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Miṭlag ibn ʿYādih ibn ʿAbīcīh, from ar-Rmāl branch of Šammār, is the embodiment of nomadic, chiefly qualities. He is dignified and wise, and his hospitality knows no bounds. It is around his hearth in his multi-poled tent that many hours of Šammari oral history were recorded.

Other notables of al-ʿAbīcīh lineage in Jubbih, Gna and other Šammari hamlets, opened their coffee chambers (but, what am I saying? Their coffee chambers have no doors!) for me to stay and conduct interviews. Their endorsement of my project, and the endorsement of other prominent chiefs of al-Ġfēlih, such as Ṭalāl ibn Ġaḍbān ibn Rmāl and ʿAbdallah ibn Ġālib, greatly facilitated my movement among my Šammari informants and guaranteed their trust and cooperation. My Šammari hosts slaughtered not just sheep, but sometimes camels to celebrate the long recording sessions which I conducted in the Ḥāyil region.

With the Šammār, hospitality is an art and a sacred institution. Their affable manners and liberality of heart and mind truly make their guest feel as one of the tribe. I only hope that my modest endeavor to preserve a sample of their noble past will, in some small way, show my gratitude to every Šammari who extended his friendship and helping hand to me.

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Nifud and the rocky passes of the Aja and Salma mountains. I have practically covered the whole territory of the Šammar tribe. The praises of the gallant Prince were on the lips of every man I met, whether a nomad or a townsman. His name frequently rings in tribal assemblies with expressions of love and admiration. I never realized how fond of and well-versed in desert poetry the Prince was until the day I went to greet His Royal Highness in his office. To my delighted surprise, he recited some of the most beautiful verses of Bašri al-Wḍēhi, the "Casanova" of the northern desert.

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