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Monolith of Mystery

By Ammar Khammash, The Jordan Times Weekender - November 2002

It was 1984. At the bus stop of Karak, bus drivers were calling out the names of the villages hoping to start their journey with seats full. The name "Al Yarout" sounded interesting, so I entered the mini bus of that village. Instantly, as I took my seat I felt like a stranger, for all passengers knew each other and knew that someone from outside their village is on board.

Arriving to Al Yarout at the end of the bus line, I left the bus and started exploring the village. Not to end up riding back in the same bus to Karak I found a vendor, a man with his young son, singing the contents of the canvas-covered back of his pickup truck: slippers, shoes, brooms, dresses, spoons, plastic buckets and scarves. The decision to join this mobile boutique/utensil omni-shop turned out to be an excellent idea. We were going from village to village, all a few minutes apart. We drove through Smakieh, Hmoud, Judaideh and others, and besides learning the prices of plastic shoes and glazed Chinese tin plates, I was observing the architecture of the different villages. Suddenly there was something different in the middle of the village of Adir. I thanked the vendor and jumped out of the pickup.

Out of the natural land surface, there emerged a strange stone, in one-piece, standing like a sharp saber that fell down from the sky. A few meters away another similar stone lay down on its side. The effect was monumental, eternal, and somewhat strange. The standing stone, about five meters above the ground and some unknown extra length below, was so powerful with its natural finish, without any visible workmanship or chisel marks; this stone was simply a hard rock, selected from nature and erected in this spot for reasons little known even to archaeologists.

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