PLACE-RELATED IDENTITY TERMS IN 'ARĀR'S LOVE POETRY

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Muṣṭafā Wahbī at-Tall, better known in his homeland as "Arār, lawyer, teacher, political agitator and, above all poet, is now celebrated as a pioneer of Jordanian patriotism and spokesman for his nation's ideals and aspirations. Rebellious patriotism in "Arār's poetry is inextricably tied to his addiction to wine and his never-ending Don Juanism. As a drunkard and lover, obsessed by the nostalgia for places that had once quenched his thirst for wine and love, "Arār created a quite new type of metaphors and terms of reference to the beloved and to her place in the poet's dream-world. Place-related identity terms referring to the poet's beloved or her close surroundings are the subject of the following account.

1.

The rebellious poet Muṣṭafā Wahbī at-Tall (1899-1949),¹ recently symbol of Jordanian patriotism, is a highly controversial personality. His pen name 'Arār (Outsider, Outcast) perfectly harmonizes with his defiance of the most sacred social conventions and with his contemporary personal reputation. The story of 'Arār is marked by his personal relationship with the Prince (later King) 'Abdallāh. When the Prince reached an agreement with England in 1923 and Jordan was granted autonomy in internal affairs, while Britain retained authority over foreign relations, 'Arār met this development with scornful mockery and by his agitation, claiming for Jordan an immediate and total independence, he seriously threatened the implementation of the agreement and the success of the Prince's project. 'Arār ended in prison and was sent into exile. Much the same sequence of events took place, in an even more aggravated form, after the treaty between Trans-Jordan and Great Britain was signed in 1928 and Trans-Jordan was recognized as an

¹ The poet's birth date of 1899 is erronously presented as 1887 in some sources: Ya^cqūb al^cAwdāt: ^cArār šā^cir al-'urdunn. Amman 1958: 23; Nāṣiraddīn al-'Asad: Muḥāḍarāt fī š-ši^cr alḥadīt fī fīlastīn wal-'urdunn. Cairo 1961: 109; 'Aḥmad 'Abū Maṭar: ^cArār aš-šā^cir al-lāmuntamī.
Alexandria 1977 (az-Zu^cbī 1982: 17).

'independent' state. In 1931 'Arār found himself in prison again and was sent to exile in Aqaba (Taylor 1988: 6-7). Between his periodic sessions in prison and exile 'Arār served in various positions: teacher, governor, accountant, executive officer in Irbid Court, later in Amman Court, public prosecutor, lawyer etc.² (see ibid. 13).

In exile he established ties of friendship with the ultimate outcasts of the society, the Gypsies, and he proudly acknowledged his admiration for them and their way of life in the essay 'Aṣdiqā'ī n-nawar ("My Friends the Gypsies", published in al- "Awdāt 1958), subsequently broadcast in Radio Palestine. The chief of a group of Jordanian Gypsies and the poet's devoted companion, al-Hubr, was transformed in "Arār's verses into an archetype, into a living symbol of a simple human being (al-Ğayyūsī 1973: 19; in: az-Zu°bī 1982: 50). Though illiterate, intoxicated, repressed, homeless and miserable, al-Hubr grew to a model entity of the poet's inner self, alienated and victimized by the surrounding world. Close association with the community of Jordanian Gypsies and intimate knowledge of their way of life provided him with powerful new metaphors and bold comparisons: the prostitution of Gypsy women is compared to what "Arār viewed as a shameful mercenary behaviour of leading politicians of his time:

yā 'uhta salmā fī ģināki 'udūbatun * tubkī wa-yuģriqu dam'uhā 'aḥzānī . . . 'ahlūki qad ğa 'alū ğamālaki sil 'atan * tušrā wa-bā 'a banū 'abī 'awṭānī (Z: 345);

"O Sister of Salma,⁴ the sweetness in your singing Evokes tears which drown my griefs . . . Your people have made your beauty an object To be sold, and my father's sons have sold my homeland . . . " (T: 86-7);

² The most authentic account of °Arār's troubled life comes from his surviving contemporaries. One of them, Maḥmūd al-Muṭlaq, an Irbid lawyer, quotes five basic sources relevant to the matter: (1) °Arār's poetic dīwān itself; (2) °Arār's memoirs written by his own hand; (3) °Arār's unfinished narrative "My Friends the Gypsies"; (4) private information provided by Muraywid at-Tall, a descendant of the poet, and finally, (5) from my personal acquaintance with the poet (al-Muṭlaq 1989: 7-8).

³ °Arār's verses plainly confirm the poet's pride in being able to pay homage to this gypsy chieftain and to identify himself and his compatriots with him and his people: yā hubru ša buka bil-ḥayāti min 'ummatī * 'aḍḥā l- 'aḥaqqa wa-bil-karāmati 'ağdaru yā hubru hāti lī r-rabābata wa-nṭaliq * bī ḥaytu qawmuka 'ashalū 'am 'aṣḥarū 'anā mitlukum 'aṣbaḥtu lā dārun wa-lā * 'ahlun wa-lā lī ma saru (az-Zu bī 1982: 198).

[&]quot;O Hubr, your people are more worthy of life than mine

And deserve honor, dignity and prestige.

O Hubr, bring the Rababa and take me

To your people, whether they be on the plain or in the desert.

I have now become like you:

No land, no people, no home and no friends" (T: 84).

⁴ Sister of Salma /Salmā/: ^cArār's metaphor for the Gypsy girl (T: 87, n.2).

Taking apart patriotic verses and bitter, mostly derisive reactions to what was happening in Jordanian politics at his time, "Arār's poetry was dominated by two major themes: (1) celebration of wine, as a symbol of truth and freedom and, in a somewhat modified rhetorics, (2) celebration of love, women's charm and its captivating power. After five marriages, polygamist "Arār was incessantly involved in romantic adventures. "Arār's defiance of social conventions, damaging his reputation in official circles and high society alike, did not change for the better in his love affairs either. The most resounding echo in his verses is that of red nights passed in gypsy tents. The following account will only be concerned with the love-related part of Arrār's poetry. In some cases, however, a clear distinction between the two dominant themes is virtually impossible, as attested by the following verses:

wa-luṭfu l-ka'si 'it̞ra l-ka'si našrabuhā tawallānā fa-ḥasbī bi-n-naḥīli l-bāsiqi l-faynāni ǧīrānā

wa-bi-n-nawarīyati l-ḥasnā'i wa-ṣ-ṣaḥrā'i nudamānā (al-Muṭlaq 65);

"And the joy of our drinking

One glass after another guards us.

