4



FIGURE 2.485 Surface E, part 2, TUB4

Conclusions

1 Contemporary Practices Relating to Cemeteries, Graves, and Gravestones

A variety of contemporary practices and associated material culture linked with gravestones were recorded during the fieldwork in the cemeteries, particularly in the larger cemeteries of Abu Anbra and Hoorā (Figure 1.1). These do not directly relate to the historical gravestones but do provide context for the locations in which they are now found.

Cemeteries and graves are visited by members of the Shi'a community especially on Thursday afternoons and throughout the day on Fridays. This occurs all through the year and is not associated with particular holy days. Close family and friends will visit a grave and this is not gender restricted, with men visiting female graves and vice versa, and with the same readings and prayers at both. There are also no restrictions on children visiting cemeteries and they can participate from any age and may also read from the Quran at the grave.

At the grave side the visitor can start by greeting the dead, but this is not a requirement. The Quran is then either read or recited from memory with preferred parts including, first in sequence, al-Fatiha (1:1–7), followed by other popular *sura* and *ayah* such as Surah al-Qadr (97:1–5), which is read seven times. The salutatory prayer *Ziyarat Ashura* might also be said or read afterwards. Generally, the visitor will sit facing the *Qibla* with his or her hand on the grave. Plastic or wooden stools are frequently left next to graves. In some instances, a copy of the Quran and other prayer texts were also left at the graveside in a tin or wooden box for ease of access (Figure 3.1). Schöller (2004: 152) has noted that the practice of reading or reciting the Quran at graves could have the intention of two-way benefits for the deceased and the reader/reciter themselves. Though it was stated by Bahraini grave visitors that a final request is usually made that their prayers and blessings should remain with the deceased.

Assuming equivalence between cemetery visitation and gravestone associated commemoration practices of today and the past is unwarranted. In contemporary Bahraini Shi'a cemeteries, it is not important to read gravestone inscriptions aloud, but for the past it is not known if this was a significant practice. Halevi (2007: 27) has made the point that “all tombstone inscriptions invite the literate passer-by to read them, presumably out loud”. Equally, illiteracy need not have been a hindrance to participation, for the illiterate with competence in spoken Arabic could also participate in oral performance and ritual at key moments when prompted by the reader (*ibid.*). The elaborate design of the Bahraini funerary epigraphy suggests that



FIGURE 3.1 Tin containing Quran and unidentified prayer texts, Abu Anbra cemetery

should reading aloud have been significant in the past, this might have been linked with only a minority, i.e. akin to the process Halevi describes.

Plants are frequently grown on or around contemporary graves (Figure 3.2). Of recurrent significance is *mashmoom*, basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), which has a sweet smell and as such is used at weddings, at death, and in cemeteries. It is also prevalent because it does well in the Bahraini climate if watered. Plastic containers – jerry cans, soft drink and laundry liquid bottles – used for watering plants were ubiquitous at most graves. If *mashmoom* is not grown at the grave itself cut stems could be left on the grave (Figure 3.3). These fragrant plants are referred to generically by Schöller (2004: 577–78) as *Rayhan*, a term which can refer to sweet basil or myrtle (*Myrtus*) and which in classical and middle Arabic signified, “a plant of sweet odour”. Schöller (2004: 185) also describes how growing plants, particularly fragrant ones, on or among graves was closely connected with the idea of “sprinkling” or “watering” the grave. In some instances, plastic flowers, as a durable alternative to real flowers which do not thrive in the Bahraini summer when temperatures can reach 40°C with 80% humidity, were also used as grave ornaments (Figure 3.4).

Sprinkling rose-water on graves and burning incense on or near graves are other contemporary practices. These were described as not for the benefit of the dead but for the visitors so they could smell pleasant perfumes whilst at their relative’s grave-side. Both practices were materially indicated by numerous discarded plastic and



FIGURE 3.2 Plants, including *mashmoom* and an unidentified flower, growing on graves, Abu Anbra cemetery. The fan palm leaves are added to beautify the grave.

glass rosewater bottles and lesser numbers of incense burners in wood, metal, and clay left in the cemeteries. Providing dishes of food and water for birds on graves was also recorded (Figures 3.3 and 3.5). This was seen as an auspicious act, benefiting the birds, and through the good deed being achieved, the deceased as well.

