

KWADRU NRU 9

TAL-HOBZ, L-GHAJN TA' L-ILMA

DARI IL-HAJJA KIENET TKUN AKTAR FIT-TOROQ. FOST OHRAJN KIEN JGHADDI TAL-HOBZ BILL-KARRETTUN LI KIEN IKUN ISFAR, BL-IXKAFEF GHALL-HOBZ, BILL-MIZIEN U L-KEXXUN TAL-FLUS. KIEN IKOLLU GANG BIEK JIGBED HOBZIET MILL-FOND TAL-KAXXA. IL-HOBZ KIEN JINTIZEN U TINGHATA IL-GONTA. ILMA GHAX-XORB KIENU JIMLEWH MILL-GHAJN TAT-TRIQ, (JEW 'POMP') QABEL MA BEDA JIDHOL FID-DJAR. QABEL DIN L-GHAJN KIENU JUZAW TAL-BIR. IIL-MUFTIH KIEN JINZAMM GHAND XI HADD QRIB L-GHAJN. TALLABA KIEN HAWN KULLIMKIEN, QABEL MA ZVILUPPAT L-GHAJNUNA SOCJALI U L-PENSJONIJIET, GHALHEKK KIENU JKUNU F'KULL KANTUNIERA, JITOLBU 'KARITA', JEW IHABBTU L-BIBIEN.

PAINTING No. 9

BREADSELLER, PUBLIC WATER TAP

THE BREADSELLER'S CART USED TO BE ONE OF THE LANDMARKS IN THE STREETS, TOGETHER WITH A HOST OF OTHER HORSEDRAWN VEHICLES. THE CART HAD APPROPRIATE COMPARTMENTS FOR BREAD STORAGE, INCLUDING ITS ROOF, AND WAS PROVIDED WITH A DRAWER FOR MONEY, SURMOUNTED BY A HANGING BALANCE. BREAD WAS WEIGHED ON THE SPOT, AND ADDITIONAL PIECES ADDED AS REQUIRED. POTABLE WATER WAS AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC WATER TAP OR PUMP. WELLS WERE COMMON, BUT MOSTLY INFECTIVE, AND DOMESTIC WATER IN HOMES CAME LATER. BEGGARS WERE A COMMON SIGHT IN THE STREETS, BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, AND COULD BE SEEN AT STREET CORNERS, OR WENT ROUND CALLING ON HOUSEWIVES FOR ALMS.

KWADRU NRU 10

IN-NEWWIEHA (1)

META KIEN IMUT XI HADD, SKOND IL-MEZZI TAL-FAMILJA, KIENU JIKRU N-NEWWIEHA JEW BIKKEJA. DAWN KIENU JMORRU F'DAR IL-MEJJET, U BHALA WIRJA TA' DISPJACIR U VISTU, KIENU JAQILBU L-BOROM U L-KZAZEL, BIEX GHAL TLITT IJIEM MA JSIRX TISJIR FID-DAR, JIGBRU N-NIGRUFUN MINN MAL-BOROM U L\*KENUR, U JHAMMGU FEJN HEMM DEKORAZZJONI BIZ-ZEBGHA. KIENU JAQTGHU FRIEGHI MID-DIELJA BIEX TISSIMBOLIZZA T-TELFJA TA' MEMBRU TAL-FAMILJA. JEKK IKUN HEMM ZIEMEL, KIENU WKOLL JAQTGHULU L-LANZIT TA' DENBU. INKWATRI KIENU JITNIZZLU, SIGGIJET U BANKETTI JINQALBU, U XI GARAR JITKISSRU, KOLLGX BHALA VI STU.

PAINTING No. 10

HIRED MOURNERS (1)

ON THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF A HOUSEHOLD, IT USED TO BE THE CUSTOM TO HIRE WOMEN TO CRY OVER THE DEAD, THEIR NUMBER DEPENDING ON THE FINANCIAL MEANS OF THE FAMILY IN MOURNING. THESE USED TO BE DRESSED IN BLACK, AND ON ENTERING THE HOUSE OF THE DECEASED THEY TURNED OVER THE POTS AND PANS SO THAT FOR THREE DAYS THERE WOULD BE NO COOKING. THEY COLLECTED SOOT FROM AROUND, AND SOILED PAINTWORK IN THE HOUSE. THEY BROKE SOME JARS, DISPLACED CHAIRS AND STOOLS, REMOVED WALL PICTURES. BRANCHES FROM THE GRAPEVINE WERE SNIPPED OFF DENOTING THE LOSS OF A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, AND IF A HORSE WAS PRESENT ON THE GROUNDS, ITS TAIL WAS CUT OFF.