I am satisfied to have all gracious palms

As my neighbors;

And to have as companions6

The lovely Gypsy girl and the desert" (T: 65).

The same permeability may be observed in the imagery and figures of speech used in 'Arār's erotic and bacchic verses. The colour of wine, in the following sample, is perceived as that of the blond hair of a Circassian beauty:

⁵ The attitude of official circles toward 'Arār and his way of life is reflected in his own verses: qālū: dawū š-ša'ni fī 'ammāna tuģdibuhum * ṣarāḥatī wa-li-dā 'aftaw bi-ḥirmānī qālū: dawū š-ša'ni fī 'ammāna qad burimū * bi-maslakī wa-ṣṭifā'ī rahṭa muǧǧānī wa-stankarū šarra l-istinkāri harwalatī * 'ilā l-ḥarāfīši ma 'a ṣaḥbī wa-nudamānī (*) mā kāna 'aṣdaqa hādā l-qawla law 'arafat * 'ammānu mud huliqat 'insāna dā šānī (Z: 366); "They (i.e. the people) say the authorities in Amman disapprove of my frankness, And they judged me to be unpardonable.

They say the authorities in Amman are tired of my way of life,

In which I accept invitations to join the revelers,

And that people bitterly disapprove of my running

Freely to the tents with my drinking companions.

Their attitude would have been valid

If Amman had ever known a single respectable person" (T: 242).

^(*) Numerous grammatical deviations from the correct form are due to metric and rhyme requirements, the possessive *nudamānī* instead of the correct *nudamā'ī* "my drinking companions" is due to the rhyme in -ānī. No further attention will be paid to the latter type of licenses.

⁶ nudamā' "drinking companions, drinking buddies";

°abbūdu qāla fa-mā lanā wa-maqāluhū * as-sukru fī nazari š-šarī ati munkaru wa-l-hamru raģisun wa-l-ku ūsu bi-ra'si man * šaribū bihā yawma l-hisābi tukassaru

'inna l-'ilāha l-ḥaqqu ğalla ğalāluhū * min 'an yaqūla bi-qawli šayhika 'akbaru fa-halumma našrabuhā fa-lawnu ḥubābihā * dahabun ka-ša ri š-šarkasīyati 'ašgaru (Z: 195);

"Abboud has spoken. So what?

'Drunken behavior is forbidden by religious law;

Wine is filth; on the Day of Judgement

Cups will be broken over the heads of the drinkers.'

Serene in His transcendence, God

Is above your preachments, O sheik.

Then join me in a drink because its color is golden

As the blond hair of a Circassian" (T: 82);

2.1.

cArār's place-sensitiveness, nurtured by nostalgia, was promoted to such a degree as to become, in many cases, an integral part of the identity terms referring to the poet's beloved or, less specifically, to her circle of lady companions or even a wider group of referees (e.g., the whole Gypsy community residing in places visited by the poet in the course of his love affairs). The classificatory distinction between individual and collective reference, based upon inflectional indicators of number, is only a formal one. As evident, generically applied singulars may refer to the total representation of what is designed and the numeric distinction implied by inflectional indicators is no longer relevant. The same holds true of the generically restated plurals, referring to any number, inclusively of one.

The place component, involving names of cities, villages, wells, springs, rivers, valleys and other place-related features of the surrounding world, may be incorporated in the identity term (proper name or its figurative or nonfigurative substitute) either directly within a well-defined syntactic phrase, as an attributive modifier or an apposition (tight inclusion), or less immediately, as part of a larger context whose syntactic and textual parameters are less clearly delineated

(loose inclusion).

2.1.1.

The inventory of 'Arār's love-inspired ITs involves a rich collection of girls' proper names as well as a variety of reference terms of both a figurative and nonfigurative nature. Some of the most frequently recurring ITs, quoted either in singular or plural, in accordance with their typical occurrence in the poetic language:

'awānis (sg. 'ānisa) "damsels, young ladies" (see 3.2.1 (1); 3.2.2 (2));

'adārā (sg. 'adrā') "virgins, maidens" (3.2.2 (9));

'ārām, 'ar'ām (sg. ri'm) "white antelopes" (3.2.2 (1));

farāšāt (sg. farāša) "butterflies" co-occurring with ğanādib (see below) in an

expanded poetic image (3.2.1.(3));

ga'ādir (sg. gu'dar) "wild buffalo youngs" (3.2.2.(4), (6), (10));

ganādib (sg. gundub) "grasshoppers" (3.2.1.(3));

al-ģīd "young ladies", in al-ģīd wa-l-mahā "young ladies and wild cows"

(3.2.2.(5));

gizlān (sg. ģazāl) "gazelles" (3.2.1.(6), 3.2.2.(1), (3), (7));

al-ḥisān "glamorous ladies, beauties" (3.5.(2));

al-ʿīn (sg. ʿaynā') "wild cows" (3.2.2.(11));

al-ḥūr (sg. ḥūrīya) "virgins of paradise; glamorous beauties" (3.2.2.(11));

kawā ʿib (sg. kā ʾib) "girls with swelling breasts, buxom ladies" (3.2.1.(1));

mahan, al-mahā (sg. mahāh) "wild cows" (3.2.2.(5));

raš' (pl. 'aršā') "young of a gazelle that can already follow its mother" (3.1.2.(4));

zabya (pl. zabayāt) "female gazelles" (3.2.1.(3),4,5);

zibā' (sg. zaby) "gazelles" (3.2.1.(2)).

