

**MISA'IL, SAINT**, ascetic.

The principal source for his life is the notice for 13 Kiyahk in the [SYNAXARION](#) of the Copts from Lower Egypt; the Synaxarion from [Upper Egypt](#) does not refer to him.

The name Misa'il is evidently a borrowing from the Bible, frequent in the [Byzantine](#) period, when the cult of the THREE HEBREWS IN THE FURNACE was very popular. Nothing is said of the childhood of this saint. We learn only that his birth was miraculous and that at the age of twelve he entered the monastery of al-Qalamun, very probably the one in the south of the Fayyum. We learn the rites customary for the reception of a candidate. His parents having died when he was still small, the [bishop](#) of the place (who is not named) took care of his education.

The superior of the monastery was called Anba Ishaq, but there is nothing to identify him with Isaac, author of the life of Samuel, the famous founder of the monastery of al-Qalamun. Misa'il protected the monastery in a time of famine, which he had predicted to the abbot, against the assaults of the surrounding peasants. Finally, thanks to his inheritance, which [Bishop](#) Athanasius (probably of al-Bahnasa) administered for him after the [death](#) of his parents, he caused a church to be built (perhaps at al-Qalamun), which Bishop Athanasius and others consecrated, and which was known by Misa'il's name.

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