Such practices are not exclusively Shi'a, nor confined to Bahrain. Mershen (2004: 165) describes how the Sunni Balushi community at al-Khod in Oman sprinkled graves with rose-water, and held the *hatmah* ceremony at the end of either the three or seven-day long mourning period at the grave. This involved reciting passages from the Quran over a clay pot filled with basil leaves and rose-water. As in the Bahraini cemetery context, they were practices that were materially attested by dried basil twigs and empty rose-water bottles.

Other artefacts that were recorded in association with contemporary graves in the Bahraini cemeteries included a child's doll that was left on a grave in Hooraa cemetery (Figure 3.6). It is probable the doll belonged to the baby or child buried in the grave and had been placed there in their memory by a relative. Flags were also frequently attached to gravestones or planted in graves. These were of types commonly flown during Ashura and commemorating either Imam Hussein (Figure 3.7), or his brother Abbas ibn Ali, referred to in Bahrain as Abu al-Fadel (Figure 3.8). The presence of the flags was described as denoting the love of the deceased



FIGURE 3.3 Dried *mashroom* stems, containers for bird seed and water (dry), and incense burner on grave, Hooraa cemetery



FIGURE 3.4 Plastic flowers on a grave, Al-Qadem cemetery



FIGURE 3.5 Water container for birds on grave, Hooraa cemetery



FIGURE 3.6 Child's doll left on a grave, Hoorra cemetery



FIGURE 3.7 Flag commemorating Imam Hussein, Hoorah cemetery



FIGURE 3.8 Flag commemorating Abu al-Fadel, Abu Anbra cemetery

for Imam Hussein and Abu al-Fadel. Occasionally, gravestones or other stones placed alongside the gravestones were wrapped in green cloth, either in strips or larger pieces (Figure 3.9). Green is used because it was the favourite colour of the Prophet Muhammad and as such is believed to obtain the blessing of the Prophet Muhammad and his family for the deceased. Some of the cloth can be obtained on pilgrimage to the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala (Iraq), or the Imam Ridha/Reza shrine in Mashad (Iran), where it is bought, then touched, put, or rubbed on the shrine and brought back to Bahrain where it is wrapped or tied around the gravestone or associated stones, again with the intention of getting blessings for the deceased from the Imams associated with the shrines.

A contemporary association between magic and historical gravestones was also evident in two instances. In Karranah cemetery, a glass bottle containing a sheet of paper with the Arabic words ‘buried in an old grave’ written on it was found under one of the slabs of gravestone KAR4 (Figure 3.10). In Abu Anbra cemetery a roll of brown plastic containing an unidentified powdered herbal or plant-based medicine was found at a depth of 50 cm in close proximity to gravestone ABN49 (Figure 3.11). These two examples appear representative of the practices described by Schöller (2004: 116) as “the tomb speaking”, where the dead were approached for information or advice, “mainly with regard to questions of private nature”. Seeking the intervention of the deceased was also recorded in relation to gravestone MAL1,



FIGURE 3.9 Green textile wrapped stone in front of gravestone, Noaim cemetery



FIGURE 3.10 Paper charm and the glass bottle in which it was found, Karranah cemetery



FIGURE 3.11 Powdered herbal medicine and roll of plastic in which it was found, Abu Anbra cemetery

where the inside of the wooden door giving access to the grave chamber was covered in the names of people who had sought the help of the individual buried there (Figure 3.12).

2 Comparative Shi'a Contemporary Practices Relating to Cemeteries, Graves, and Gravestones

Comparative literature on Bahraini Shi'a practices relating to cemeteries, graves, and gravestones does not appear to exist. Studies of quotidian Shi'a post-funeral cemetery visiting practices and their associated material culture elsewhere is also limited, with a focus instead upon mourning and lamentation rituals (e.g. Thaiss 1972: 355–356; Pinault 1992: 99–114, 1999; Aghaie 2004, 2005; Torab 2007: 146–148, 164–165; Flakerud 2005, 2010: 184–189; Khosronejad 2014; Fox 2016), ritual more generally (e.g. Loeffler 1988; Aghaie 2004, 2005; Thurffell 2006; Deeb 2006), or, to a lesser extent, ritual at major shrines such as those of Shiraz (e.g. Betteridge 1992), Karbala (e.g. Donaldson 1933: 92–100) or Mashad (e.g. Donaldson 1933: 180–183) evident. The absence of dedicated Bahraini study correlates with observations made by Khosronejad (2013: 143) that the anthropology of Shi'a ritual has generally not been the focus of research until recently, and, as noted by Allan (2013: ix), that in comparison to other aspects of Islam, little has been written on the art and material culture of the Shi'a.