All these terms reflect emotional experience of the poet-lover and his relation to his beloved and her closest social surroundings. The interpretation of figurative terms is based on conventions derived from the Arab poetic tradition. The link between *metaphorical* and *real*, modelled by the culturally and historically variable aesthetic ideal, may casually be illustrated by the definition of, say, *mahāh* (see above), as given by a prominent 19th century encyclopedist and lexicograopher Buṭrus al-Bustānī (d. 1883): *al-mahāh - aš-šams wa-l- ballūra wa-l-baqara l-waḥšīya* . . . wa-tušabbah bihā l-mar'a fī samnihā wa-ǧamālihā wa-ḥusn 'aynayhā (Muḥīṭ al-muḥīṭ, 1870/1987): "al-maḥāh - the sun and crystal and wild cow . . . and by her stoutness, handsomness and beauty of her eyes, she is being compared to a woman."

2.1.2.

Lexical inventory of ITs occurring in 'Arār's love poetry follows, in many respects, the poetic tradition since pre-Islamic poetry. For the sake of comparison, a number of 'Arār's women-related ITs, co-occurring in pre-Islamic poetry (PP), as preserved in the famous eighth-century collection *al-Mu'allaqāt*, and some centuries later, in mystical poetry (MP) of Muḥyiddīn Ibn al-'Arabī (d. 1240 A.D.), will be presented in short poetic contexts. The English version of the 'Arār's verses is that of R.L. Taylor (see 2.1.3. below); pre-Islamic poets are referred to the text and translation of M.C. Bateson (1970); Ibn al-'Arabī, represented by his famous poem *Tarǧumān al-'Ašwāq* ("Interpreter of Desires"), is referred to the edition and translation of R.A. Nicholson (1911). Bateson's transcription, as well as the unorthographic hypenation of her literal translation (devised for purposes of a linguistic analysis) will be maintained:

(1) al-cadārā, sing. al-cadrā': maidens, virgins:

^cArār (see 3.2.2 /9/):

sa-'aftaḥu ḥānatan wa-'abī cu ḥamran * bi-wādī s-sīri lākin li-l-cadārā la cuyūnaki s-sawdā'a yawman * tuṭāli cunī bi-ḥamlaqati s-sakārā (Z: 216) PP: Imru'ulqays (Bateson 136: 11-12):

wayawma ^caqartu lil^cadārā maṭiyyatī

fayā ^cajaban min kūrihā lmutaḥammali

"and the day I hamstrung my mount for the maidens - oh,

wonder of its strappings (to be) loaded!"

fazalla l'adārā yartamīna bilaḥmihā

wašaḥmin kahuddābi ddimagsi Imufattali

"so the maidens spent-the-day playing catch with its meat and

fat like the fringes of twisted white-silk."
(2) 'awānis, sing. 'ānisa: "damsels, young ladies":

°Arār (see 3.2.1 /1/):

fa-lā 'awānisu wādī s-sīri tadkurunī * wa-lā l-kawā 'ibu fī 'arbāḍi 'aġlūnā ḥāla š-šabābu lladī 'ablaytu ģiddatahu * fīmā yumakkinunī minhunna tamkīnā (Z: 506);

(see 3.2.2 /2/):

'innā wa-'in mādabā 'awdat 'awānisuhā * bi-'unsinā šaġafan 'innā muḥiyyūkā ...(Z: 288);

MP: Ibn al-cArabī (Nicholson, poem: ix, 4-5; Arabic /A/ 18; English /E/ 64); spiritual commentary /SC/: friendly damsels, bright of countenance, i.e. there is no doubt concerning them, as the Prophet said: 'Ye shall see your Lord as ye see the sun at noonday when no cloud comes between' (65)):

naṣabū l-qibāba l-ḥumra bayna ğadāwilin * mittli l-'asāwidi baynahunna

qu°ūdu

bīḍun 'awānisu ka-š-šumūsi ṭawāli°un * °īnun karīmātun °aqāyilu ġīdu.

"They pitched the red tents between rivulets (creeping) like

serpents, amongst which were seated

Friendly damsels, bright of countenance, rising like the suns, large-eyed, noble, of generous race, and limber";

(or xxvi, 1 and 3; A 28; E 101-2):

bi-l-ğiz'i bayna l-'abraqayni l-maw'idu * fa-'anih rakāyibanā fa-hādā l-mawridu...

wa-l'ab kamā la'ibat 'awānisu nuhhadun * wa-rta' kamā rata'at zibā'un šurradu.

"In the valley-curve between the two stony tracts is the trysting-place.

Make our camels kneel, for here is the journey's end . . .

And play as friendly full-breasted damsels played,

And pasture as shy gazelles pastured."

(3) zibā', sing. zaby: "gazelles; maidens, young ladies":

°Arār (3.2.1 /2/):

'aḥlāmu wādī s-sīri kāna yaḥudduhā * ḥubbīki min halfī wa min quddāmī wa-zibā'u wādī s-sīri kāna ši aruhā * šawqī wa-zillu ḥanīnihi l-mutarāmī (Z: 310)

PP: Labīd (Bateson 161: 12, 14): litter-borne women of the tribe departing for new pastures / gazelles of Wağra:

šāqatka zu^cnu lḥayyi ḥīna taḥammalū * fatakannasū quṭnan taṣirru xiyāmuhā "The litter-borne-women of the tribe excited you when they loaded up

and then withdrew-under the cotton (cover)whose tents creaked, . . . " zujalan ka'anna ni aia tūdiha fawqahā * wazibā'a wajrata uttafan 'ar'āmuhā "(they travelled) in groups, as-though the ewes of Tūdih were on them (i.e.

the litters) and the gazelles of Waira, their antelopes bending-over."

MP: Ibn al-cArabī (Nicholson xii, 1, 5; A 19; E 70); SC: gazelles - forms of divine and prophetic wisdom (71)):

bi-dī salamin wa-d-dayri min hādiri l-himā * zibā'un turīka š-šamsa fī suwari d-dumā

fa-lā tunkiran vā sāhi gawlī 'azālatan * tudī' u li-gizlānin vatufna 'alā d-dumā "At Dhū Salam and the monastery in the abode of al-Himā

are gazelles who show thee the sun in the forms of marble statues. . .