KWADRU NRU II

IN-NEWWIEHA (2)

WARA LI JKUNU HARBTU L-KCINA U NHAWI OHRA TAD-DAR, IN-NEWWIEHA KIENU JMORRU FILL-KAMRA TAL-MEJJET, JGHATTU L-GHAMARA U L-KWADRI, KIF UKOLL IT-TWIEQI. KIENU JLESTU BHAL ALTAR FILL-KAMRA, U HEMM UKOLL JAQILBU XI SIGGIJET U GARAR. JIBDEW INEWHU U JILMINTAW BIEK JURU DISPJACIR U JGHIDU XI GEKULATORJI. KIENU WKOLL IQATTGHU XI BCEJJEC MINN XAGHRHOM U JPOGGUHM FUQ IL-MEJJET. KIEN HEMM MIN IQIEGHED PLATT MELH' FUQ IL-MEJJET GHAX KIENU JAHSBU LI DAN KELLU S-SETGHA LI JIPPRESERVA L-GISEM U SAHHA FILL-GEJJIENTI.

PAINTING No II

HIRED MOURNERS (2)

AFTER DEALING WITH THE KITCHEN AND OTHER PARTS OF THE HOUSE, THE HIRED MOURNERS PROCEED TO THE ROOM WHERE THERE IS THE BODY OF THE DECEASED. THERE THEY ALSO OVERTURN CHAIRS AND BREAK SOME POTTERY. THEY COVERED PICTURES AND FURNITURE, AND ALSO THE WINDOWS. A SORT OF ALTAR WAS ARRANGED ON ONE SIDE OF THE ROOM, AND THE HIRED WOMEN STARTED TO WAIL AND GESTICULATE, AND INCLUDE OTHER MANUAL AND VERBAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SORROW. THEY ALSO PULLED OFF BITS OF THEIR HAIR AND PLACED THE TUFTS ON THE CORPSE. SOMETIMES, A PLATE OF SALT WAS PLACED ON THE CORPSE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT PRESERVED BODY AND SOUL, BESIDES HAVING OTHER MAGICAL PROPERTIES.

KWADRU NRU 12

IT-TBAHHIR TAD-DAR

FILL-GIMGHA TA' L-GHID IL-KBIR, KIENET TINDAQQ IL-GLORJA, NHAR IS-SIBT. WAQT ID-DAQQ TAL-QNIEPEN KULHADD KIEN ICEKCEK IHABBAT U' JAGHMEL HSEJJES OHRA, FID-DAR, BARRA, FILL-HWIENET U' KULLIMKIEN. FOST DAWN, OMMIJET LI KELLHOM TRABI SE JITILQU JIMXU, KIENU JITTANTAW IWAQQFUHOM FUQ SAQAJHOM. UKOLL XI OMMIJET KIENU JAHARQU FTIT WERAQ TAZ-ZEBBUG MINN HADD IL-PALM, U' JIMXU BIHI MAD-DAR KOLLHA, JIBDEW MINN FUQ U' JISPICCAW ISFEL, WAQT LI JGHIDU XI GEKULATORJI, BIT-TFAL JIMXU MAGHHOM. DAN IT-TBAHHIR, GHALKEMM KIEN ISIR F'SENS RELIGJUZ, KIEN DRAWWA PAGANA BBAZATA FUQ SUPERSTIZZJONIJET FEJN KIEN HEMM IL-FEHMA LI JITKECCEW L-ISPIRTI HZIENA JEW L-HEKK IMSEJHA GHAJN HAZINA.

PAINTING No. 12

FUMIGATION

THE BURNING OF HERBS AGAINST ALL EVIL USED TO BE PREVALENT ALL OVER THE ISLANDS, BASED ON PAGAN BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITION AIMED AT HEALING THE ILLS OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS, AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS AND EVIL EYE. ALTHOUGH CHRISTIANITY TOOK OVER AS THE LOCAL RELIGION, FUMIGATION CONTINUED IN A MODIFIED FORM. MANY FAMILIES USED TO FUMIGATE THEIR HOME ON EASTER SATURDAY WHEN THE CHURCH BELLS RANG THE 'GLORIA'. THEY BURNT SOME OLIVE LEAVES OBTAINED FROM PALM SUNDAY CEREMONIES, AND WHILST THEY PRAYED, WENT ROUND THE HOUSE TO RID IT OF EVIL.