Notable comparative exceptions include Khosronejad's (2013) research on Bakhtiari nomads in the Zagros Mountains of Iran, which is significant in indicating the types of offerings left at shrines. Saints shrines were located on nomad migration routes with most shrines simple structures, "small, plain platforms with a collection of stones and, in some cases, a tomb inside the building" (Khosronejad 2013: 149), often with a surrounding cemetery. These were visited as part of pilgrimage, and offerings were hung in sacred trees near the shrine including paper prayers, coloured cloth, and the heads and legs of domestic fowls. Most pilgrims were women, petitioning, for example, to have a son (*ibid*: 151–152). The shrines formed one among a range of funerary monuments that constituted Bakhtiari landscapes of funerary memory. Others included three-dimensional lion sculptures that commemorated "the graves of unknown chiefs and warriors who have died in local battles" (Khosronejad 2011: 204), and *māfihgah*, square constructions built of cemented stone blocks that commemorated chiefs, and male relatives (Khosronejad 2013: 158).

The distribution by women of votive dishes of food to the poor at graves "for the benefit of deceased spirits" is also described by Torab (2007: 118) in her study of women's ritual in south Tehran. Olfactory elements were also significant with rose-water used along with saffron tossed in oil when "cooking *halva* for the dead,



FIGURE 3.12 Door covered in the names of people petitioning the deceased, Amir Zaid shrine and mosque, Malkiya

with the fragrant aroma alerting “the dead that they are being remembered” (Torab 2007: 129), and providing a contrast to the Bahraini use of rosewater for the living described earlier. Aghaie (2004: Figure 14) also provides an illustration of a man spraying rose-water onto an unspecified ritual procession in Tehran and describes its use as widespread at ritual events, including communal prayer, as the Prophet Muhammad “is believed to have loved the smell of perfumes, and roses in particular”.

Some detail on the Martyrs cemeteries that were developed in Iran after the 1979 revolution is also provided by Aghaie (2004: 136–138). These were usually fenced off from ordinary cemeteries, thus forming a special section, decorated with images and statements of Fatima and Zaynab, and signs and banners containing revolutionary slogans, images of revolutionary leaders, soldiers fighting, martyrs praying, and relatives mourning. Besides “traditional gravestones containing religious calligraphy” (ibid: 137), glass display cases could be incorporated into the martyr’s individual memorials containing framed photos of the deceased, letters, prayer beads, dog-tags, prayer stones, and vases of plastic flowers. Betteridge (1992: 203–204) also describes the material culture of making vows at shrines in Shiraz, which were represented by a piece of string or shred of cloth tied to the tomb window or grating, or by a safety pin or padlock attached in the same way. Flaskerud (2010) discusses the use of images in Shi’a ritual space, and indicates that these could be offered as votive gifts, and items such as wall hangings were purchased from shrines such as those at Mashad and Karbala (ibid: 181). The same sources for some of the textiles (and likely also some of the figurative banners and flags) found in the Bahraini cemeteries.

3 The Importance of the Historical Gravestones to Contemporary Bahraini Communities

The historical gravestones are important to the Bahraini communities in which they are located in varied ways. In a cemetery such as Abu Anbra where there were 50 gravestones pre-dating 1900 AD catalogued as part of this study, the gravestones are a source of pride to the community and as such are curated, venerated, and maintained. In other communities, awareness of the importance of the gravestones increased as a result of the fieldwork completed during this study as community leaders and people visiting graves saw the recording in progress and were told about the results of the research. Tangible results of this increased awareness included pro-active maintenance of the surroundings of what might have been previously neglected gravestones through weeding, rubbish removal, and sweeping of the immediate vicinity. This was particularly manifest in the village cemetery of Daih where after the gravestone (DA11) was recorded, a Perspex and cement case complete with a floor of potsherds collected in the cemetery was built to house the gravestone (Figure 3.13). Although not without conservation issues relating to



FIGURE 3.13 Perspex and cement case covering DA11, Daih cemetery



FIGURE 3.14 Glass case covering ABS1, Abu Saiba cemetery

moisture build-up inside the case, the Daih example attests community appreciation of the gravestone as a historically important monument.

