

allowed to be constructed outside the village built-up area, out in the fields. (This is no longer the case today, hence the village houses and other public buildings have spread out. As a result neighbouring villages reach one another and no longer form a separate spatial unit).

Neither Deir Ghassaneh nor other neighbouring villages specialized in growing one crop in order to use part of it for barter. They all had similar agricultural produce: olives, figs, grapes, almonds, wheat, barley etc. Hence neither the villagers of Deir Ghassaneh, nor villagers in neighbouring villages, needed to seek beyond their own area for the fulfilment of their own subsistence needs. This pattern of cultivation obviously contributed to the very bounded, self-contained conceptualization which the villagers had of their own village.

However, non-physical factors undoubtedly played a major role in the formation of a concentrated settlement. As the individual was part of a tightly knit group, so was the individual house part of a tightly knit settlement. The same cultural system which made the individual and his clan act as a unit, made the house and the settlement a whole which formed the setting for a communal life. The individual's attitudes towards his group, his personal relation to his land, his attitude towards nature in general, his family and clan structure, all contributed to the formation of a concentrated village. Such a pattern satisfied his basic human need of belonging to a group which gave him psychological, social and economic security. As the individual in the village had little place outside his clan context, so did a separate house have little place or sense outside the setting and context of the village as a whole. As C. Norberg-Schulz put it, "Density thus seems motivated also from within. In general it corresponds to what is usually known as human scale" (Norberg-Schulz, 1971: 30). Hence the motivation for a highly clustered settlement lies in more than purely physical factors.

Finally, one can suggest that such a pattern of settlements characterised by the spatial unity of each village, was caused by,