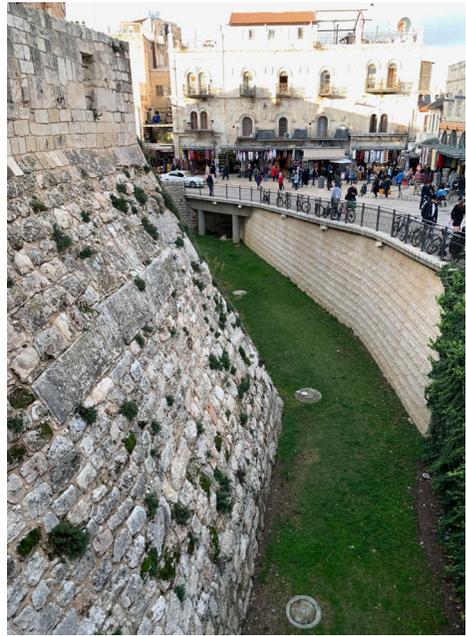


“The view is from the east side of the tower, looking north, and was taken January 13, 2020.

When the moat was repaired, he embedded a carved stone plaque in the wall to document his work. The part of the moat where the plaque is located was buried in 1898, but a photo of it was taken before it was covered over in the expansion of the city.

The photo below was taken by Max van Berheem before it was covered over in the expansion of the city.”¹⁷²



“Here is the translation of the stone plaque above:¹⁷³ *“The order to construct this tower for protection of the Islamic walls by his power and duration of his reign, and to dispose of the favouring idols by his force and strength, the One that did Allah especially elected to rule the neck of the Kings in the World, the possessor in chain of the throne of Caliphate, Sultan son of Sultan, son of Sultan, Son of Sultan...”*

“It is truly amazing! There is an actual moat within the Old City of Jerusalem and it has a plaque proclaiming its restoration by Suleiman; however, there is no date on this specific plaque...”

“Fortunately, that is not the only plaque I want to show you. Suleiman also extensively repaired the plaza of the temple, and he placed a fountain (*sabil*) and another plaque with an inscription to document its restoration. It not only confirms that the Temple Mount was an area restored by Suleiman, but it also gives us a date for his decree. It is called *Sabil Bab el Atm*, meaning fountain at the Gate of Darkness (see photo, *below* ¹⁷⁴).”



174 Sabil Bab el Atm photo by Chris Yunker, November 18, 2007.

175 Photo of Suleiman’s decree courtesy of Veit Ullrich, April 2022.

“The translation of the plaque¹⁷⁵ is: “*He has ordered the construction of this blessed Sabil, our Master, the Sultan, the greatest Sultan and the honourable Hakan, who rules the necks of the nations, the Sultan of the lands of Rum, the Arabs and Persians (ajams), the Sultan Suleyman, son of Sultan Selim Khan, may Allah perpetuate his reign and his sultanate, On the date of Hijra of the Prophet at the beginning of Shaban the blessed in the year 943. And blessings be upon Muhammed and upon his followers.*”¹⁷⁶

176 Tutüncü. *Turkish Jerusalem*, 74; In total, Suleiman had nearly three dozen inscriptions documenting his work in Jerusalem between 1536-1541. Within the walls of the city, the oldest is at the *Sabil el Wad*, which is near the *Bab el Kattanin* (Cotton Merchants Gate) of the *Haram al-Sharif* (Temple Mount). It is dated December 14th, 1536. The next oldest one is at another fountain (*sabil*) in the city called, *Sabil Bab el Silsile*, dated January 4, 1537. These dates are all very close. I’ve highlighted the one that is located on the plaza of the temple (the Temple Mount), since “plaza” is mentioned in verse 25. Either way, we are looking at a decree date that is between December 14th, 1536, and January 23rd, 1537.”

“The plaque Suleiman had placed there is located at the north end of the Temple Mount about fifteen meters south of the Gate of Darkness (*Bab el Atm*), as shown in the diagram below. It is dated “the beginning of Shaban 943.” The date given by this plaque converts to a modern date ranging from between the 13th to the 23rd of January, 1537 on our Gregorian calendar.¹⁷⁷ That gives us a verifiable date range from which to begin counting 483 years forward. ...if you count 483 years from 1537 that brings us to the year 2020!”³