Similarly, a locally made glass display case also suffering from condensation retention had been constructed to house a gravestone (ABS1) in the Abu Saiba village cemetery (Figure 3.14). At Tubli, two gravestones (TUB1 and TUB2) were displayed inside the Sheikh Hashem El Tublah Mosque on plaster slabs raised on marble

plinths inside professionally made glass cases which were not exhibiting any signs of moisture/condensation retention (Figure 3.15). The use of the glass and Perspex cases transformed these particular gravestones almost into museum objects, though in two of the three contexts (Tubli and Abu Saiba) they still had an explicitly religious association through being housed inside a mosque and shrine, respectively.



FIGURE 3.15 Glass case covering TUB3, Sheikh Hashem el-Tublah mosque, Tubli

TABLE 3.1 Contemporary shrines housing historical gravestones

Location	Gravestone Codes	Description
Abu Anbra	ABN34	Housed in the shrine of Sheikh Husayn bin 'Abd al-Samad. A concrete building (13.7m × 14.7m) with a small green dome (Figure 3.16).
Askar	ASK1	Housed in a shrine that is part of the Sasa'a bin Sawhan mosque complex. The gravestone is in a broken varnished wooden superstructure within a shrine room (Figure 3.17). The mosque complex was extensively vandalised during sectarian trouble in 2012.
Karranah	KAR5	Housed in the Sheikh Nasser bin Muhammad bin Sheikh Abdullah al-Rabi mosque/shrine. A small concrete block building with a green dome on top built in 2012 (Figure 3.18) (4.5m × 4.5m).
Mahooz	MAH2	Housed within a shrine room (2.3m × 1.2m) inside the Sheikh Suliman Al-Mahoozi mosque (Figure 3.19).
Malkiya	MAL1	Housed inside the Amir Zaid shrine and mosque in a sunken shrine room (2.3m × 4m) accessed by a staircase and partitioned off with a wooden screen from the mosque. The gravestone is situated within an aluminium and glass canopy covered with cloth shrouds at the far end of the sunken room (Figure 3.20). The grave is located 40–50 cm below the ground level of the sunken room (Figure 2.369).
Al-Qadem	QAD2	Housed inside the modern concrete Sheikh Ali Al-Qademi shrine building (8m × 5.5m) (Figure 3.21). The gravestone is covered with a moveable aluminium canopy (1m × 1.8m).
Sh. Abd al-Rauf al-Bahrani	Sh. AB1	Housed inside a shrine room (1.8m × 1m) attached to the Western Madaris mosque (Figure 3.22). The gravestone is partially buried in cement under a metal and glass canopy (Figure 3.23).
Sh. Latfulla	Sh. LA1	Housed inside a shrine room (2.3m × 1m) attached to the Western Madaris mosque (Figure 3.24). The gravestone is partly tiled and with a metal and glass canopy (Figure 2.460).
Sayed Yahya Al Hussein	SYA1	Housed inside a small modern domed shrine with a hexagonal shaped interior (each hexagonal side is 1.4m) (Figure 3.25) with a tiled interior at the side of the Sayed Yahya Al Hussein mosque building (Figure 2.464).



FIGURE 3.16 Shrine of Sheikh Husayn bin 'Abd al-Samad, Abu Anbra cemetery



FIGURE 3.17 The damaged wooden superstructure covering ASK1, Sasa'a bin Sawhan mosque, Askar



FIGURE 3.18 Sheikh Nasser bin Muhammad bin Shaikh Abdullah al-Rabi mosque/shrine, Karranah



FIGURE 3.19 Sheikh Suliman Al-Mahoozi shrine, Mahooz cemetery



FIGURE 3.20 Textile shrouds and aluminium superstructure covering MALI, Amir Zaid shrine and mosque, Malkiya



FIGURE 3.21 Sheikh Ali Al-Qademi shrine, Al-Qadem cemetery



FIGURE 3.22 Interior of shrine room housing Sh.AB1, Western Madaris mosque



FIGURE 3.23 Metal and glass superstructure with green textile shroud used to cover Sh.AB₁, Western Madaris mosque