So be not displeased. O friend, that I speak of gazelles that move round the marble statues as 'a shining sun';"

(4) al-hisān "glamorous ladies, beauties; fair women":

cArār (3.5 /2/):

gasaman bi-wādī s-sīri wa-l-baladi lladī * fīhi l-hisānu nasabna lī 'ašrākā inna l-havāta hiya l-ku'ūsu wa-rubbamā * kāna d-dalālu bi-hinna ba'da hudākā (Z: 290):

MP: Ibn al-c Arabī (Nicholson xxvi, 7-9; A 28; E 102); SC: the fair women, i.e. the Divine Names (103)):

wa-šrab sulāfata hamrihā bi-humārihā * wa-trab calā garidin hunālika vunšadu

wa-sulāfatin fī 'ahdi 'ādama 'ahbarat * 'an ǧannati l-ma' wā ḥadītan yusnadu 'inna l-hisāna tafalnahā min rīgihā * ka-l-miski ǧāda bihā ʿalaynā l-hurradu; "And drink the pure essence of its wine with its intoxication,

and listen rapturously to a singer who chanteth there:

'O the pure wine that in Adam's time related concerning the Garden of Eden an authentic tradition!

Verily, the fair women scattered it from the water of their mouths like musk and the virgins bestowed it on us without stint." "Etc.

(5) al-ġīd "the young ladies; lissome women":

^cArār (3.2.2 /5/):

halabun 'āh min halabin * baldatu l-lahwi wa-tarab marta^cu 1-ġīdi wa-1-mahā * madfa^cu 1-hammi wa-1-kurab (Z: 535);

MP: Ibn al-cArabī (Nicholson xxxiv, 1 - 3; A 34; E 120; SC; lissome women, i.e. the Divine Ideas (120)):

'inda l-katībi min ģibāli zarūdi * sīdun wa-'asadun min lihāzi l-ģīdi sarcā wa-hum 'abnā'u malhamati l-waġā * 'ayna l-'asūdu mina l-cuyūni s-sūdi fatakat bihim laḥazātuhunna wa-ḥabbadā * tilka l-malāḥizu min banāti ṣ-ṣīdi; "At the hill among the mountains of Zarūd are haughty lions, by the looks of lissome women

Overthrown, though they were bred in the carnage of war.

What match are the lions for the black eyes?

The women's looks murdered them. How sweet are those looks from the daughters of kings!"

Or: al-ġīd in: al-bīd wa-l-ġīd al-ḥisān al-hurrad: "the bright-faced damsels and the fair lissome women:"

MP (ibid.: xxii, 1, 2, 3, 4; A 25; E 91-92; SC: the bright-faced damsels, i.e. intelligences derived from Idrīs (*) which have descended from the fourth heaven; lissome, i.e. inclining towards the phenomenal world, to replenish it; he means all realities that are connected with the phenomenal world, e.g. the Divine Names (ib.)):

(*) Idrīs: in the Koran (19: 58) mentioned as a true man (*ṣiddīq*) and prophet. cuğ bi-r-rakāyib naḥwa burqati tahmadi * ḥaytu l-qaḍību r-ratibu wa-r-rawḍu n-nadī

haytu l-burūqu bihā turīka wamīḍahā * ḥaytu s-saḥābu bihā yarūḥu wa-yaġtadī wa-rfa° şuwaytaka bi-s-suḥayri munādiyan * bi-l-bīḍi wa-l-ġīdi l-ḥisāni l-hurradi min kulli fātikatin bi-ṭarafin 'aḥwarin * min kulli tāniyatin bi-ǧīdin 'aġyadi 'Turn the camels aside towards the stony tract of Thahmad,

where are the tender branches and the humid meadow,

Where the lightnings show to thee their flashes, where

the clouds pass at eve and morn,

And lift thy voice at dawn to invoke the bright-faced damsels and the fair lissome virgins,

Who murder with their black eyes and bend their supple necks."

2.1.3.

The Arabic samples of "Arār's poetry are based on az-Zu^cbī's (1982) critical edition, followed by a free English translation by R.L. Taylor (1988). Al-Muṭlaq's popular edition (1989) was used in a few cases only. Taylor's translation, more literary than philological, is marked by frequent rhetorical shortcuts in condensing and rephrasing too elaborate poetic descriptions. The treatment of Arabic terms and proper nouns does not always reflect the correct classical reading either and seems to bear marks of the colloquial Arabic of his informants or is simply due to Taylor's misreading of the Arabic terms (wādī l-yutm - Wadi Yutum, lit. "Orphans' Valley, Valley of orphanhood"; wādī š-šitā' - Wadi Shitta "Winter's Valley", etc.). Since the correct shape of the Arabic terms and names is available in the Arabic version of the illustrative examples selected, no attempt will be made to re-Arabize them in the parallel English version. For the specific purposes of the present study, however, Taylor's version is found sufficient to serve as an orientation guide through "Arār's poetry.

3.

The place-related identity terms (ITs) in the 'Arār's love poetry, operating as terms of reference, will be presented as belonging to the following classes:

3.1.

