

# The Making of Coptic Egypt

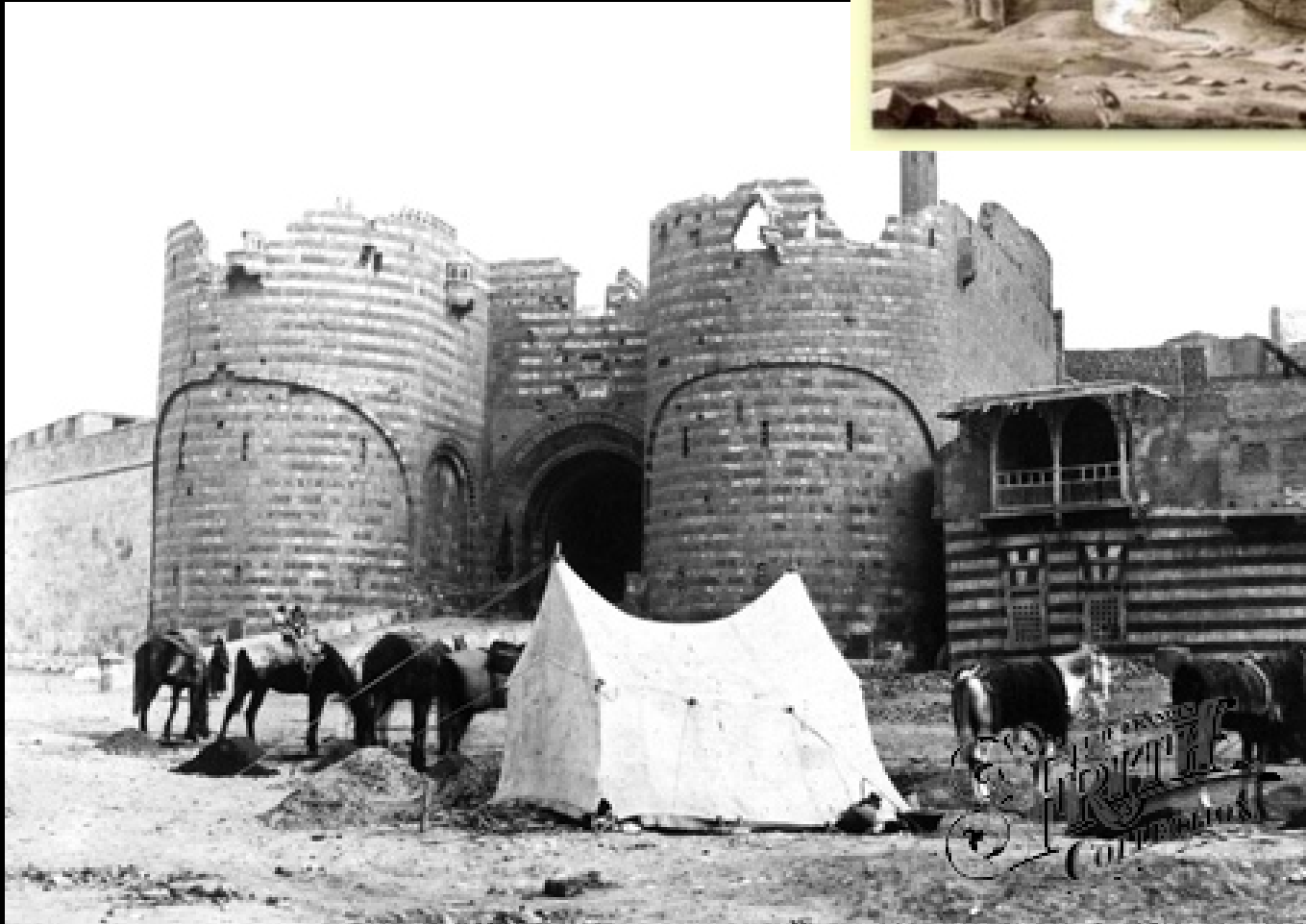


# Some guiding Themes:

- Defining the Coptic Period
- The unlikely success of Christianity in Egypt
- Estrangement from or engagement with politics?
- Can we call this a nationalist movement? Was an Egyptian church inevitable?



