

RASHID (Rosetta)

A city in the Egyptian Delta situated west of Lake Burullus, some 26 miles (42 km) northwest of [Damanhur](#) near the Nile mouth known as Maṣabb Rashid. In Greek, the city was known as Bolbitine. Westerners know the place as Rosetta, a name famous for the stone found not far from the city that provided the key to the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In Christian-Arabic sources from the Arabic period, [Rashid](#) is first mentioned in connection with the heresy of the BARSANUPHIANS and Gaianites (see GAIANUS). The HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS relates that during the patriarchate of ALEXANDER II (705-730), Bishop John of [Sa](#) contended successfully with at least one of these groups in Rashid. It is not clear from the text, however, which of the two groups was active in the city.

Elsewhere in the *History* we read that in 749-750, during one of the BASHMURIC REVOLTS, the Coptic Bashmurites killed the Muslims in [Rashid](#) and set the city on fire.

[Rashid](#) appears in the medieval Coptic lists of Egyptian bishoprics, but it is not known when the city first became a bishopric. The first bishops of Rashid of whom we have record were in office in the eleventh century. Bishop Yustus of Rashid attended a [synod](#) in Cairo in 1086 (Munier, 1943, p. 28). Bishop Theodorus of [Rashid](#) is mentioned for this same period, but the record does not indicate whether he was the predecessor or the successor of Yustus.

Historical sources for the Crusades mention [Rashid](#) often, but they provide no information about the fate of the city's Christian inhabitants. However, the fact that a [manuscript](#) was dedicated to the Coptic Orthodox Church of Mark in [Rashid](#) sometime around 1799 bespeaks a continuity of Coptic Christians in the city until at least the beginning of the nineteenth century.

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