KWADRU NRU 13

IL-GILWA TAT-TIEG

IL-GILWA KIENET TWASSAL LILL-GHARAJJES LEJN IL-KNISJA. QUDDIEM KIEN IKUN HEMM GHANNEJA IFAHHRU LILL-GHARAJJES U L-FAMILJA TAGHHOM. WARAJHOM KIENU JIGU ZEWG IRGIEL IGORRU HLEWWIET GO PLATT FUQ RASHOM, WIEHED B'MAKTUR WIEQAF, PINGUET BIS-SAGRA FAMILJA, LIEHOR FIH FIGURI TAL-GHARAJJES, TAL-HELU. RAGEL KIEN IGORR IMBID U XEMGHA GHALL-KAPPILLAN. XI HADD KIEN IGORR INCENS U IEHOR IQASSAM XI HELU. IL-BALDAKKIN KIENU JGORRUH XI QRABA, BL-GHARAJJES TAHTU. WARA' KIENU JIMXU TAL-FAMILJA U MISTIDNIN. FUQ IL-HARRIEGA TA' TIEQA HEMM QASRIJA TA' HAXIXA AROMATIKA, LI TAVZA LI F'DIK ID-DAR HEMM XI XBEJBA GHAZ-ZWIEG. BIZ-ZMIEN, IL-BALDAKKIN SPICCA, U BAQA' BISS GHALL PROCESSJONI TAS-SAGRAMENT. L-ILBIES KIEN SKOND IL-MEZZI TAL-GHARAJJES.

PAINTING No. 13

THE WEDDING PROCESSION

THE ENGAGED COUPLE LEFT THE GIRL'S HOUSE TOWARDS THE CHURCH. MUSICIANS SANG ODES AND PLAYED MUSIC TO HONOUR THE OCCASION. FOLLOWING THEM CAME TWO MEN WITH TRAYS ON THEIR HEAD, CONTAINING SWEETS, AND SURMOUNTED BY FIGURES OF THE COUPLE IN CONFECTION, AND A KERCHIEF DEPICTING THE HOLY FAMILY. A MAN CARRIED WINE AND CANDLES FOR THE PARISH PRIEST. SOMEONE ELSE DISTRIBUTED SWEETS TO CHILDREN, AND ANOTHER CARRIED BURNING HERBS. FOUR RELATIVES CARRIED THE CANOPY UNDER WHICH WALKED THE BRIDE AND GROOM. THERE FOLLOWED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. THE AROMATIC PLANT PLACED OUTSIDE THE WINDOW DENOTES A GIRL AVAILABLE FOR MARRIAGE INSIDE THAT HOUSE.

KWADRU NRU 14

BANDLI TA' LAPSI

META KRISTU JITLA' S-SEMA, ISSIR IL-FESTA TA' LAPSI. ISIRU BOSTA CELEBRAZZJONIJIET U HEMM DIVERSI DRAWWIET FID-DINJA. F'MALTA KIENU JIDDILETTAW JARMAW IL-BANDLI MINBARRA LI XI WHUD UKOLL JIEHDU L-EWWEL GHAWMA. KEMM BARRA, KIF UKOLL FID-DJAR KIENU JARMAW BANDLI TA' KULL GHAMLA. FID-DAR KIENU JITBANDLU FUQ IL-BEJT, JEW IDENDLU L-BANDLA F'XI BIEB. GHAL FTIT GIE LI KIEN HEMM MIN JISSELLEF XI TAVLA MIS-SODDA, U JORBOTHA BEJN ZEYG SIGRIET F'ILL-GNIEN. BILLI GUGARELLI MA TANTX KIEN HAWN, IT-TFAL KIENU JSIBU DIN L-OKKAZJONI BIEX ISIBU AKTAR BIEX JILGHABU.

PAINTING No. 14

SWINGS ON ASCENTION DAY

APART FROM MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE ASCENTION DAY, IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR OUR PREDECESSORS TO SET UP SWINGS OF ALL TYPES AT HOME AND IN THE OPEN. MAKESHIFT SWINGS WERE HUNG FROM SOMEWHERE ON THE ROOF TOP, OR INSIDE THE HOME IN SOME DOORWAY. SEVERAL USED TO BORROW ONE OF THE PLANKS SUPPORTING THE MATTRESS IN THE BED, AND USED IT TIED UP BETWEEN TWO TREES, OR SUSPENDED FROM A LARGE TREE. TOYS AND ENTERTAINMENT WERE SCARCE IN THE PAST, AND CHILDREN FOUND THIS AS ANOTHER OCCASION TO ENJOY THEMSELVES.

