

ABUSIR BANA

A town located in the Egyptian Delta about three miles south of SAMANNUD in the province of al-Gharbiyyah. Its [Greek](#) name was Busiris.

Although Abusir Bana had a reputation as late as the [Byzantine period](#) for its devotion to Isis, [Christianity](#) also has a long tradition in the town. One of the bishops Melitius was able to win over to his side in 325 (see MELITIAN SCHISM) was Hermaion, bishop of Kynopolis and Abusir Bana (Munier, 1943, p. 3). By the middle of the fifth century at the latest, there was an orthodox bishop in Abusir Bana as evidenced by the attendance of Bishop Athanasius at the [Council of EPHESUS](#) in 449 and the [Council of CHALCEDON](#) in 451 (Munier, 1943, pp. 19-20).

[JOHN OF NIKIOU](#) reports that at the time of the [ARAB CONQUEST OF EGYPT](#) Abusir Bana was an important administrative center. The Byzantine regime maintained troops in the town under the leadership of a man named Zacharias. Nonetheless, the Arabs were able to capture the city with little difficulty (1883, p. 411).

The Coptic community in Abusir Bana seems to have withstood the Arabic Conquest and to have remained intact. The [HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS](#) reports that in the time of Patriarch ALEXANDER II (705-730) Bishop [John](#) of Sa reunited the heretical Coptic [congregation](#) in Abusir Bana with the orthodox church. By 744 a bishop was again situated in Abusir Bana. We know that Bishop Jacob from the town was present at the synod that selected KHA'IL I (744-767) as the forty-sixth patriarch. Bishop Peter was in office in Abusir Bana sometime shortly before 750. A student of Bishop Zacharias of ATRIB, Peter was one of several church leaders who were imprisoned with Patriarch Kha'il. Sometime during the patriarchate of PHILOTHEUS (979-1003), Bishop Severus from Abusir Bana visited the patriarch in Alexandria. At the end

of the eleventh century, a man named [Mark](#) was a bishop in Abusir Bana. In 1078 [Mark](#) was present at DAYR ANBA MAQAR in Wadi al-Natrun for the selection of CYRIL II (1078-1092) as patriarch.

Given the long Coptic tradition of Abusir Bana, it is not surprising that the town appears in the medieval Coptic-Arabic scales and in the lists of Egyptian bishoprics (Munier, 1943, pp. 48, 54, 63).

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