Enno Littmann, in a publication from 1940, mentions three inscriptions in which Safaitic ḫrw is used about the dead, after a vocative, ‘O God!’ The meaning is obviously: ‘O God, give [them] rest’. A version of Dona eis requiem?

Luxenberg has suggested that Quranic zawwaǧnāhum (Q 44:54 and Q 52:20) might be a misreading for rawwaḥnāhum. These three Safaitic inscriptions may convince someone who has doubts about this suggestion that the reading rawwaḥnāhum (زَوَّاحْنَاهمَُمْ) at least deserves serious consideration.

Also an-nufūsu zuwwiǧat in Q 81:7 looks improbable. Here too, a form of ‘to rest’ seems to be much more plausible: ruwwihat (زَوَّاحْنَاهمَُمْ)?

William G. Oxtoby (1968) mentions Safaitic ḫṛḥ which, according to him, means ‘to give rest’, a hiphʿil/aphʿel or form IV, Standard Arabic أَرَاح. The context of the inscription in which ḫṛḥ occurs, Oxtoby 79, is, however, different from that of the three Littmann inscriptions. Oxtoby 79 is a short inscription of ten words. It does not refer to the dead. It must refer to a herd since ṣrʿy, ‘to pasture’, cf. Hebrew ṣrʿy, is used.

Oxtoby also refers to C 4956 where Allāt is asked to grant rest to the dead. Here too we meet with an imperative, of form IV of ḫrw, not a form II.

C 2718, on the other hand, again may show a form II of ḫrh: f-h-bʿl-smn ḫrh, ‘O Lord of the Heavens, give rest’.

It is difficult to put a precise date to Safaitic inscriptions. They are written in a form of early Arabic. They are assumed to date back to the third/fourth century AD.

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