# Babylon: an unlikely starting point





# Roman Fortress at Luxor/Medinet Habu

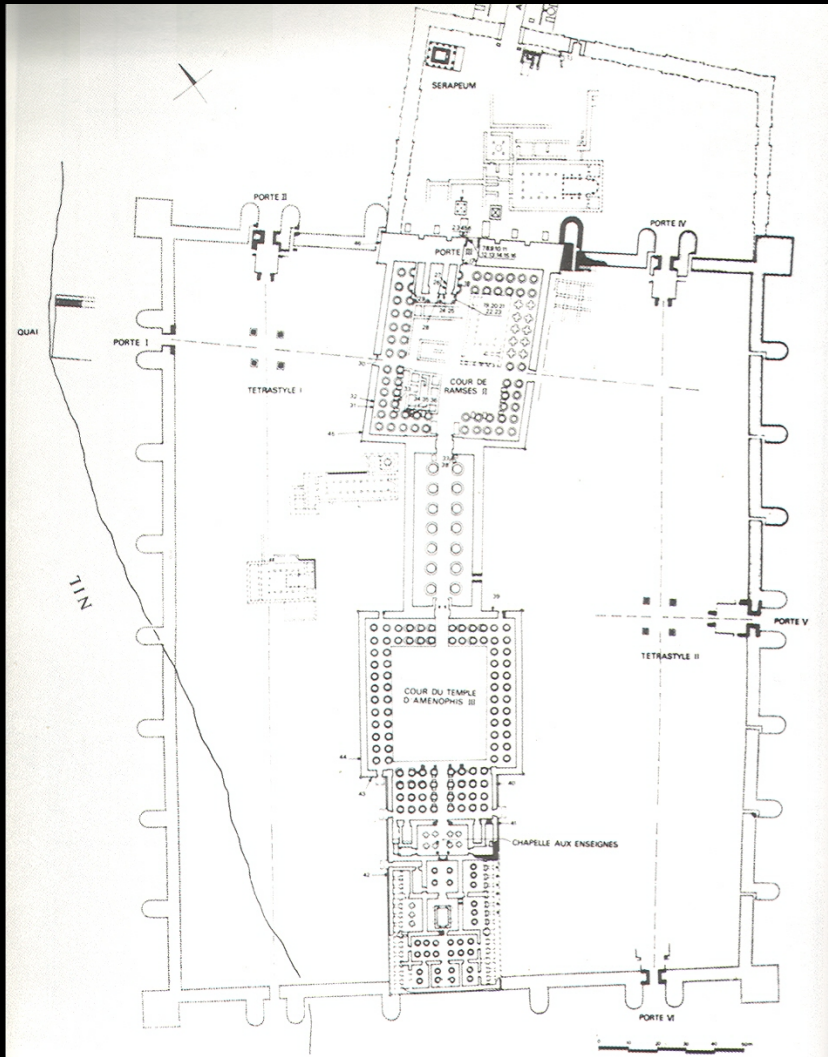


Plate 5

Thebes, plan of temple converted into army camp (Golvin et al.,  
*Le camp romain de Louqsor*, pl. I, courtesy of the  
 Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale)







