

and between different societies" (Gilsenan, 1982: 19). The influence of Islam on village life should not be explained exclusively as the hegemony of a religious ideology, nor should we assume Islam's primacy over social, economic, or political factors. Instead religion here is viewed as a limited but crucial component in ordering the spatial world-view of the peasant.

### The Fallah's Beliefs And Practices

The nineteenth-century Palestinian peasant shared with 'orthodox' (urban-based) Islam, beliefs which were centered on the most fundamental principle of Islamic teaching, al-tawhid (the unity of God---- "there is no god except God"), which also means the integration and unity of the cosmos (al-kawn). The Muslim's beliefs were focused on a hierarchical conception of the kawn and hence on a hierarchical system of worship and practices which comprises various levels of good and evil, At the top of this order, was God (Allah) who is one in his holiness, powers and truth.

The fallah like other Muslims, regarded Allah as the ruler of all creation. To God he assigned many characteristics, some from human nature and other super-human. The names of God (99 known to man and the hundredth known only to God), attested to the varying attributes of God: God the merciful, the patient, the divine, the eternal, the truth, etc. Both God and al-kawn had dual attributes. God was perceived as the compassionate giver and at the same time as the avenger and the punisher.

The five pillars (arkan) of Islamic faith are the fundamental duties incumbent upon all muslims. These pillars include: declaration of faith, the five daily ritual prayers, almsgiving, fasting in the month of Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Mecca once in a life time for every Muslim who is economically and physically able. The peasants of Deir Ghassaneh also shared with the whole Muslim community religious festivals; both the Sacrifice Feast ('eid el adha) and the Ramadan Feast ('eid el fitr), are communal festive occasions. The prophet's birthday, the night of Divine Decree, and the commemoration of the night journey and ascent of the prophet are also shared sacred