



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# What does archaeology add to our knowledge of East Syrian semi-cenobitic monasticism? (7th-9th C. AD)

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## Abstract

The end of the Sasanian period and the beginning of the Islamic period were marked by the construction and monumentalisation of a large number of monasteries from northern Mesopotamia to the Persian Gulf, territories ruled by non-Christian dynasties. Syriac and Arabic literary sources bear witness to the success of the monasticism initiated in this region by Abraham of Kashkar. This monk initiated a distinctive type of monasticism that could be classified as semi-cenobitic. Now that excavations of several settlements are available for regions to the east of the ancient Roman-Persian border, can these archaeological testimonies be associated with the Kashkarian reform? What building and structural elements can be attributed to this composite monasticism, between Egyptian anachoretism and cenobitism? The two authors of this paper seek to combine archaeological and literary sources as part of a wider research programme on East Syrian monasticism

## Keywords

monasticism, Syriac, pilgrimage, asceticism, sasanian

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