ITs of individual reference (place-related ITs referring to the poet's beloved as a single entity):

(tight inclusion of the place component):

(1) °ašīyāt wādī I-yābis "Ašīyāt of Wādī al-Yābis":

"O Sister of the valley, I have called you by its name,

And I have named my diwan, for blessing, after it" (T: 86-7);

(3) 'uht rummin "Sister of Rumm": 8 (alternation of triptotic and diptotic reading of rumm in the following verse is evidently prosodically motivated); yā 'uhta rummin: kayfa rummu? * wa-kayfa ḥālu banī 'aṭīyah (Z: 428); "O sister of Rum, how is Rum and how are Bani Atiyyah?" (T: 91);

(4) zabyat al-wādī "female gazelle of the valley":
yā zabyata l-wādī wa-lā wādin 'idā * mā kunti fīhi wa-lā hunāka ḥuzūnu (Z: 505)
"O gazelle of the Valley! There would be no valley
If you were not in it 10 (T: 206);

yā zabyata l-wādī wa-mā l-wādī 'idā * lam tu'nisīhi wa-mā 'asāhu yakūnu farra ṣ-ṣibā 'ammā š-šabābu fa-'innahū * yabkī 'alayya li-'annanī miskīnu(Z: 319); "O gazelle of the valley, what appeal would the valley have

Without the charm you bring to it? Love has fled; youth weeps for me

Because I have grown pitiful" (T: 217);

(5) nameless: 2PFsing, 1Pplur (hills of Wādī l-Yutm, meadows of Šīḥān): saqyan li-ʿahdiki¹¹ wa-l-ḥayā * tu kamā nuʾammiluhā raḍīyah wa-ṭilā ʿu wādī l-yutmi ḍā * ḥikatun wa-turbatuhu saḥīyah wa-sufūḥu šīḥāna l-ʾaġan * ni bi-kulli yāni ʿatin saḥīyah (Z: 428-9);

⁷ The title of the poem quoted as well as that of "Arār's dīwān; 'ašīyāt, interpreted by some critics just as "evenings (passed in a place)" while, by others, as a girl's name 'Ašīyāt (cf., Taylor 1988: 86, n. 1), hence: "Evenings of Wādī al-Yābis" or "cAšīyāt of WY"; in the classification proposed in this paper the latter interpretation will be adopted. Wādī al-Yābis is a valley northwest of Ajlun ("Ağlūn), a favoured place for Gypsy camps (Z: 345, n. 10).

⁸ Rumm - a mountain in the desert region of southern Jordan settled by the tribe of Banū ^cAtīya (Z: 428, n. 39).

Nostalgic reminiscence is further gradated by a series of place-related events: hal mā tazālu hiḍābuhum * šumman wa-dīratuhum ʿadīya suqyan li-ʿahdiki wa-l-ḥayā * tu kamā nu'ammiluhā radīya

wa-tilā°u wādī l-yutmi dā * ḥikatun wa-turbatuhū saḥīya

wa-sufūḥu šīḥāna l-'aġanni * bi-kulli yāni atin sahīya (Z:428-9);

[&]quot;Are their hills still high and their land generous?

God bless your past days when life went on as we liked. When the hills of Wadi Yutum and its soil shared our laughter

And the meadows of Sheehan were rich with every kind of flower" (T: 91).

¹⁰ The verse has to be completed: "and no hard and rugged ground in it".

"God bless your past days when life went on as we liked. When the hills of Wadi Yutum¹² and its soil shared our laughter And the meadows of Sheehan¹³ were rich with every kind of flower" . . . (T: 91);

3.1.2.

(loose inclusion of the place component).

(1) hind (ḥisbān, ḥismā, wādī l-yutm) "Hind /a girl's name/ (Ḥisbān, Ḥismā, Wādī l-Yutm):

yā hindu! barqun lāḥa lī mawhinā * tanawwarathu l-caynu mustahḍibā nāḍa bi-ḥisbāna fa-haššat lahū * ḥismā wa-wādī yutmihā raḥḥabā fa-raffa bi-l-qalbi rasīsu l-hawā * wa-wadda ṣadca š-šamli law yarcabā . . . yā hindu! min ḥisbāna qad bāriqun * raffa rafīfan wāḍiḥan mushibā fa-stadrafa l-caynayni 'īmāḍuhū * min 'admucī mā cazza 'an yaskubā (Z: 107. . . ; 112).

"O Hind, I seemed suddenly to perceive

A weak flash of lightning in the distance.

It hovered over Hisban; therefore it was welcome

In Hisma¹⁴ and Wadi Yutum.

A long forgotten touch of love fluttered in my heart,

And it wished that our separation would be healed . . .

O Hind, there is a flash in Hisban. 15 I glimpse

Its clear and elaborate glittering

The flash beseeches my eyes to weep,

But tears refuse to flow from eyes unaccustomed to weeping" (T: 66. . . ; 69).

(2) šāšānīya, šarkasīya (wādī s-sīr) "Chechen, Circassian girl(s) (Wādī s-Sīr): 'a-min šašanīya (< šāšānīya) tuhdī d-diyārā * wa-bintu l-'uğmi tamna'unā l-mazārā

wa-rubbata šarkasīyata qabla bībī * bi-wādī s-sīri zāratnā-ftihārā li-naqṭifa min ǧināni l-haddi wardan * wa-rummānan min an-nahdi l-muwārā (Z: 218);

"Is it because of a Chechen girl that you love the region?

But the daughter of this foreigner denies you a visit.

Yet how many Circassian before BiBi

Used to brag about visiting us in Wadi Seer?16

¹¹ 2PFsing: the second person feminine of the singular (you), confronted with 1Pplur: the first person of the plural (we).

¹² Wādī l-Yutm, long valley ending in the Gulf of Aqaba (Z: 107, n. 9; 428, n. 42; cf. T: 66, n. 4).

¹³ Šīhān, a mountain near the town of al-Karak (Z: 429, n. 43).

¹⁴ Ḥismā, a depression northeast of ^eAqaba (Z: 107, n. 9; cf. T: 66, n. 3).

Hisbān, biblical Heshbon, recently a village between Ammān and Mādabā (T: 66. n. 2; cf. Z: 107, n. 9).

We would pick roses from the gardens of their cheeks And pomegranates from their hidden breasts" (T: 188).

