

Arabs versus Nabateans

Just for the record,

And I will sum it up,

Just as Hebrews were Bedouins in the Canaanite sphere and elaborated their own culture / people as Hebrews,

Nabateans were early Arab tribes that splintered around 800 BC but remained silent until establishing their kingdom around 200 BC, to be later dissolved by the Romans.

Throughout the process, they got heavily Canaanized, even in their spoken language due the Babylonian decree of 590 BC.

For comparison, Tannukhids, also originally Arabs, were much less Canaanized and remained mostly Arabized.

Arabs remained the tribes of the Sham / Iraki / Jordanian desert and Saudi Najd and east coast.

Arabs and Nabateans hated each and I will give an example here:

يؤكد الأصفهاني في مجموع المغيث (٣/١٣٢) تمايز الأنباط عن العرب بقوله عن ابن هُبَيْرَة: "أعوذ بالله من شيطان مستعرب ومن نبطي مستعرب". وهناك تأكيد آخر لابن المَرْزُبَانِي (معجم الشعراء، ٥٢٣) حيث يروي أَنَّ جَرِير (الْتَمِيمِي، من نجد، ٦٥٠ - ٧٢٨) يهجو مِجَاش بن نعيم البرجي بـ"إني لأعلم يا مِجَاش أنكم أولاد أحمر من أنباط حوران"، ويشرح التبريزي (شرح ديوان الحماسة لأبي تمام ٢/٨٩١) أَنَّ العرب يسمون العجم "الحمراء". (راجع مقال لأحمد أبو بكر الترياني (٢٠١٢) للمزيد من الأقوال العربية التي تميزهم عن الأنباط).

Nabateans turned out be a great kingdom for a while,

Elaborating their own alphabet to write Canaanite language that they spoke in their own variety, and having their own pantheon, and establishing great trade at the crossroad they held (Sinai, Edom, Hejaz, Hauran).

Of course, like in many topics, Wiki is awesome but still lacks clarity / updates.

Like saying Nabatean Arab here,

Or Lebanese being an Arab dialect...