

The maintenance works in the area J1

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Due to the extraordinary weather conditions which prevailed the province of Hasaka last winter, Tell Mozan site was subjected to some damages, where the buttress which used to support the wall of the temple in the unit J5 (**Fig. 1**) and the soil of the unit J1 have crumbled in the area J (**Fig.2**) . So we immediately alerted the team of the Mission in order to find an urgent solution. After careful analysis and consulting, we have identified a suitable strategy to secure the area and the ancient wall structures . But we couldn't intervene immediately to repair the damages, because of the heavy rain through the spring, so we had to wait until the end of May where the weather became appropriate for the work .



Fig.1 . The crumbled buttress in the unit J5



Fig.2 . The unit J1 before the work

Because of the inability of the Mission's workers, Mohammed Omo, Ibrahim Khello and Mohammed Hamza (Hammadi) to perform stressful works, I had to rely on other workers beside them (4 workers) to do the works such as removing the soil and filling it in bags, also lifting bags and large stones . The work continued ten days but non-continuously because of the lack of workers due to harvest season province of Hasaka .

The works included the following :

The first day, on Thursday 29 / 5 / 2019 :

We started in the unit J5 where the collapsed buttress, which has been supporting the fence of the temple in the ancient times . The huge stones were scattered on the ground with accumulated soil on them (**Fig.3**). Because of the lack of enough experience to restore this buttress as it was, I surly believed that this process needs to be supervised by the Mission itself.



Fig.3 . The accumulated soil and scattered stones - the unit J5

So we suggested the repositioning of stones somehow, as a support to protect the wall of the temple in the unit J5, as well as keeping them until the return of the Mission .

We started removing the soil which was accumulated on the stones (**Fig .4**), then sorting them to put the biggest in the bottom to form a base, we were very careful to not disturb the soil that remained from the original buttress and still sticking on the wall of the temple (**Fig.5**), the soil was reddish and free of straw and shards, but contained few small stones,“I think it is none sifted soil ” .



Fig.4 . Removing the soil - the unit J5



Fig.5 . The soil which remained and still sticking on the Temple's wall - the unit J5

After cleaning the unit from the soil and reaching to the excavated level, we have put a plastic (Nylon) (**Fig.6**), then the biggest stones as base .



Fig.6 . Using plastic (Nylon) under the stones - the unit J5

The second day, on Saturday 1 / 6 / 2019 :

The work continued in the unit J5 but because of the difficulty of lifting stones we have relied on an instrument which is called al-Wensh in local language to lift the stones (**Fig.7**), however, we were having difficulty working because of the large stones .



Fig.7 . Instrument of al-Wensh - the unit J5

The stones have been lifted by al-Wensh, so was the mud (a mixture of soil, straw and water) , in order to cover the gaps between the stones (**Fig.8**).



Fig.8 . Filling the gaps between the stones with mud - the unit J5

The third day, on Sunday 9 / 6 / 2019 :

We worked in both units J5 and J1 .

In respect of the unit J5, after we finished putting the stones we had to strengthen the wall of the temple as well as we can, and cover the remaining soil which was stuck on the wall of the temple, in addition to giving the new buttress a kind of aesthetic appeal until it can be restored properly, so we used filled burlap bags with Soil (**Fig.9**), these bags were filled from the collapsed soil from the original buttress itself, which was spread on the ground . The bags have been carefully placed until we reached the highest point possible (**Fig.10**), but we have stopped work in this unit because we ran out of the soil which was collapsed of the buttress .



Fig.9 . Burlap bags filled with soil - the unit J5



Fig. 10 . The highest point we reached on third day - the unit J5

As for the unit J1, we began to remove the soil beside the wall of the section from both south and east sides (**Fig.11**), in order to reach the position where we can put the bags and to be sure that the wall of the section will be protected, the extracted soil was directly being filled in the bags (**Fig.12**) .



Fig.11 . The work began in the unit J1



Fig.12 . Filling the bags - the unit J1

The fourth day, on Tuesday 11 / 6 / 2019 :

The process of removing soil beside the east and south sides of the section in the unit J1 continued, as well as placing the bags in the eastern side (**Fig.13**). In respect of the soil which will be used for the protection of the temple's wall, we preferred to sift it to make sure that it doesn't contain shards or other objects (**Fig.14**), Hammadi was interested in collecting every fragment that appeared as a result of the sifting process (**Fig.15**), we didn't see any fragments except for some pottery shards which were placed in plastic bags by Hammadi himself (**Fig.16**). The sifted soil was filled in the bags and transferred to the top , in order to use them later in the protecting the temple's wall (**Fig.17**) .



Fig.13 . The work is continued in the unit J1



Fig.14 . Sifting the soil - the unit J1



Fig.15 . The pottery shards are collected by Hammadi - the unit J1



Fig.16 . The pottery shards are put in plastic bags - the unit J1



Fig.17 . Transferring the soil bags to the top - the unit J1

The fifth day, on Sunday 23 / 6 / 2019 :

We worked in the both units J1 and J5 .

In the unit J1, we continued filling bags with soil and placing them in both sides, the eastern and southern sides of the section (**Fig.18**), in addition to sifting the soil and transferring it .



Fig.18 . Placing the soil bags - the unit J1

As for the unit J5, after we ran out of the soil which collapsed from the original buttress, we had to use the soil which also had previously collapsed from the section in front of the buttress (**Fig.19**), the bags which have been filled from the section's crumbled soil, I named them as (from section), the photo which I have drawn by Freehand Program will illustrate them (**Fig.20**), then we continued placing one bag on top of the other, until the work in this unit was entirely finished (**Fig.21**) .



Fig.19 . Removing soil from the collapsed section in front of the buttress



Fig.20 . Photo illustrating the bags which have been filled from the collapsed section



Fig.21 . The new buttress - the unit J5

The sixth day, on Tuesday 25 / 6 / 2019 :

We finished the work in the unit J1 , where the bags have been placed and the soil settled within the unit (**Fig.22 and 23**) .



Fig.22 . The process of leveling the soil in the unit J1



Fig.23 . View of the end result in the unit J1

The seventh day, on Sunday 7 / 7 / 2019 :

After we have finished the work inside the unit J1, we moved to the second phase which is installing iron rods (**Fig.24**) and covering them by metal sheet which is called in the local language as tutia (**Fig.25**), where it was well fixed on the iron rods , in order to protect the section's wall from the rain in the next winter seasons . we also welded the broken western door leading to the unit J1 (**Fig.26**) . thus we finished our work in the unit J1 (**Fig.27**) .



Fig.24 . installing the iron rods - the unit J1



Fig.25 . Fixing the tutia with the iron rods - the unit J1



Fig.26 . Welding the iron door in the unit J1



Fig.27 . Iron rods and tutia secured in place, in the unit J1

The eighth day, Tuesday 16 / 7 / 2019 :

After installing the iron rods and tutia, we covered the edges of the tutia from the top by soils (**Fig.28**), to prevent any leaking of rain water that may cause damages to the section in the unit J1. Then we moved to placing tutia on the surface of the temple's wall. Here we faced obstacles, as the prominent stones in the surface of the fence starting from the unit J1 through the unit J5, which made our work so difficult, preventing us from controlling the settlement of tutia because of the stones, where the sheets of tutia were being tilted (**Fig.29**), and we would have needed a large amount of soil to level it , however and after many attempts we became sure that this way will be useless , so after careful consulting we decided to use burlap (Jader) to cover all the wall from top to bottom and fixing it by bags of soil (**Fig.30**) , which will be placed at the end of autumn and removed around the middle of March .



