

NOBA

In medieval Arabic texts the name Nubah usually designates all of the [Nubian](#)-speaking [inhabitants](#) of the Nile Valley (see NUBIANS). In classical texts, where the name appears as Noba or Nubae, it refers more specifically to a [Nubian](#)-speaking tribe or tribes who occupied the area west of the Nile in the general vicinity of the city of Meroë (see KUSH). By the fourth century these people had moved eastward across the river and had occupied much of the territory of Kush, possibly including Meroë itself. They established a kingdom of their own, 'ALWA, with its capital at SOBA, near the site of modern Khartoum.

'Alwa was converted to [Christianity](#) in the sixth century (see NUBIA, EVANGELIZATION OF), and thereafter remained in the Christian fold for almost a thousand years. In the Middle Ages the people of 'Alwa (Greek and Coptic, Alodia) were referred to as Alodaei, and the name Noba [ceased](#) to refer specifically to this [Nubian](#)-speaking tribe.

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