

The Coptic Language

Fr. Jacob Nadian

Appendix A1 Coptic Words Used in Arabic Dialect

Fottah (means towel فوطة): It comes from the Coptic word “ϣοτε”.

Trabeza (means table طرابيزة): It comes from the Coptic word “τραπεζα”.

Ootah (means Tomatoes طماطم): It comes from the Coptic word “οϣταϩ”.

Shewaya (means little شوية): It comes from the Coptic word “ϣοϣε”.

Kahira (means Cairo القاهرة): It comes from the Coptic word “Καϩιρη”.

Romman (means pomegranate رمان): It comes from the Coptic word “ερωαν”.

Gamall (means camel جمل): It comes from the Coptic word “ϩαυοϣλ”.

Saif (means sword سيف): It comes from the Coptic word “ϩηϣι”.

Bondok (means walnut بندق): It comes from the Coptic word “παντοκι”.

Laklaka (means messing up and mixing things up لكلكة أي سلاطة): It comes from the Coptic word “λδκλδκ” which means salad.

Tahlil (means joy فرح): It comes from the Coptic word “θεληλ” which also means joy.

Temsah (means alligator تمساح): It comes from the Coptic word “υσαϩ”.

Gense (means gender جنس): It comes from the Coptic word “ϮΕΝΟϢ”.

Khorus (means choir خورس): It comes from the Coptic word “ϫοροϢ”.

Meshee (means walk مشي): It comes from the Coptic word “ⲙⲟⲩⲩⲏ”.

Falafel (an Egyptian food made of beans. It looks like a vegetarian burger فلافل): It comes from the Coptic word “ϢⲁⲗⲁϢⲉⲗ” which consists of:

“Ϣⲁ” (Fa) → “the one that has”

“ⲗⲁ” (La) → “a lot of”

“Ϣⲉⲗ” (Fel) → “beans”

Bikh (a word used by children to scare one another بيخ – كلمة يستخدمها الأطفال ليخضوا بعضهم بعض): It comes from the Coptic word “ⲡⲓ ⲓϫ” which consists of:

“ⲡⲓ” (pi) → “the, for single masculine”

“ⲓϫ” (ikh) → “devil or demon”

Yoshtof (means clean or rinse يشطف): It comes from the Coptic word “Ϩⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ” which consists of:

“Ϩ” (esh) → “a letter added to emphasize a word”

“ⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ” (toovo) → “clean or purify”

Kani we Mani (a well known Egyptian expression كاني وماني): It comes from the Coptic word “ⲕⲈⲒⲒ ⲒⲘⲒⲒ” which consists of:

“ⲕⲈⲒⲒ” (keni) → “butter or fat”

“ⲒⲘⲒⲒ” (neeni) → “honey”

Dasht (means scrap or unusable paper *قطعة من ورقة*): It comes from the Coptic word “**ϵΤϠΗΤ**” which consists of:

“**ϵΤ**” (et) → “which is”

“**ϠΗΤ**” (sheet) → “cut or ripped”

Mumm (a word said to babies to encourage them to eat *لتشجيع الطفل على الأكل* – مم): It comes from the Coptic word “**ⲙⲁ ⲙⲟ**” which consists of:

“**ⲙⲁ**” (ma) → “to give”

“**ⲙⲟ**” (om) → “an abbreviation of the verb “**ⲟⲩⲙⲟ**” which means “to eat”

Emboo (a word said to babies to encourage them to drink *لتشجيع الطفل على الشرب* – امبو): It comes from the Coptic word “**ⲉⲙⲡⲓⲙⲟⲟⲩ**” which consists of:

“**ⲉⲙ**” (em) → “of”

“**ⲡⲓ**” (pi) → “the” and “**ⲙⲟⲟⲩ**” (mo-oo) → “water”

Azbakiyya (name of a suburb in Egypt *ازبكية*): It comes from the Coptic word “**ⲁⲥⲖⲁⲕⲓ**” which consists of:

“**ⲁⲥ**” (as) → “old”

“**Ⲗⲁⲕⲓ**” (vaki) → “city or town”

Fayyoum (name of a city in Egypt *الفيوم*): It comes from the Coptic word “**Ϡⲓⲟⲙ**” which consists of:

“**Ϡ**” (ef) → “the”

“**ⲓⲟⲙ**” (yom) → “sea”

Damanhour (name of a city in Egypt **دمنهور**): It comes from the Coptic word “**ⲧⲏ ⲛⲉⲫⲟⲣ**” which consists of:

“**ⲧⲏ**” (teemi) → “city or town”

“**ⲛ**” (en) → “of”

“**ⲫⲟⲣ**” (hor) → “Horus, an ancient Egyptian god in the form of a falcon”

Damatyou (name of a city in Egypt, which means the Fifth City **دمياط**): It comes from the Coptic word “**ⲧⲏ ⲧⲓⲟⲩ**” which consists of:

“**ⲧⲏ**” (teemi) → “city or town”

“**ⲧⲓⲟⲩ**” (etyou) → “five”