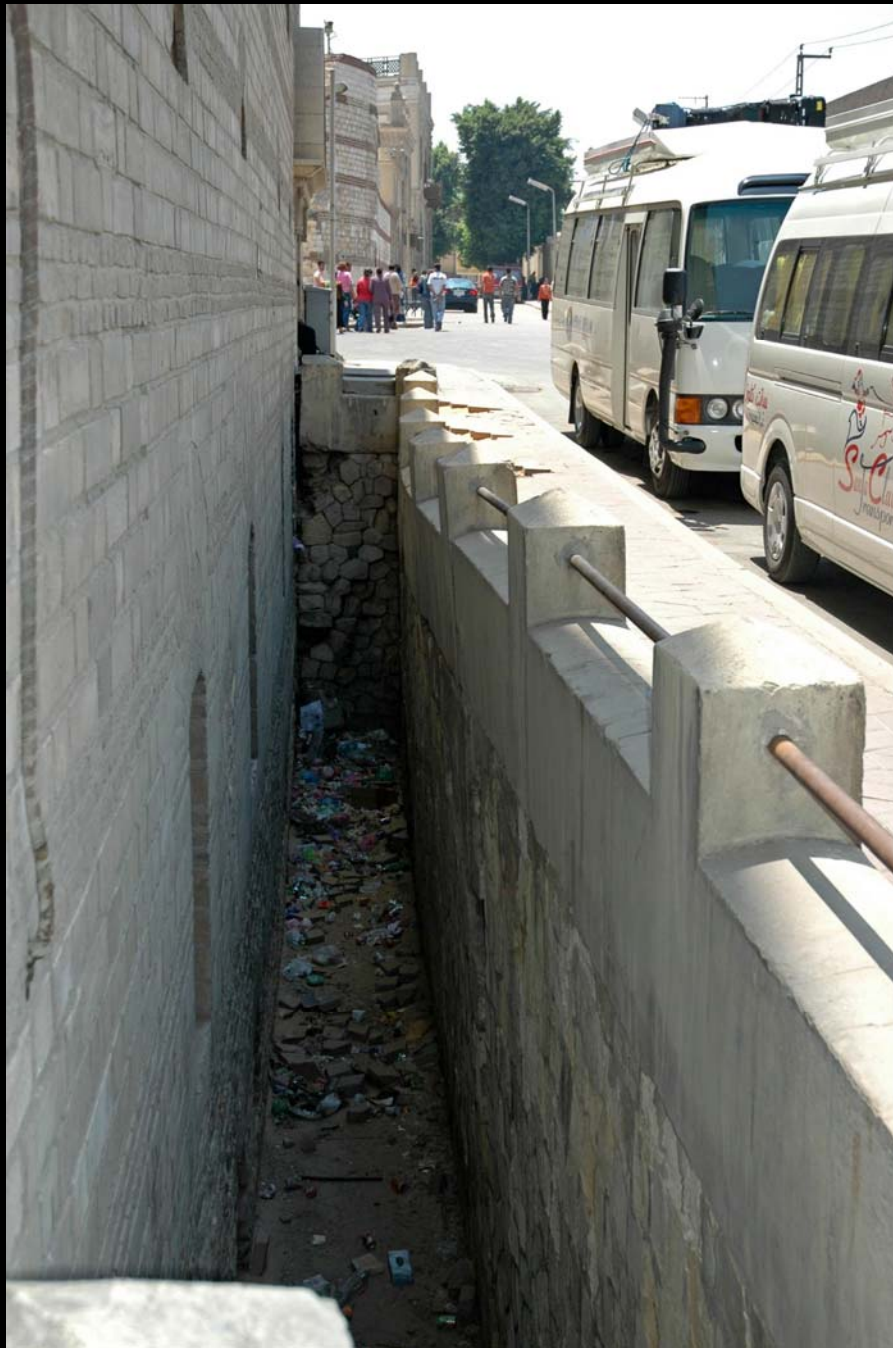
# Mounting Tensions; Mounting Threats – Diocletian's military response













Beware of the lions when tunneling



# Defining Coptic:

- Language and a writing system
- Landscape
- Ideology; Spirituality; Practice
- Material Culture

