

AL-BALYANA

A city in the province of [Jirja](#) in middle Egypt. It is located on the west side of the Nile roughly between Akhmim and Nag Hammadi.

[Christian-Arabic](#) literature makes few references to al-Balyana. However, as indicated by the account of the [struggle](#) of Patriarch SHENUTE I (858-880) with the heretical views of a bishop from al-Balyana, the city was the seat of a bishopric at least as early as the middle of the ninth century. In the eleventh century, Mark, a bishop of al-Balyana, participated in an unsuccessful plot instigated by John, bishop of Sakha, to depose the patriarch CHRISTODOULOS.

The city is also mentioned on two gravestones. From the year 932 comes the tombstone of Kyra Susinne, whose father Psate was from al-Balyana (Stern, 1878, pp. 26ff.). The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge preserves the tombstone of Apa Theodorus, son of Mose, a presbyter from al-Balyana. The inscription was made in 939 (Crum, 1904, p. 43, plate XXXVIII).

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