



# The People of Palestine An Enlarged Ed. of the Peasantry of Palestine, Life, Manners, and Customs of the Village

Elihu Grant



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1921 Excerpt: ...the boundary between the different strips. Or a succession of small heaps of stones may mark the line.<sup>1</sup> The workers on such a strip or strips pay the government taxes or tithes on the produce of their land. To obtain a place in the list of such fellahin and share in the use of the communal lands is a matter of some complexity and difficulty and, perhaps, of serious discussion amounting to a quarrel. A stranger coming to the village to live cannot ordinarily enter into the land privileges. A newcomer may occasionally be worked into a privileged family by marriage. The old families of the villages, having had these land rights for years, hold them tenaciously. Newcomers are ordinarily compelled to turn to some other business, to open a shop or go into some kind of manufacture. By a difficult procedure, eased with money, communal land may become the private property of one person and be made into a vineyard or an orchard. It is customary, under intelligent management, to let the village grain lands rest every other year.<sup>1</sup> Dressing the land is not resorted to. The limestone in the soil supplies to some extent this lack. Distinctively farm-buildings, such as barns, etc., are scarcely to be seen unless it be at some farm-school or foreign colony. Wheat and barley are the common grains. The peasant knows nothing of oats. Of hay, as the Western farmer raises it, he is likewise ignorant. Large quantities of dhurah are raised. This is a kind of millet. The early part of the winter is the time for sowing wheat, or, as the natives say, When the thirst of the land is quenched.<sup>2</sup> Barley, which matures quicker, is sown a little later than wheat. In broadcast sowing of grain the farmer sows first and plows afterward.<sup>3</sup> He starts early with his c...

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