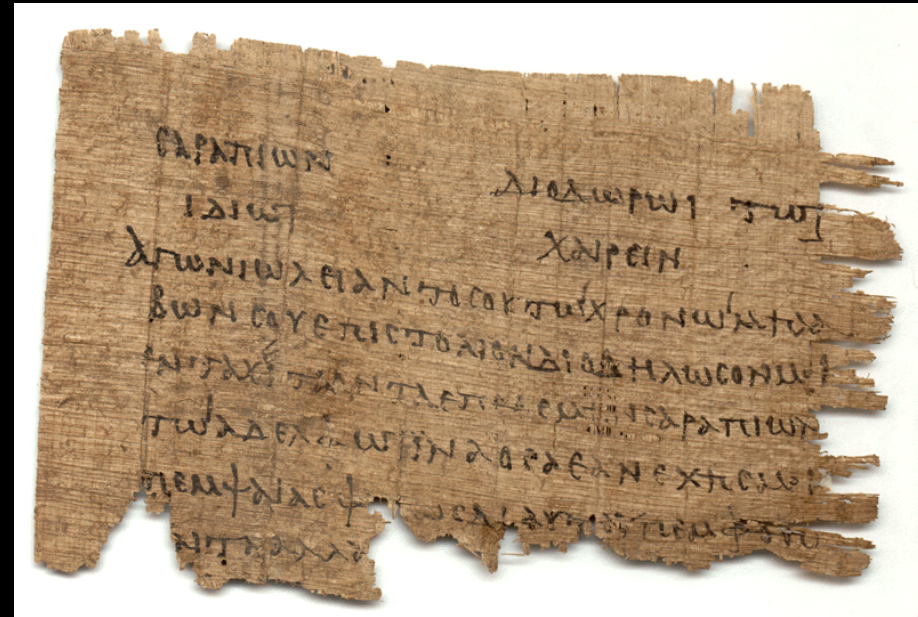


Α alpha a	Β veta v	Γ kamma k	Δ talta t	Ε ei e	Ζ sata s	Η hata ē	Θ thita th	Ι iōta i	Κ kappa k
Λ lauta l	Μ mē m	Ν ne n	Ξ ksi ks	Ο ou o	Π pi p	Ρ rō r	Σ sēmma s	Τ tau t	Υ he u
Φ phi ph	Χ khi kh	Ψ psi ps	Ω ō ō	Ϡ šai š	ϣ fai f	ϥ hori h	Ϧ dandia d	ϩ qima q	ϫ ti ti



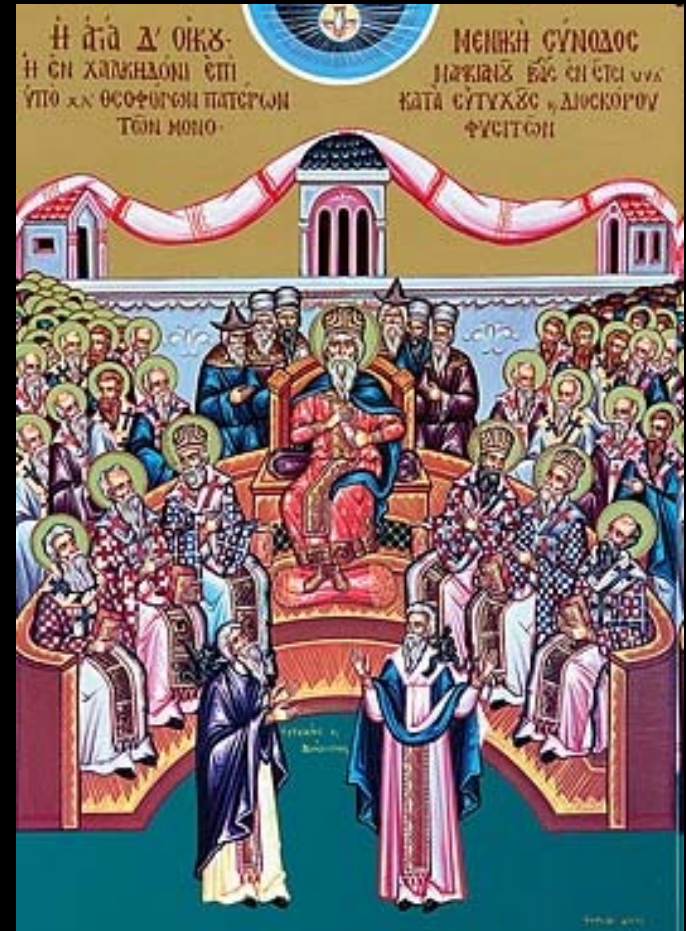
Who gets the attention:

or



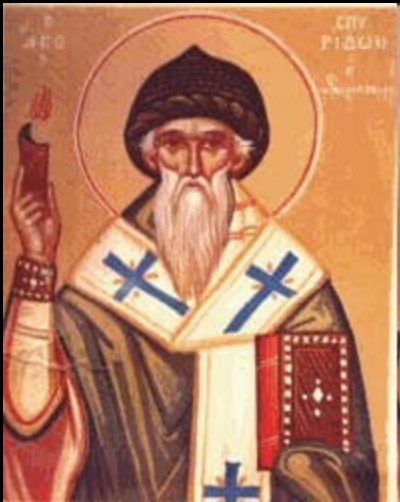
# The build up to Chalcedon 451 CE:

- Lingering persecution and a world of martyrs
- Tolerance and officialdom
- The organization of the episcopate in Egypt
- Athanasius and the Arians and the aftermath of Nicea 325 CE
- Ecumenical councils and Egypt's place in a pan-Mediterranean Christianity





