

DAYR AL-'ADHRA (Fayyum)

[ABU SALIH](#) THE ARMENIAN (fol. 73a; 1895, p. 209) placed in the neighborhood of Saylah, to the west of the Fayyum, a monastery bearing the name of [the Virgin](#) and equipped with a tower of refuge that had been restored. He is the only author who mentions a monastery in the region other than the DAYR AL-IKHWAH. Al-Nabulsi (1899) indicates only a single monastery to the south of the town of Siyalah.

N. Abbott (1937, p. 57, n. 150) hypothesized that this Dayr al-'Adhra' (Monastery of the Virgin) was "in all probability a [Theotokos](#) duplicate of the monastery of the Brothers at Siyalah [Dayr al-Ikhwah]," as was the case at SCETIS in the first half of the sixth century. In fact, besides the original monasteries of al-Baramus, JOHN COLOBUS, and Bishoi, three other monasteries were mentioned: "[the Virgin](#) of Baramus," "the Virgin of John Colobus," and "the Virgin of Bishoy."

EVELYN-WHITE (1932, pp. 232-35) thought that these duplicate monasteries were founded by Severian monks driven from their monasteries by Julianists, who dedicated their new monasteries to the [THEOTOKOS](#) to affirm the reality of the Incarnation. Evelyn- White's hypothesis seems to be derived from historical facts, but that of Abbott seems gratuitous, since the monastery at Siyalah dedicated to [the Virgin](#) was not called that of "the Virgin of the Brothers."

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d'après le [Kitab](#) Tarikh al-Fayyoun d'an-Naboulsi." *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale* 1 (1901):29-77.

RENÉ-GEORGES COQUIN

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