

THE GREEN CULTURE OF ISLAM

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**ECOLOGY AS A FOUNDATION FOR THE EXECUTION OF MAN'S
KHALIFAH ON EARTH**
With Special Reference to the Roles of those within Built Environment Professions

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ABSTRACT

Islam denotes that man is the vicegerent of Allah on Earth, entrusting upon man the stewardship of the Earth. To execute this role, man needs to have knowledge on the natural systems that govern the functioning of the Earth. Ecology is the study that includes enquiries on the states of ecosystems as well as the factors that are necessary to ensure ecological balance. The paper describes the contribution of ecology from an Islamic perspective to highlight the harmony between this modern field of knowledge and the Islamic worldview on the stewardship of nature.

Keywords: Khilafah, ecological balance, development.

God Addressing Man

I created the world one, with mere water and earth
You carved it into an Iran, a Tartar and a Zeng
To dust I endowed pure iron
You converted it to swords and arrows and guns
Created you the hatchet, cutting down the garden
Created you the cage, imprisoning the song bird

Man Explaining Himself to God

You created the night, to that I brought the lamp
You created dust, of that I made a bowl
The barren land, the harsh mountains, the inhospitable expanse
Converted I to gardens, rose beds and pleasing vistas
I, the one who makes mirror from your stone
I, the one who extracts cure from your poison

Maulana Muhammad Iqbal
"Dialogue between God and Man"¹

¹ Ateshin, Hussein Mehmet (1987). A Conceptual Framework for "Islamic" Architectural Education. PhD Thesis, University of Sheffield, Sheffield. p.374