FIGURE 3.24 Perspex and metal superstructure covering Sh.LA1, Western Madaris mosque



FIGURE 3.25 Domed shrine containing SYA1, Sayed Yahya Al Husseini mosque

Excluding the archaeological shrines discussed in Chapter 1, a further nine instances of the use of some form of shrine building to house a historical gravestone were recorded (Table 3.1). These shrines are subject to modification, rebuilding, and ‘improving’ as community finances allow. The rebuilding of the Sheikh Nasser bin Muhammad bin Shaikh Abdullah al-Rabi shrine/mosque in Karranah containing gravestone KAR5 provides such an example. This changed fundamentally between the year 2001, when it was first recorded (Insoll 2005: 35), and 2015, reflecting the residential development that had occurred in its surroundings.

In 2001, the shrine was a rudimentary structure with walls made from un-cemented concrete blocks one row thick and laid end on end with a roof of corrugated iron sheets placed on scrap timber rafters. The gravestone was covered with a metal grille made from welded rods in turn covered with a green cloth shroud (Figure 3.26). By 2015 this was replaced by a completely different architecturally non-descript structure built in 2012, with rendered cement block walls, barred windows, a small green dome, and tiled floor (Figure 3.18). The process of shrine morphology is not unique to Bahrain. Allan (2012: 16) cites the caption to a photograph of the tomb of Imam Ibrahim near Baghdad taken in 1976 that read: “The tomb of Imam Ibrahim, between Karbala and Hilla, started with a tin, then flags, and at the end they built a dome for it”. Besides buildings and internal aluminium canopies, a green-painted slatted wood framework covered QAD1 (Figure 3.27). This appeared to once have had a textile cover attached to it, but this deteriorated and had been removed.



FIGURE 3.26 Sheikh Nasser bin Muhammad bin Sheikh Abdullah al-Rabi shrine, Karranah, in 2001



FIGURE 3.27 Wooden framework covering QAD1, Al-Qadem cemetery

In addition to being a source of community pride and curation, and having religious associations through being in shrines and mosques, the gravestones are important to Bahrainis in another way. Recently, there has been a surge in interest in local history amongst all elements of the population, a development, in part, growing out of social media raising public awareness of local history and its sources (cf. <http://www.jasblog.com/wp/> or <https://www.instagram.com/aljareesh/?hl=en>). The gravestones are perceived as a significant source of evidence for the history of Bahrain, in providing information on villages, Saints, Sheikhs, and other people in the Bahraini past through the names, dates, and geographical information the inscriptions contain.

4 The Threats Facing the Gravestones

The only recorded example of deliberate damage of a location with a historical gravestone was at Askar. Here, the mosque complex was vandalised in 2012. Photographs of the mosque immediately after the event indicate that the white marble casing surrounding the gravestone had been broken open and the wooden fretwork cover largely removed. Fortunately, the gravestone was not harmed, as the building was the target. Most of the debris had been removed by February 2015 when the gravestone was recorded. Elsewhere, the main threat facing the gravestones was deterioration through climatic and environmental factors. Exfoliation and erosion of stone surfaces due to moisture and wind-blown particle damage, and the effects of damage caused by soil salts were all apparent (e.g. JBH8, Figure 2.236).

The dispersal of gravestones was also noted at the Al-Khamis Mosque. In the 1980s, as part of a cleaning up operation at the site, many of the gravestones were removed from their original positions and placed in at least two parallel rows adjacent to the eastern wall of the mosque (e.g. KHA8, KHA9, KHA10, KHA11, KHA13, KHA14, KHA15, KHA16). Some of the Al-Khamis gravestones also seem to have been moved to the stores of the Bahrain National Museum at or around the same time (e.g. MUS2, MUS6).

The beauty of some of the gravestones could lead to their having value on the international Islamic art market. However, no examples of their international or local sale were found. A query made to the Middle East Department at Sotheby's received the following reply, "we have sold over the years many tombstones but not many from Bahrain" (C. De Nicolais pers. comm. 13/11/17). An accompanying search of the Artnet price database (<https://www.artnet.com/auctions/>) by Ms Chiara De Nicolais using the keyword 'tombstone' provided 30 entries for the sale of Islamic gravestones between 2000 and 2016, but none from Bahrain. It is also possible that gravestones in Bahrain could have been collected by private individuals. One example of this was recorded. Gravestone BEIT1 is on display in the Beit al-Qur'an Museum in Manama which houses the collections of its founder, Abdul Latif Jassim Kanoo.

