



# The Coptic Calendar

τρομπι νρεμνχμμ

## Thirteenth Little Month "Nassie"

πικονχι νάβοτ

**Written by Father Kyrillos Makar**  
**St. Mary and St. Mina, Clearwater, FL**

The regular Arabic and Jewish year (based on 12 lunar months) is about 354 days.

In order to have the new year come at approximately the same time relative to the Solar year (like the Egyptian and Western Calendars), The Jews added an extra month to their year every 2 or 3 years. As a matter of fact, in every 19 years, they have 7 years of 13 months each and 12 years of 12 months each. Jews have a specific order for the 13 month-long years during each cycle of 19 years. This way their New Year comes always in September.

The Arabs before Islam used to apply a similar system to that of the Jews, but it was left to the tribe of "قریش" "Quoreish" to determine which year is the 13 month year. When they add this extra month, which they called "النسيء" "Nassie", they used to insert it between the second and third month of the Arabic year. It should be noted that the first four months of the Arabic year are called the "sacred months" "الآشهر الحرم" where the tribes cannot fight each other, but in the year when Mecca would insert the month of "Nassie", the tribes can fight each other during this Nassie month. They called it Nassie, an Arabic word derived from the verb "Yansa" "ينسى" which means to forget, because this month is forgotten about 2 years each time, and then inserted again in the Calendar.

Mohammed was originally from the tribe of Quoreish (Mecca). He had a disagreement with them and he fled to Medina, which was a rival to Mecca. He became the leader there. He did not like that Mecca is the one who determines whether this month is inserted and hence determines whether fighting during a particular time is allowed that year, therefore he announced that Allah sent him verses forbidding insertion of this month.

Verse 37 of Chapter 9 "Chapter of immunity" "سورة التوبة" in the Koran states that "The Nassie is excessive infidelity", a word derived from "infidel" "إنما النسيء زيادة في الكفر" Since that time, Moslems do not add this month because infidels only can use this month.

There is no reason for us to call our thirteenth month "Nassie". Our little month comes every year, it is never forgotten. In addition throughout Egyptian history since Pharaonic times, this month has always been called the little month "πικονχι νάβοτ" and was never called the forgotten month.

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