**The Mosque And The Conflict In Palestine**

Building a mosque is considered a sign of stability, constancy and the beginning of urban growth for the Islamic city. Whenever the urban area expands, an additional mosque or prayer hall is built to serve the residents of the city or new neighborhood. This is a tradition of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, who built a mosque in Medina upon entering it. Therefore, the mosque is, in a way, a sign of the religion to which the city belongs and a manifestation of the city’s identity as soon as it is seen from afar. This matter appeared early through the construction of Omar bin Al-Khattab and after him the Umayyads by adding important architectural elements within the borders of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem to express the new identity of the city of Jerusalem. It is a historical struggle since the beginning of humanity until today, as everyone seeks to confirm the reference of their cities and neighborhoods and to demonstrate their identity and belonging to them. This identity conflict is still clearly present in occupied Palestine, and the religious, national, cultural and social symbolism of the mosque is one of the most important reasons for putting it under analysis and study. Many mosques are still abandoned, besieged, isolated, and limited to specific times of use, and are clearly attacked by the Israelis through verbal signs written on the walls of the mosques.

The architectural importance of mosques in the West Bank is evident through their architectural and urban role in establishing the Arab and Islamic identity of the Palestinian city in contrast to the settlements that have invaded the mountaintops in the West Bank. Mosques still have a clear role in preserving the Islamic and Arab images of the city, enhancing its steadfastness, and preserving the city’s status. It is an architectural conflict between a local Palestinian Arab Islamic style and an alien Western style of settlement throughout the West Bank.

This article analyzes Palestinian cities from the perspective of their mosques and their role in the conflict through analyzing a group of some mosques in Palestinian cities and villages that stand face to face with Western colonial cities. Hence, the importance of this article appears, which will depend on the analysis of phenomena and the understanding of the philosophical, cultural, social, religious and architectural concepts behind this architectural conflict with Palestinian cities, in which mosques are considered the spearhead.