



The Coptic Additions on the Ancient Egyptian Monuments in Qena Governorat From the 1st to the 7th Centuries

BY

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Abstract

The Imperial Edicts of the religious tolerance put an end to Paganism and pagan persecutions, hence the peoples converted into Christianity. Emperor Constantine himself embraced Christianity, Moreover Emperor Theodosius issued many edicts to ban and abandon pagan cult in temples. Egypt itself was a real witness of this conversion.

The Researcher selected the site of Qena governorate which is situated in Upper Egypt as a case study of this conversion. Many evidences refer to the conversion from paganism to Christianity through ancient Egyptian sites in Qena, including ancient temples and tombs. The early Christians (Copts) reused these sites as churches, monasteries, places of monastic life (**topos**), and towns.

This Master thesis contains an introduction & five chapters:

Introduction:

Discusses the advent of Christianity into Egypt by Saint Marc, the persecution against Christianity, The edicts and legislations against Paganism, and the efforts of Christian leaders to convert pagan people and temples into Christianity.

First Chapter: The Coptic Additions to Ancient Sites in Dendara, Medamud, and Tod.

This chapter contains three main parts:

- The first part investigates The Coptic Additions in the Temple of Dendara.
- The second part investigates The Coptic Additions in the Temple of Medamud.
- The third part investigates The Coptic Additions in the Temple of Tod.

Every part shows the history of the site, the name, the ancient monuments, the progress of Christianity in the site, and the Coptic additions to the site. Each part is ended by the names of the most famous saints of each site.

Second Chapter: The Coptic Additions to the Eastern Bank of Luxor.

This chapter speaks about the Christian reuse of both Luxor temple and the temple complex of Karnak. It shows as well the history and the names of each temple. It focuses mainly on the Coptic additions to each temple. It points out the sites of different churches and Coptic graffiti within temple precincts. It refers briefly to the see of Luxor.

Third Chapter: The Coptic Additions to the Western Bank of Luxor.

This chapter figures out the Christian reuse and existence in the funerary sites in the western bank of Luxor. It offers also the history, the names, and a brief description of every site. It presents the stories of the most famous saints of the site. It shows the importance of the documents extracted from the western bank of Luxor.

Fourth Chapter: The Coptic Additions to the Ancient Sites in Armant and Esna.

This chapter is divided into two main parts:

- The first part shows the Coptic additions to the ancient site at Armant.
- The second part speaks about the Coptic additions to the ancient site at Esna.

In each of the two parts, the research offers the history, the names, and the ancient sites ...etc. It concentrates mainly on the Coptic additions to these sites either in the shape of churches, monasteries, or Coptic towns. Each part is ended with the names of the most famous martyrs and saints of the whole area.

Fifth Chapter: Tourism study to the selected sites.

It's in two parts. The first one shows the recent case of every site and the problems that prevent the tourism development there.

The second part offers the suggestions and solutions toward tourism development in the selected sites.

Conclusion:

This part discusses the reasons that Christians reused the pagan sites in Egypt.

Results:

In which the research shows its results.

Appendices:

Contain maps, photos, figures and plans for the sites to help the reader to understand the research and its main idea.

The researcher hopes that this Thesis may obtain your satisfaction.