KWARDU NRU 15

KASTELLI, LANDIER

GELLEWZ, LEWZ, GEWZ, KIENU MHUX BISS JUZAWHOM GHALL-IKEL, IZDA WKOLL ISERVU GHALL-LOGHOB TAT-TFAL. LOGHOB B'DAWN KIEN ISIR L-AKTAR FILL-HARIFA U X-XITWA. F'NOVEMBRU KIENET TAHBAT IL-FESTA TA' SAN MARTIN, U LIT-TFAL KIENU JTUHOMLHOM RIGAL FLIMKIEN MA' XI TIN, HOBZ U QAGHOA TAL-GHASEL, KOLLOX GDL-BORZA TA' SAN MARTIN. FOST IL-LOGHOB KELLHOM DIK TAL-KASTELLI, FEJN IPOGGU ERBA' GELLEWZIET GHAMLA TA' PIRAMIDA, U JIMMIRAW GHALI HOM. IL-LANDIER, BHAL BOSTA OHRAJN, KIEN JASAL WASLA SAT-TRIQ REGOLARMENT, BIEX IN-NISA TAD-DJAR ISEWWU KTIELI U KZAZEN, KALDARUNI U NAJIJLET, U BOSTA OGGETTI OHRAJN LI KELLHOM FID-DAR.

PAINTING No 15

'CASTLES', TINSMITH

HAZELNUTS, ALMONDS, WALNUTS AND OTHER SPECIES OF NUTS USED NOT ONLY TO BE FREQUENT ARTICLES OF FOOD, IN THE PAST, BUT ALSO SERVED AS ARTICLES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF CHILDREN. THEY WERE MAINLY AVAILABLE IN AUTUMN AND WINTER, AND CHILDREN WERE GIVEN A BAGFUL OF NUTS IN NOVEMBER, ON THE FEAST OF ST. MARTIN. ONE GAME CONSISTED OF GROUPS OF HAZELNUTS FORMING SMALL PYRAMIDS, WHICH WERE AIMED AT BY CONTESTANTS. IN THE STREET ONE USED FREQUENTLY TO SEE THE TINSMITH WHO TURNED UP REGULARLY TO REPAIR POTS AND PANS BROUGHT TO HIM BY HOUSEWIVES.

KWADRU NRU 16

XOGHOL TAL-QFIEF

KIENUJAQTGHU IL-QASAB MILL-WIDIEN, U JNIXXFUHMOM. IL-QASAB  
KIENU JAQTGHUH IRQIEQ MIT-TUL, BIR-RONKA. KIENU JIBDEW JIN-  
HADMU MILL-QIEGH' IL-FUQ. KIENU JAGHTU DAQQIET FUQ IL-QAS-  
BIET BIEK JIDHLU SEWWA F'POSTHOM, WAQT LI JINHADEM IL-GENB.  
BIEK JISSAHHAH IL-GENB, KIENU JUZAW VIRGI MINN SIGRA ZGHIRA,  
(SIGRET IL-VIRGI), LI KIENU L-EWWEL IXARBUHOM SEWWA BIEK  
JIRTABU. WARA LI JINHADMU, DAWN IL-VIRGI JIEHDU L-QAGHDA,  
JIBBIESU, U JZOMMU L-QOFFA B'SAHHITHA, U JIDHRU OSKURI META  
JITQABBLU MAL-ISFAR TAL-QASAB. KIENU JSIRU HAFNA DAQSIJIET  
U GHAMLIET TA' QFIEF. IL-MEZEZ KIENU JINHADMU L-AKTAR  
BHALA DUGH GHAL FROTT U HAXIX LI JINBIEGHU IL-PITKALIJA.

PAINTING No. 16

BASKETRY AND CANE-WORK

CANE CULMS FROM THE VALLEYS USED TO BE COLLECTED AND DRIED.  
THEY WERE THEN CUT INTO THIN, LONGITUDINAL STRIPS BY MEANS OF  
A 'RONKA', AND THE BASKET WAS STARTED AT THE BOTTOM, BUILDING  
UP THE SIDES, HAMMERING IN THE STRIPS TIGHTLY AROUND WITH A  
LENGTH OF WOOD. BANDS OF DARK STRIPS WERE ALSO INSERTED AT  
INTERVALS, OBTAINED FROM A SMALL TREE. THESE STRIPS WERE  
FIRST MOISTENED AND SOAKED IN WATER TO SOFTEN THEM, AND WHEN  
DRY THEY HARDEN AND SUPPORT THE CANEWORK. APART FROM MANY  
TYPES OF BASKETS, THEY USED TO MAKE A STANDARD SIZE, THE  
MEZZA, AS A CONTAINER FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HAWKERS.

