

Language KFAR MAARRAT KHIRBAT

Question: KFARdebian KFAR-atra, KFAR remmen....

KHIRBIT Anafar (Qanafar)...

MAART el ne3men (in Syria...)

In reply to a question on what is the origin of these 3 words, that was my reply:

Interesting question!

If u look up the Ugaritic dictionary,

And Ugarit now clearly having been a Canaanite kingdom,

And bearing in mind that Canaanites is those whom Greeks will call Phoenicians, and those whom Romans will call Punics in Africa), but that will be since 1200 BC, meaning after Canaanite civilization will have been restrained to current Lebanon + Arwad / Tartus area, and later Carthage,

KFAR, then written KFR, KPR in western languages, since “P” and “F” were represented by a same letter in Canaanite, means “village in the open country / farm”, a word later adopted by Syriac. It also means 7enne (powder/dye) (we still use it: tatoo henne). KFR, pronounced KUFR, means also: "cover", word adopted in Arabic and Hebrew. “Kafirs” was a term used by Nassaras (who by the way were NOT the Christians) to refer to Rabbinical Jews who will add to the Torah the Mishnah, thus "covering God words". Islam will adopt this metaphor and now Kufr means "to be an infidel" in Arabic. This meaning of "cover" does not figure in Ugarit (1500 BC), which is way older than the mid - classical “Phoenician era” (800 - 300 BC).

KHIRB means to dry up, be destroyed, deserted, uncultivated. We also use that word nowadays.

As for Maarat,

“3r”, often written as “Ur” in Western languages,* a common word with Sumero - Akkadian, means “town, city”, thus “m3rt” (by adding the prefix “m” and feminine suffix “t”).

Recall the city of “Ur”, so practically the city named “City”, one of the oldest cities on the world and the cradle of Sumerian civilization, and “Urshalem”, westernized as Jerusalem, “the city of Shalem”, the Canaanite god of dusk). Also, Yathreb was named by Muslims “Medina”, which means “city” in Arabic.

Of note,

Ghr (written غر in Ugarit cuneiform) means mountain, hill, but also means "installation for funerary cult", and means "hide", and also means “pit” (ghawr in Arabic). That among other means, not to

elaborate here. I do not believe that in this case, later, “ghr” became “3r”. As our friend Mr. Mazen Haddad pointed out, gh became (غ) on occasions and not the contrary. So it could be so, but the possibility is low given the presence of the word “3r”.

Please also consider the word “gr”, "to lodge, take refuge, settle", among few other meanings. “Gr” reminds us of “grotto”.

PS:

“Qrt” and “qryt” (qaryat) in Canaanite (and later in Arabic) means “city” and could also mean “village”, bearing in mind that a city back then was as big as a village nowadays.