# Christology and the possibility of redemption



or



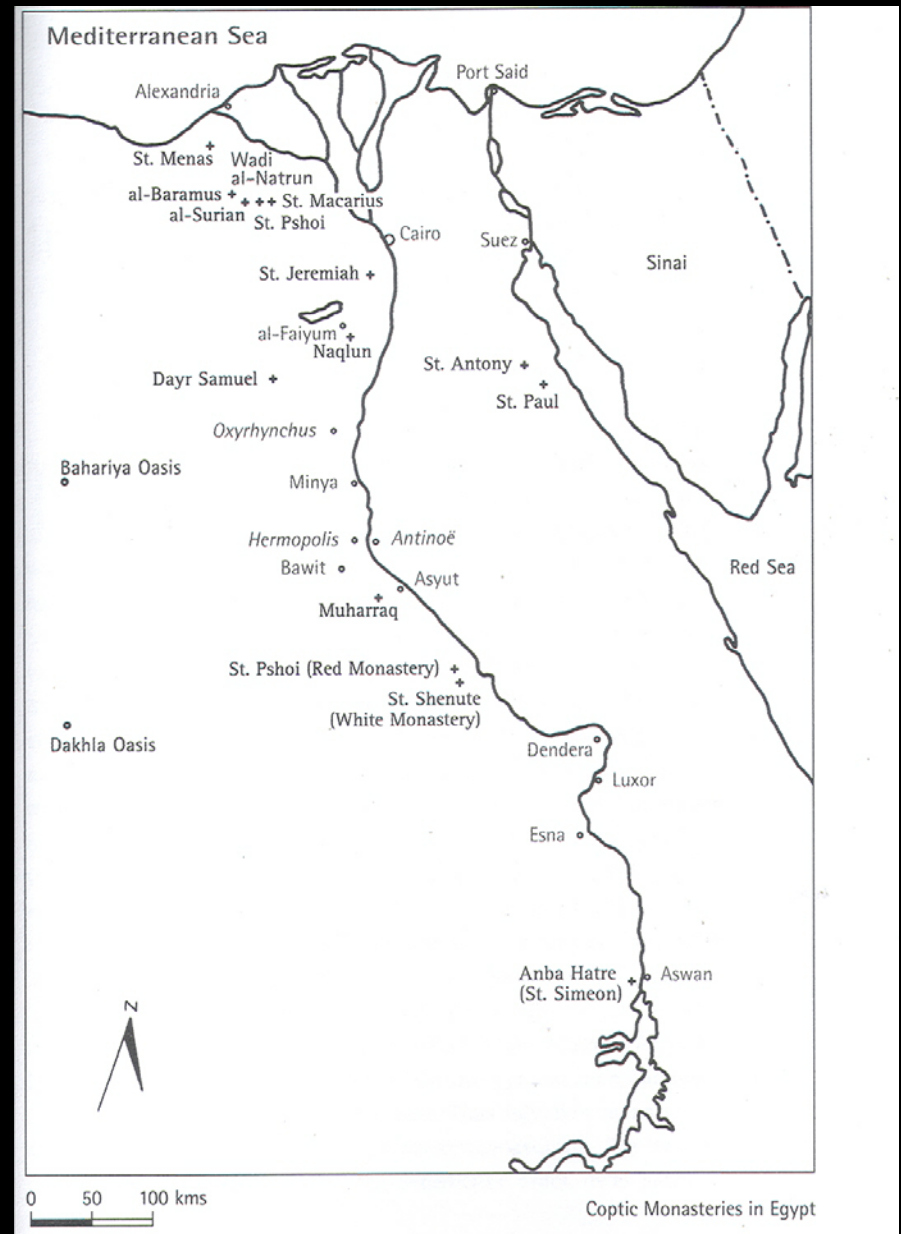
The making of a national hero

Monophysites; Diophysites; Nestorians;  
Miaphysicism; non-Chalcedonians; Oriental  
Orthodox Churches; Melikites; Gnostics; pain old  
heretics; and the nice, young, smart and pretty  
“pagans” like Hypatia that get murdered for  
being in the crossfire