The incorporation of gravestones in shrine contexts has already been discussed. The modernisation, re-modelling, and re-building of these buildings by local communities, as well as the transference of gravestones to modernised, re-modelled, or re-built locations, although well-intentioned, could potentially pose a threat to gravestones. Primary, is the use of inappropriate materials to embellish the gravestones which can both obscure the gravestones and cause damage through the addition of tiles, cement, or marble facings. The green glazed tiles added to the upper surface (E) of gravestone Sh.LA1 provide a case in point (Figure 2.460). More extreme examples were recorded at the Sheikh Daoud tomb in Jidhafs village

(N26.21866° E050.53706°). Here, the gravestone of the Shaikh was entirely encased in travertine slabs which could not be removed without damaging the gravestone surface (Figure 3.28). Another two gravestones were in the road immediately next to the tomb. These were entirely covered with large modern ceramic flooring tiles



FIGURE 3.28 Travertine slabs covering gravestone, Sheikh Daoud tomb, Jidhafs



FIGURE 3.29 Two ceramic tile covered gravestones next to Sheikh Daoud tomb, Jidhafs

and protected from vehicle damage by four steel posts at their corners (Figure 3.29). Removing the tiles would be impossible without damaging the gravestones.

5 Management Options for Protecting and Presenting the Historical Gravestones

Partly as a result of this research project, positive management and protection options for the gravestones are emerging. A component of the construction of a visitor centre and site museum at the Al-Khamis Mosque involved the display of gravestones that were not in their original context for reasons already described. These were displayed both internally and externally. The internal gravestone display was unproblematic inside the clean air-conditioned environment of the museum building. The gravestones (MUS2, MUS4, MUS6) were raised on black painted wooden plinths and other than being lit with low-level lighting were left untouched (Figure 3.30). The external display of gravestones was more problematic because of dust and moisture concerns. The solution was to display the gravestones (KHA3, KHA8, KHA10, KHA12, KHA13, KHA15, KHA17, KHA18, KHA20) slightly raised on grey granite plinths in a roofed pavilion open at the front and partially open at the two sides (Figure 3.31). This replicates the conditions the gravestones would be in outside but

offers some protection from sun and moisture. Light dusting of the gravestones is also completed as required.

It is not a viable option to move other gravestones to similar centralised locations that are either partially or wholly environmentally controlled. Wherever possible they should be left in context, and managed and maintained in-situ. The primary concern is for those gravestones that are partly buried as these are frequently affected by moisture and soil salts, as previously described. Using glass display cases in the cemeteries is also problematical as they need climatic control, and risk turning the gravestones into museum objects. A solution, where required, is provided by slightly raising the affected gravestones above ground level on standardised shallow granite plinths akin to those used in the Al-Khamis Mosque. The both facilitates their survival and maintains their contextual integrity. This is a policy that the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities is likely to develop and adopt in consultation with the relevant local communities, and the Jaffaria Waqf Authority, which maintains most of the cemeteries containing affected gravestones.

Until late 2015 there was no legal protection for the gravestones under Antiquities legislation in Bahrain unless they formed part of a scheduled archaeological site, as, for example, at the Al-Khamis Mosque (cf. State of Bahrain 1995). The historical gravestones in cemeteries were unprotected until Abu Anbra was added to the National Heritage list on 10th September 2015 on the basis that it is an ancient cemetery linked with the historically important area of Bilad al-Qadim. The recognition of Abu Anbra as an actively used cemetery is also manifest in its day to day function remaining under the control of the Jaffaria. However, if the historical gravestones in the Abu Anbra cemetery are to be altered, moved, cleaned etc., then the Jaffaria has to gain permission from the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities. For other cemeteries, there is currently no such legal protection for the gravestones. It is hoped that this study reinforces the need to extend legal protection to all the historical gravestones and the locations in which they are found.



FIGURE 3.30 Gravestones raised on painted wooden plinths, Al-Khamis Mosque visitors centre



FIGURE 3.31 Gravestones raised on granite plinths in external pavilion, Al-Khamis Mosque visitors centre

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