Fig.28 . Covering the edges of tutia with soil - the unit J1



Fig.29 . The sheets of tutia are waving because of stones - the wall of temple

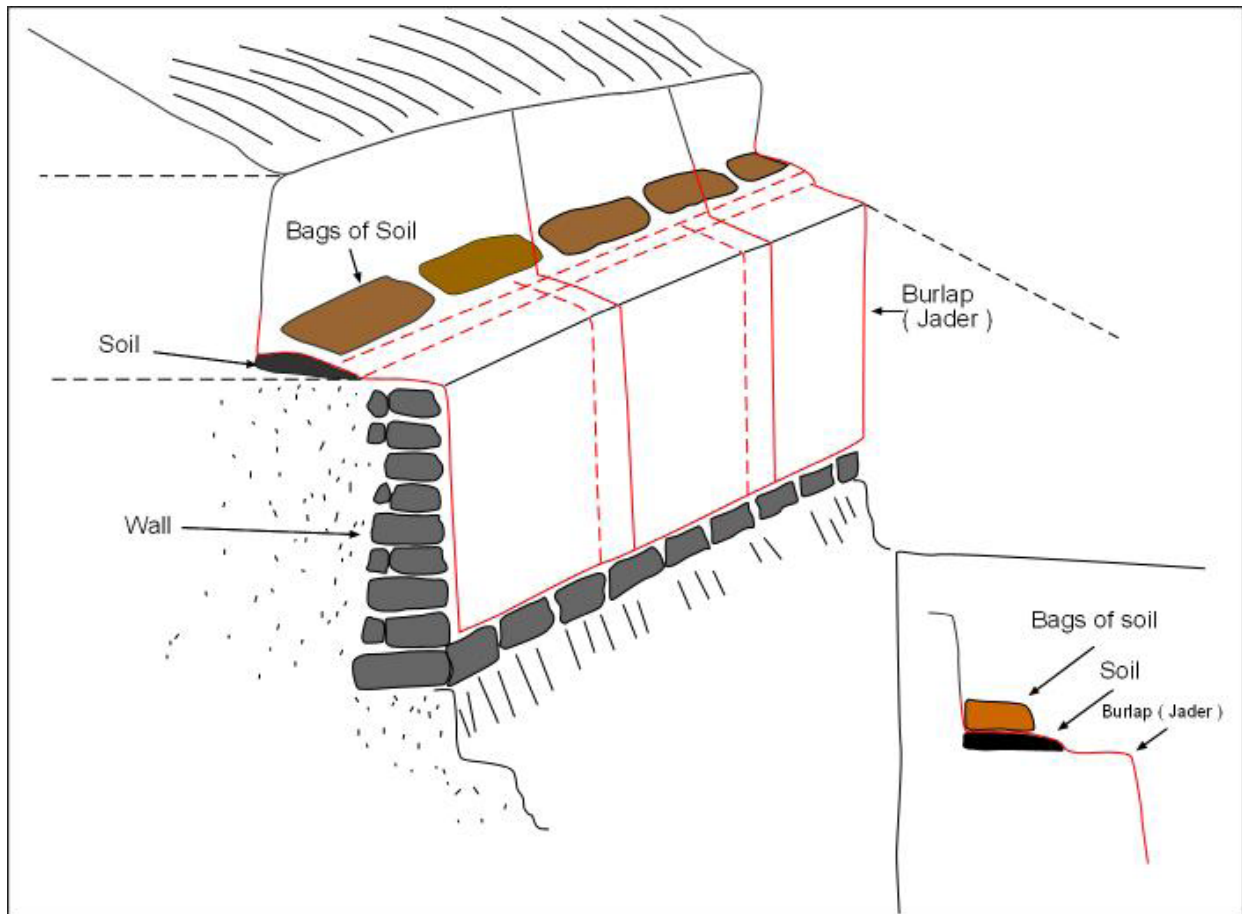


Fig.30 . The suggestion process for the temple's wall

The ninth day, on Saturday 31 / 8 / 2019 :

After finishing work in the unit J1, where the iron rods and tutia have been installed, we fixed burlap curtain which have been sewed with plastic (Nylon) (**Fig.31**) and fixed by ribbons on the iron rods (**Fig.32**), the plastic was very necessary in order to avoid the the effect of moisture on the section . The metal rods were close to each other, about 180 cm apart, except in the corners of the unit (northeast and southwest corners), the side of the Nylon was installed against the wall of the section .

The unit J1 after finishing work on the ninth day (**Fig.33**).



Fig.31 . Sewing the burlap with plastic (Nylon)



Fig.32 . Fixing the curtain on iron rods by ribbons - the unit J1



Fig.33 . The unit J1 from the northwest side

The tenth day, on Sunday 8 / 9 / 2019 :

We painted the tutia in the unit J1, where we have mixed three colors, light brown, white and orange (**Fig. 34**), in order to be as close as possible to earthy color (**Fig.35 and 36**) .



Fig.34 . Mixing the color



Fig.35 . The painting process



Fig.36 . The unit J1 after painting process