



Witness Card for Investigator #5 – Said, Age 16

I'm Said. I'm 16-years-old, and I learned English in school. My father never learned, which is why I was told to talk to you – just like I was the one that talked to the other American who visited here.

My family has always owned camels. Mostly, we live in the mountains outside of Salalah, but we bring the camels here in summer when the pregnant female camels are ready to have their babies. It's better for the camels to be born on sandy soil than on the rocky land in the mountains.

Camels know that tourists often have food, so when the American, Mr. John, came here, the braver ones gathered around. I let him feed them small bananas from his lunch – camels even eat the peels – but soon all the other camels were coming over too. So my father and I made the camels move along.

You wonder how we get the camels to move where we want them to? No, we don't use dogs to herd them. Camels would laugh at barking dogs since dogs are a lot smaller than camels! Here. I'll show you how we do it. My father won't mind if I borrow the jeep and move a few camels. Don't worry, I'm not hurting them at all. I just nudge one with the jeep until he walks off in the right direction. Then I do the same to a few others. When a group is moving off, the others will follow their friends! Easy. (Sometimes I think that people are herd animals too.)

As for who might have wanted to hurt the American, I don't know what to tell you. My family and I liked him – and I never heard anyone else say anything bad about him either. Mr. John was just interested in how we live and about life in Oman. No one was upset about his visit or his questions. We are glad to share our traditional culture. I wish I could help you solve the mystery, but I don't think I can.