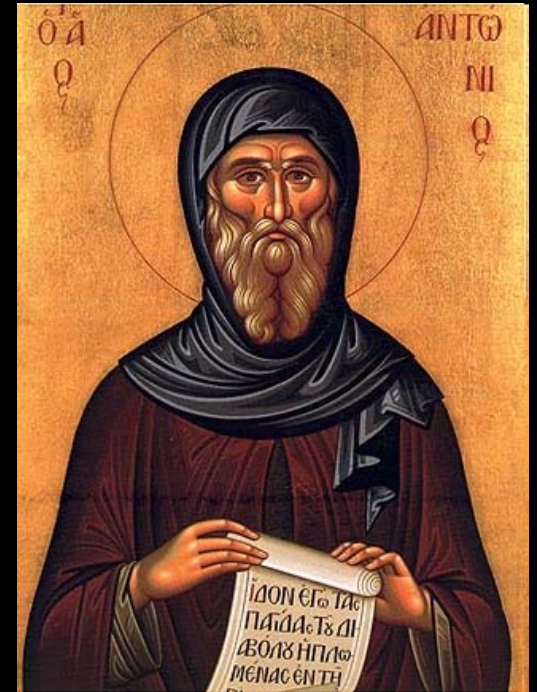
# Monasticism – Egypt's most famous Christian export:

- A radical anti-politics?
- A new kind of venue for intellectual production
- A venue for social services
- Is Egyptian monasticism a truly independent invention?
- What does it take to be an ascetic?



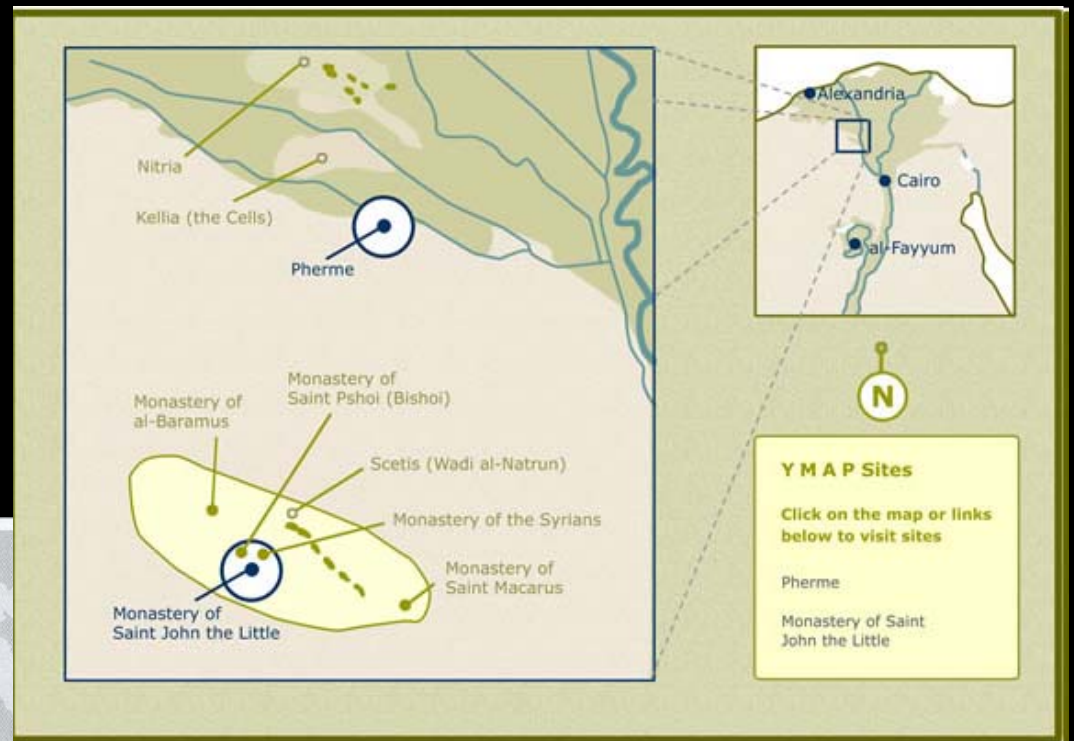
# Anchoritic monasticism and the tradition of St. Antony :

- The life of solitude (sort of)
- The desert fathers
- Removed, but by no means gone





