

# COMMUNITY BUILDING, PART VII<sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Having a shared identity that works towards a collective cause is vital for a healthy community, and in doing so, a community must share specific qualities to be successful. This series of papers offers a glimpse into the importance of community-building and Prophet Muhammad's efforts to implement it. Character traits such as truthfulness, trustworthiness, justice, and unity were illustrated. The previous article touched upon our relationship with God, love for His creation, acting as a channel for God's mercy in our daily lives in doing charitable work, and caring for the ill in an Islamic community. This article expands on two topics: 1) our love for God's creation as that which extends to non-human beings, such as animals, plants, and natural resources, and 2) and the importance of marriage and family life in the formation of a stable Islamic community.

In the previous part, we covered the principle of charity and loving Allah's creatures, because we, as Muslims, love God and should also love His people. However, our love should not be exclusive to human beings because we should also love non-human beings, for example, animals, plants and natural resources.

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<sup>1</sup> This series is based on a nine-session course conducted by the author on Community Building at the Islamic Centre of England in London in 2009.





































