CHAPTER 3

Safaitic Prayers, Curses, Grief and More from Wadi Salhub—North-Eastern Jordan

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As a part of the efforts of the Department of Epigraphy at Yarmouk University (Irbid, Jordan) for documentation of the epigraphic heritage of Jordan, an epigraphic survey in Wādī Qaṭṭāfī/Wādī Salḥūb in Northeast Jordan was carried out between 10 and 15 April, 20131 and continued in November 2015 under the direction of the present author. These surveys constitute the first phase of our work in the area, which will be conducted through long term projects, including parts of Wādī Qaṭṭāfī.2

Wādī Salḥūb itself comprises its core area, as well as numerous branches in different directions (s. Map, Fig. 1). The expedition resulted in documenting and inventorying some hundreds of Ancient North Arabian3 inscriptions (mostly Safaitic4) from 8 sites. In addition, tens of Arabic inscriptions were discovered; most of these are dated to the mid-8th century A.D.5 The aim of the present paper is to present a philological treatment of some newly discovered Safaitic inscriptions from the mentioned survey. The Siglum “Salhub” will be used for this and other future publication of the epigraphical materials from the same area. Personal names will not be treated and common lexemes will not be dealt with unless they are new or rare in Ancient North Arabian.

1 The survey was conducted with participation of some M.A. students at the Department of Epigraphy: Ms. Laura Tashman, Mr. Abdallah Khasawneh (currently PhD candidate in Semitic studies at Philipps University of Marburg), Mr. Muhammad Al-Zu’bi (Yarmouk University) and in cooperation of Mr. Khaled al-Janaydeh (DAJ), Mr. Muwaffaq Bataineh (surveyor) and Mr. Hussein Deajeh (photographer both at Yarmouk University).
2 Thanks to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan which gave us the permission to conduct future archaeological and epigraphical surveys within ca. 10 km² of the in the region. This first phase was made possible through a financial support by Yarmouk University.
4 See Al-Jallad (2015) for fresh treatment of the contents of the Safaitic inscriptions.
FIGURE 1  Map of Wādī Salḥūb
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