# Wadi al-Natrun



The Monasteries of Wadi al-Natrun

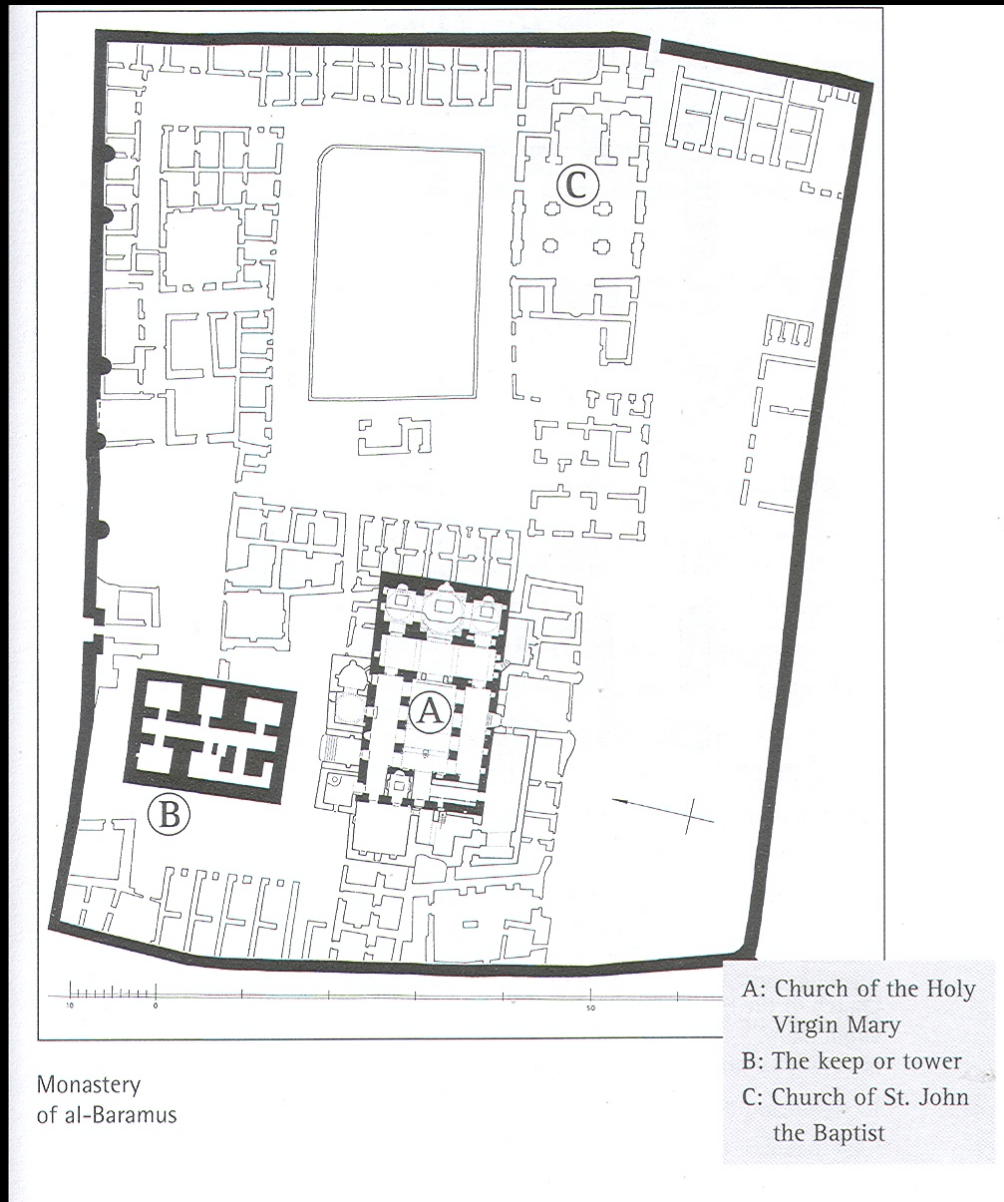


# Semi-Anchorites of Nitrea/Sketis

The sites of Kellia and Pherme



## Taking a defensive posture:





# Cenobitic Monasticism and the work of St. Pachomius:

- Communal life – with a new mode of hierarchy
- Innovation or just institutionalization?
- A real demographic phenomenon
- Nag Hammadi library?



The Nag Hammadi Codices





# St. Shenute and the White Monastery:

