

KWADRU NPU 16

XOGHOL TAL-QFIEF

KIENUJAQTGHU, IL-QASAB MILL-WIDIEN, U JNIXXFUDHOM. IL-QASAB  
KIENU JAQTGHUH IRQIEQ MIT-TUL, BIR-RONKA. KIENU JIBDEW JIN-  
HADMU MILL-QIEGH' IL-FUQ. KIENU JAGHTU DAQQIET FUQ IL-QAS-  
BIET BIEX JIDHLU SEWWA F'POSTHOM, WAQT LI JINHADEM IL-GENB.  
BIEX JISSAHHAH IL-GENB, KIENU JUZAW VIRGI MINN SIGRA ZGHIRA,  
(SIGRET IL-VIRGI), LI KIENU L-EWWEL IXARBUHOM SEWWA BIEX  
JIRTABU. WARA LI JINHADMU, DAWN IL-VIRGI JIEHDU L-QAGHDA,  
JIBBIESU, U JZOMMU L-QOFFA B'SAHHITHA, U JIDHRU OSKURI META  
JITQABBLU MAL-ISFAR TAL-QASAB. KIENU JSIRU HAFNA DAQSIJ IET  
U GHAMLIET TA' QFIEF. IL-MEZEZ KIENU JINHADMU L-AKTAR  
BHALA DUGH GHAL FROTT U HAXIX LI JINBIEGHU IL-PITKALIJA.

PAINTING No. 16

BASKETRY AND CANE-WORK

CANE CULMS FROM THE VALLEYS USED TO BE COLLECTED AND DRIED.  
THEY WERE THEN CUT INTO THIN, LONGITUDINAL STRIPS BY MEANS OF  
A 'RONKA', AND THE BASKET WAS STARTED AT THE BOTTOM, BUILDING  
UP THE SIDES, HAMMERING IN THE STRIPS TIGHTLY AROUND WITH A  
LENGTH OF WOOD. BANDS OF DARK STRIPS WERE ALSO INSERTED AT  
INTERVALS, OBTAINED FROM A SMALL TREE. THESE STRIPS WERE  
FIRST MOISTENED AND SOAKED IN WATER TO SOFTEN THEM, AND WHEN  
DRY THEY HARDEN AND SUPPORT THE CANEWORK. APART FROM MANY  
TYPES OF BASKETS, THEY USED TO MAKE A STANDARD SIZE, THE  
MEZZA, AS A CONTAINER FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FOR HAWKERS.