(3) šifāh lamyā' (wādī s-sīr) "Lamyā' s lips (Wādī s-Sīr)": yā šayhu! mā l-'ilmu? ḥasbu l-mar' i ma' rifatan * 'anna š-šifāha bi-wādī s-sīri lamyā' u wa-'anna wādiya š-šitā ḥuwwun ǧa' ādiruhu * wa-'anna muṣṭāfahā mū' ābu 'asmā' u (Z: 90-91);

"O Sheik, what is knowledge? It is enough to know

That there are lips in Wadi Seer belonging to Lamia;

And that gazelles of Wadi Shitta¹⁷ have the power of snake charmers,

And that summer in the mountains of Moab¹⁸ can be enjoyed" (T: 161)

(4) raš' (al-ḥiṣn, wādī s-sīr) "young of a gazelle (al-Ḥiṣn, Wādī s-Sīr)":
'uqsimu bi-l-ḥiṣni wa-wādī s-sīri * wa-r-raš'i l-muhafhafi l-ġarīri
lastu, 'idā mā qīla: bi-l-bunğūri * (i)ḥḍar, bi-man yarġabu fī l-ḥuḍūri (Z: 237);
"I swear by Husn¹⁹ and by Wadi Seer
And the young thin waisted gazelle,

If I am required to come in formal garb,

I will not come" (T: 80).

(5) yā ḥulwata n-nazarāt (zayy) "you with the charming eyes" (Zayy): yā ḥulwata n-nazarāti 'inna ribā^canā * fī zayyin muqwiyatun min an-nazarāti wa-'anā bi-ġayri hawan yudību ḥušāšatī * wağdan wa-^cayniki lā 'usīġu ḥayātī (Z: 130)

"You with the flirting eyes, our dwelling in Zai20

Is void of enticing glances.

I am without an absorbing love.

I swear by God my life has nothing to enjoy" (T: 182).

3.2.

Place-related ITs of collective reference (place-related ITs referring to a wider circle of referees associated with the poet's mistress);

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(tight inclusion):

(1) 'awānis wādī s-sīr, al-kawā'ib fī 'arbāḍ 'ağlūn "young ladies of Wādī s-Sīr, buxom girls from the 'Ağlūn hills":

¹⁷ See note (16).

²⁰ Zayy, a hilly region in the neighbourhood of as-Salt (T: 131, n. l).

¹⁶ wādī s-sīr "Wādī s-Sīr" and wādī š-šitā" "Wādī š-Šitā"", lit. 'Winter Valley', are two valleys located near to each other in the mountainous region of central Jordan.

¹⁸ Moab, $(m\bar{u}'\bar{a}b / < mu'\bar{a}b /)$, a mountain chain in southern Jordan (Z: 91, n. 24; cf. T: 161, n. 5).

¹⁹ al-ḥiṣn 'fortress; governmental palace in Amman (cAmmān)'; būnğūr 'European-style formal dress' probably from the French bon jour (Z: ib.);

fa-lā 'awānisu wādī s-sīri tadkurunī * wa-lā l-kawā 'ibu fī 'arbāḍi 'ağlūnā ḥāla š-šabābu lladī 'ablaytu ğiddatahu * fīmā yumakkinunī minhunna tamkīnā (Z: 506)

"Ladies of Wadi Seer do not remember me. Nor do the maidens

From the Ajlun²¹ hills reward me with their favors.

The youth when I could cope with girls

Has passed away like worn out clothes" (T: 207).

(2) zibā' wādī s-sīr" the gazelles of Wādī s-Sīr:

'aḥlāmu wādī s-sīri kāna yaḥudduhā * ḥubbīki min halfī wa min quddāmī wa-zibā'u wādī s-sīri kāna ši'āruhā * šawqī wa-zillu ḥanīnihi l-mutarāmī (Z: 310)

"The dreams of Wadi Seer were surrounded, before

And behind me, by the horizon of your love.²²

The emblem of the gazelles of Wadi Seer was the shadow

Of my yearning, cast across the valley" (T: 179).

(3) ğanādib wādī s-sīr "grasshoppers of Wādī s-Sīr:

fa-lā l-harābīšu wa-l-'akwāhu 'armuquhā * wa-lā l-mazāmīru fī ģawri-bni 'adwāni

wa-lā li-wādī š-šitā 'ātāru qā' imatun * wa-lā ģa' ādiruhu marrat bi-cammāni wa-lā ģanādibu wādī s-sīri fī faraḥin * wa-lā l-farāšātu šālat şawba šīḥāni (Z: 379);

"No longer can I see the gypsy tents and huts,

Nor hear flutes in the Ghor of Ibn Adwan.²³

The ruins of Wadi Shitta are out of reach,

And its maidens no longer visit Amman.

No longer are the grasshoppers of Wadi Seer cheerful and merry,

Nor do the butterfies fly toward Sheehan" (T: 200).

(4) zabayāt wādī s-sīr "(female) gazelles of Wādī s-Sīr":

zabayātu wādī s-sīri hal nafarat * min sirbikunna z-zabyatu s-samrā fa-hiya llatī haṭṭat 'anāmiluhā * fī sifri ḥubbī 'āyatan ġarrā . . . (Z: 207);

"O gazelles of Wadi Seer, has the dark one

Departed from your herd?

She whose tender fingers

Wrote in my book a charming token, . . . ? (T: 133)

(5) ğa'ādir /wādī/ s-sīr "wild buffalo youngs of /Wādī/ s-Sīr": fī miṣra, yā nāsu, 'ašyā' un muḥabbabatun * li-n-nafsi tūšaku 'an tağtāḥa 'anfāsī lākinna dikrāka, yā wādiya š-šitā wa-hawā * ğa'ādiri s-sīri ra'su l-kawmi fī rāsī (Z: 249):²⁴

²² Properly: 'of my love for you'.

²¹ Ajlun (°Ağlūn), a city located northwest of Jaraš (Ğaraš).

²³ ġūr ibn 'adwān, Ibn 'Adwān, the tribe dwelling around South Šūna in the southern Jordan Valley, al-Ġūr or Ġūr ībn 'Adwān is the name of the locality (T: 200,1);

²⁴ ra'su l-kawm fī rāsī > l-'cibāra dāriǧa fī l-'urdunn: wa-hādā l-'amr ra's al-kawm 'ay 'ahamm 'amr 'cindī (Z: 249, n. 4); the alternation of ra's / rās is due to metrical reasons.

"O people, in Egypt there are lovely things

To satisfy one's desires.

But your memory, Wadi Shitta, and the love of the gazelles

Of Wadi Seer is the top stone of the cairn of my memory" (T: 135);

(6) ģizlān wādī s-sīr "gazelles of Wādī s-Sīr:

'unāšidukum wādiya š-šitā wa-zibā'ahū * wa-ģizlāna wādī s-sīri wa-l-'a'yuna d-du'ǧā ...

da^cūnī bi-hādā l-ka'si wa-ṭ-ṭāsi 'attaqī * şurūfa l-layālī . . . (Z: 141)

"For the sake of Wadi Shitta and its gazelles

And the oryx of Wadi Seer, with dark enticing eyes, (*) . . .

Let me protect myself by this glass and cup

From calamities of the night . . . " (T: 45);

(7) mahā s-safh min 'ammān "wild cows of the 'Ammān hills";

(8) mahā miṣr al-ǧadīda "wild cows of Miṣr al-Ǧadīda":

fa-'abliġ mahā s-safḥi min 'ammāna 'inna mahā * miṣra l-ǧadīdati 'a'yāhunna 'islāsī (Z: 250);

"Tell the wild deer of the Amman hills that the wild cows

Of Masr Jadida did not succeed in seducing me away" (T: 135-6).

3.2.2.

(loose inclusion):

(1) gizlān (as-salt); 'ārām (al-bid', al-bitrā', dabā) "gazelles (as-Salt); white antelopes (al-Bid', Petra, Dabā):

bi-s-salți gizlānun kamā qīla lī * haḍīmatu l-kašḥi ḥaṣānu l-hibā . . .

ārāmu hādā l-ḥayyi min midyanin * fa-l-bid^ci fa-l-batrā'i ḥattā ḍabā (Z:109-110); "In Salt²⁵ there are gazelles, I'm told,

Whose waists are graceful and whose love is chaste . . .

The white antelopes of this people are from

Midian, Bida, Petra and Thaba²²⁶ (T: 67) (2) 'awānis (mādabā)' 'damsels (Mādabā)',

(3) *ġizlān (mādabā)* "gazelles (Mādabā)",

(4) *ğa'ādir (mādabā)* "wild buffalo youngs (Mādabā)":

'innā wa-'in mādabā 'awdat 'awānisuhā * bi-'unsinā šaģafan 'innā muḥiyyūkā . . . (Z: 288);

"Though the damsels of Madaba27 spoiled our happiness,

We salute them" . . . (T: 76); (lit.: We salute you . . .)

la-yašhadāni (°aynāya) la-qāḍī şulḥi baldatikum *'annī bi-ġizlānihā l-maftūnu lā fīkā . . . (Z: 289);

²⁵ Salt (as-Salt), a city northwest of Amman, centre of the Balqa Governorate.

²⁶ Petra (al-Batrā'), ancient capital of the Nabateans in today's Jordan; Midyan, Bid^e and Daba, localities in Saudi Arabia;

²⁷ Mādabā (< Ma'dabā), a city in the Ammān Governorate, southeast of the capital.

"By the justice of peace in your town, they (my eyes) can witness

That I prefer the gazelles of Madaba to your company" . . . (T: 76)

fa-ḥabbadā mādabā ḥayyan ğa'ādiruhā *

şayyarnanī wa-'anā l-ģiṭrīsu şa'lūkā (Z: 289);

"Praise be to Madaba, whose beautiful girls

Transformed a proud man into a beggar" (T: 76);

(5) al-ġīd wa-l-mahā (ḥalab) "the young ladies and the wild cows (Aleppo)": ḥalabun 'āh min ḥalabin * baldatu l-lahwi wa-ṭarab marta'u l-ġīdi wa-l-mahā * madfa'u l-hammi wa-l-kurab (Z: 535); "Aleppo - field of the wild oryx²⁸

Whose eyes soothe our worries and miseries" (T: 30);

(6) *ǧa'ādir (wādī š-šitā', 'ammān), al-farāšāt (šīhān)* "wild buffalo youngs (Wādī š-Šitā', 'Ammān), the butterflies (Šīḥān):

fa-lā l-harābīšu wa-l-'akwāhu 'armuquhā* wa-lā l-mazāmīru fī ġawri-bni 'adwāni

wa-lā li-wādī š-šitā 'ātāru qā' imatun * wa-lā ģa' ādiruhu marrat bi-ammāni wa-lā ģanādibu wādī s-sīri fī faraḥin * wa-lā l-farāšātu šālat şawba šīḥāni (Z: 379);

(For the English version see 3.2.1 (3) above).

(7) ģizlān wādī s-sīr "gazelles of Wādī s-Sīr:

'unāšidukum wādiya š-šitā wa-zibā'ahū * wa-ģizlāna wādī s-sīri wa-l-'a°yuna d-du°ǧā...

da^cūnī bi-hādā l-ka'si wa-ţ-ṭāsi 'attaqī * şurūfa l-layālī . . . (Z: 141)

"For the sake of Wadi Shitta and its gazelles

And the oryx of Wadi Seer, with dark enticing eyes . . .

Let me protect myself by this glass and cup

From calamities of the night" (T: 45);

(8) al-wāridāt ^calā mā' al-muwaqqar 'aw bi'r ibn hirmās: "the ladies coming to the waters of al-Muwaqqar or the well of ibn Hirmās":

fa-wā ḥanīnī li-aṭfī l-wāridāti 'alā * mā'i l-muwaqqari 'aw bi'ri-bni hirmāsi . . . fa-bliġ mahā s-safḥi min 'ammāna 'inna mahā * miṣra l-ǧadīdati 'a'yāhunna 'islāsī (Z: 250).

"I yearn for the ladies who come to the waters

Of Muwaqqar or the well of the son of Hermas²⁹ . . .

Tell the wild deer of the Amman hills that the wild cows

Of Masr Jadida did not succeed in seducing me away" (T: 135-6).

²⁸ Taylor's short-cuts somewhat distorts the meaning of 'Arār's verses, properly: "Aleppo, oh Aleppo, city of distraction and delight, / playground of young ladies and antelopes who drive away (our) worries and miseries (lit., who are the protecting shield against (our) worries and miseries)";

²⁹ al-Muwaqqar, a village southeast of Amman; the well of ibn Hirmās – a well near al-Muwaqqar; there is another well of this name on the pilgrim road in the Saudi Arabia desert in the vicinity of Jordanian border (Z: 250, n. 5; cf. T: 135, n. 2).

(9) al-^cadārā (wādī s-sīr) "the virgins (Wādī s-Sīr):
sa-'aftaḥu ḥānatan wa-'abī cu hamran * bi-wādī s-sīri lākin li-l-^cadārā

la°alla °uyūnaki s-sawdā'a yawman * tuṭāli°unī bi-ḥamlaqati s-sakārā (Z: 216)

"I shall open a pub in Wadi Seer A pub for virgins. There I shall sell wine.

Perhaps your dark eyes will favor me when they are drunk" (T: 155).

(10) ğa'ādir (wādī š-šitā') "wild buffalo youngs (Wādī š-Šitā'):

yā šayhu! mā l-°ilmu? ḥasbu l-mar'i ma°rifatan * 'anna š-šifāha bi-wādī s-sīri lamyā'u

wa-'anna wādiya š-šitā ḥuwwun ǧa'ādiruhu * wa-'anna muṣṭāfahā mū'ābu(n)

'asmā'u (Z: 90-91);

"O Sheik, what is knowledge? It is enough to know

That there are lips in Wadi Seer belonging to Lamia;

And that gazelles of Wadi Shitta have the power of snake charmers,

And that summer in the mountains of Moab can be enjoyed" (T: 161);

(11) °īn, al-ḥūr (al-ġūr) "wild cows, virgins of paradise (al-Ġūr)": uwaydaka 'innahu l-ġūru * bihi sidrun wa-zu rūru wa-ḥarfīšun wa-murārun * wa- rīnun taḥsa'u l-ḥūru (Z: 490, 1); "Tread warily, you are in the Ghor.³⁰

Here grow the zizyphus,

As well as the verigated and star thistle,

And damsels who outshine the angels in heaven" (T: 210).

3.3.

Place-related images are not specific attributes of 'Arār's love poetry, they may equally well introduce the vision of approaching death, as may be seen in the following verses:

yā 'urdunnīyātu 'in 'awdaytu muģtariban * fa-nsağnahā bi-'abī 'antunna 'akfānī wa-qulna li-ṣ-ṣaḥbi: wāraw ba'qa 'a'zumihī * fī talli 'irbida 'aw safḥi šīḥānī qālū: qaḍā wa-maḍā wahbī li-ṭīyatihī * taġammadat rūḥahū raḥmātu raḥmānī 'asā wa-'alla bihī yawman mukaḥḥalatun * tamurru tatlū 'alayhi ḥizba qur'ānī (Z: 374);

"O Jordanian women, if I die alienated,

Weave my shroud; I would sacrifice my father for you.

Say to my friends: Bury some of his bones

In the Irbid Tell or in the foothills of Sheehan.

Say Wahbi died and went to his destination.

May his soul be sheltered with God's grace.

Maybe one day a girl with kohl on her eyes

Will pass by him and read him a chapter from the Koran" (T: 249).

³⁰ See note 23.

Place component in a number of ITs is promoted to the true object of reference:

(1) wādī š-šitā' (aḍ-ḍāribāt bihi 'aṭnābahunna) "Wādī š-Šitā' (/Gypsy ladies, Z: 291, n.5/ erecting their tents in it, i.e., dwelling in it):

(... yā dunyā hudayyāki)

tūbā li-wādī š-šitā wa-ḍ-ḍāribāti bihī * 'aṭṇābahunna 'a-lā yā nafsu raḥmāki zanantunī ǧuztu 'an ṭardi l-hawā fa-'iḍā * hāḍā llaḍī hiltuhu qad hirtu 'iyyāki (Z: 291);

"(I challenge you, O world!) Blessed is Wadi Shitta

And those who encamp in it.

O my soul, have mercy on me; I thought I had passed love.

Now what I find in me is perplexing" (T: 194-5)

(2) wādī s-sīr (al-hisān) "Wādī s-Sīr (the beauties)":

qasaman bi-wādī s-sīri wa-l-baladi lladī * fīhi l-ḥisānu naṣabna lī 'ašrākā 'inna l-ḥayāta hiya l-ku'ūsu wa-rubbamā * kāna ḍ-ḍalālu bi-hinna ba'ḍa hudākā (Z: 290);

"I swear by Wadi Seer, the town (*) where the beautiful girls

Laid traps for me.

That life is the glass and maybe going astray

With these glasses is part of repentence" (T: 194);

(*) properly: and the region where . . .

Alternatively, even some of the hitherto quoted verses could be reclassified in these terms:

(3) wādī š-šitā' (wa-zibā'uhū) "Wādī š-Šitā' (and its gazelles)":
'unāšidukum wādiya š-šitā wa-zibā'ahū * wa-ģizlāna wādī s-sīri wa-l-'a^cyuna d-du^cǧā ...
da^cūnī bi-hādā l-ka'si wa-ṭ-ṭāsi 'attaqī * şurūfa l-layālī . . . (see 3.2.1 (6))

(4) al-hişn wa-wādī s-sīr "al-Ḥiṣn and Wādī s-Sīr":

'uqsimu bi-l-ḥiṣni wa-wādī s-sīri * wa-r-raš'i l-muhafhafi l-ġarīri lastu, 'idā mā qīla: bi-l-bunǧūri * (i)ḥḍar, bi-man yarġabu fī l-ḥuḍūri (see 3.1.2 (4)), etc.;

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ABBREVIATIONS

Z = az-Zu^cbī, 1982; T = Taylor, R.L., 1988; MP = mystical poetry; PP = pre-Islamic poetry; SC = Ibn al-^cArabī's spiritual commentary in MP.