



# CHURCH STUDY

## ANBA ABRAAM

### THE BISHOP OF FAYOUM & GIZZA



#### Early Life

- Born in 1829 in Upper Egypt.
- His name was Boulos..
- From a young age, he loved prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.
- He was sent to Church School where he learned reading, writing, arithmetic, Holy Scriptures and church hymns.
- After his parents' departure, he distributed his inheritance to the needy and chose the life of consecration.
- He was ordained as deacon at age 15.

#### Monastic Life

Joined **Virgin Mary Monastery (El-Muharraq)**.

Ordained monk at age 19 under the name of **Father Boulos El-Muharraki**.

Distinguished by:

- Patience and self-control
- Love of almsgiving
- Humility and obedience

He served 4 years in a diocese transforming the bishop's house into a shelter for the poor.

He was ordained a priest in 1863 and returned to the monastery.



#### Leadership at El-Muharraq

Monks chose him as abbot (head of monastery).

He Opened the monastery doors to the poor.



## CHURCH STUDY (CONT.)

# ANBA ABRAAM THE BISHOP OF FAYOUM & GIZZA



### Spiritual Fatherhood

- Known for: Holiness - Love of prayer – Modesty - Care for everyone.
- Renewed old churches and built new ones.
- Continued a life of prayer and charity. Shared even his clothes with poor local Arabs.

### Miraculous Healing

In 1893, doctors planned to amputate his leg. He said: *“God will not let it happen.”* He fully recovered after two months. People celebrated his healing with palm and olive branches.

### Ordained Bishop of Fayoum

After the departure of Anba Isaac, he was ordained Bishop of Fayoum and Giza in 1881 by Pope Cyril V, the 112<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria. Given name: **Anba Abraam**. Diocese of Fayoum flourished spiritually and became a refuge for poor and rich alike.



### His Departure

Departed on 3 Baouna 1630 (Coptic Calendar), June 10, 1914.



The Holy Council of Bishops added his name among the Saints in the Divine Liturgy (*Commemoration of the Saints*).

He is known as

**“The Friend of the Poor.”**

## CHURCH STUDY (CONT.)

# MOALEM IBRAHIM EL GOHARY



### Overview

- He was born in the 18th century.
- He was called “*The Sultan of the Copts*” sometimes referred to as “*The Pride of the Copts.*”
- He served as chief scribe of all Egypt during the Ottoman period, a position equal to prime minister.
- He was known for his wisdom, generosity, and defense of the Coptic Church.

### Early Life

He came from a devout Coptic family.

He was well-educated and skilled in administration, accounting, and languages.

He used to transcribe the religion books and distribute them to the church at his own expense.

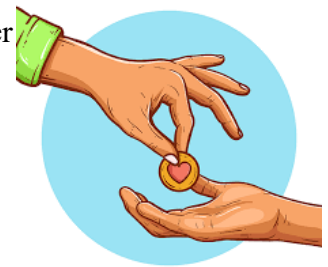
Worked alongside his brother Girgis, who also held an important government position.

### Service in Government

He rose to become the chief scribe and high-ranking official under Ottoman governors of Egypt.

Earned respect for:

- Integrity
- Intelligence
- Diplomatic wisdom



### Spiritual Life

Though a powerful government official, he lived humbly.

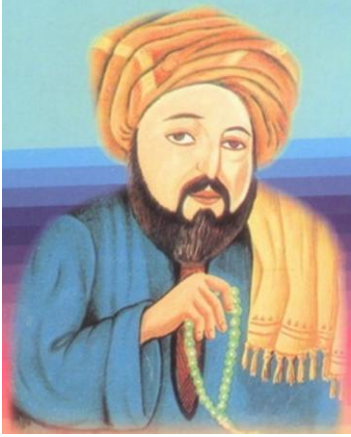
Known for his:

- Deep faith
- Generosity to the poor
- Support for the widows, the orphans and the needy.

He dedicated much of his wealth to church and charitable causes.

## CHURCH STUDY (CONT.)

# MOALEM IBRAHIM EL GOHARY



### Service to the Church

- He protected Copts from persecution and unfair taxation.
- He restored and rebuilt churches that had been destroyed or neglected.
- He helped in building new churches.
- He supported monasteries and clergy financially.
- He also prepared the materials for the Myroun oil from his own money and carried them to the Pope.

His brother Girgis was known to be gentle and humble. At one point, a man began harassing and bothering him repeatedly. Instead of reacting harshly, Girgis endured patiently, but the situation became difficult.

When Ibrahim learned about this, he did not respond with anger or punishment, even though he had the power to do so. Instead, he did something surprising.

He called for the man and treated him kindly and even gave him money and gifts.

This unexpected kindness deeply affected the man. He felt ashamed of how he had treated Girgis. His heart softened and stopped bothering him completely.

Instead of fighting evil with power, Ibrahim followed a higher way:

- He chose mercy over revenge.
- He overcame harm with goodness.
- He protected his brother with wisdom, not force.



### Departure

- His name is commemorated in the *Coptic Synaxarium* (25 Bashans).
- Remembered as a model of how a Christian can serve both Church and society faithfully.

