



Witness Card for Investigator #3 – Abdulaziz, Age 59

People around here are saying that you and other foreigners are asking a lot of questions. I don't know why you think that we can help you. This is a quiet place – without the noise and corrupting influence of foreigners that you see in so many places in Oman.

I heard about the foreign man that was killed, the one who came here from America or some place like that. (I have only been to Muscat once and never out of the country. I don't have much experience with people from strange countries. And I can never pronounce those foreign names.) People report everything to me since I am an important person in this area.

Yes, that man came here to ask a lot of questions about date production. He talked to some of the people around here, but not to me. That is too bad because I hear he was asking questions about our farming here and the importance of dates in our culture and society. My family has been involved in date farming for many generations – and because I am almost 60-years-old, I know a lot about the subject! I could have told him a lot. But he asked other people, not me. I don't remember who. Everyone says that the young man – the foreign one you talked about, whose name I can't remember – was really interested and wrote a lot of things down. People laughed about that: how he had to write down information about farming, information that everyone should know about.

No, I have no idea who killed him. How would I know that? I think, however, that the killer couldn't be from around here. It would be hard to keep something like that secret in a place where everyone knows each other. So I can't help you find out who did it, but I bet I know *why* someone would do it. That American man asked a lot of questions. I think that quality could have gotten him into trouble.