

# Western Neo-Aramaic

كُنْ حَبِيبًا لِكُنْ حَبِيبًا  
(لِكُنْ حَبِيبًا آدَ لِقُفْهَدَا)

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الآرامية الغربية الحديثة  
(لهجة جبعدين)

# Western Neo-Aramaic:

## *The Dialect of Jubaadin*

By

Anas Abou-Ismaïl

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Western Neo-Aramaic: The Dialect of Jubaadin

By Anas Abou-Ismaïl

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*To my father, Maad, and my mother, Omaima.*



Image by Wesam Alloush







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## Preface

Western Neo-Aramaic is the last surviving branch of the Western Aramaic dialects. With only a few thousand speakers left in Syria, it faces a serious risk of extinction. For this reason, extensive efforts are needed to document and preserve the language. This book explores various aspects of the WNA language as spoken in the village of Jubaadin. The pronunciation of each WNA word is written using Latin letters, Arabic letters, and a modified version of the Syriac alphabet. The grammar of Modern Standard Arabic is used as a model to structure the grammar of Western Neo-Aramaic. Grammatical notes and explanations are written in both English and Arabic. This book also includes stories, texts, and poems written by native speakers of the language.

This work could not have been completed without the help and assistance of several people. Mohammad Zaid Alloush dedicated countless hours of his time to help me further understand the grammar and syntax of the WNA language as well as helped with the editing and translation of the texts. Fawzi Silan, Ali Alloush, Ahmad Ammouh, Mohammad Zaid Alloush, and others helped me gather and accumulate the dictionary entries at the end of the book. Several poets contributed their poems. Wisam Alloush helped obtain photographs of Jubaadin. This work stands on the shoulders of linguistic giants, particularly Werner Arnold. I hope that current and future generations find this book helpful in learning about and preserving this Western Aramaic dialect. I also owe special thanks, for their support and encouragement, to Yazan Abou-Ismael and Mahmoud Jilani.

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## Abbreviations and Explanations

1	First Person
2	Second Person
3	Third Person
Adj	Adjective
Adv	Adverb
Akk	Akkadian
Ara	Arabic
Ass	Assyrian
Bab	Babylonian
Can	Canaanite
EA	East Aramaic
Ebl	Eblaite
Egy	Egyptian
Eng	English
Eth	Ethiopian
Expr	Expression
f	Feminine
Fr	French
Fut	Future
Ger	German
Gr	Greek
Hbr	Hebrew
Imp	Imperative
Inf	Infinitive
Intr	Intransitive
Irreg	Irregular
Ita	Italian
Lat	Latin
m	Masculine
MSA	Modern Standard Arabic
Mari	Kingdom of Mari
n	Noun

NA	Neo-Aramaic
Nab	Nabatean
OA	Old Aramaic
Ott	Ottoman
p; Pl	Plural
Palm	Palmyrene
Per	Persian
Por	Portuguese
Pr	Pronoun
PR	Proper Noun
Pre	Present
Prep	Preposition
Pst	Past
PV	Passive Voice
s	Singular
Sab	Sabaeen
SAC	Syriac/Aramaic
Spa	Spanish
Sum	Sumerian
Syr	Syriac
Tl	Tool
Tr	Transitive
Tur	Turkish
Uga	Ugaritic
v	Verb
WA	West Aramaic
WNA	Western Neo-Aramaic

