

St. Abe-Fam the Soldier

(St. Phoebammon)

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St. Abe-Fam was born in Oseem (Awsim) to a wealthy father whose name was Anastasius, and a righteous mother whose name was Susanna. They brought him up in the Christian faith and he grew up in the fear of the Lord, merciful to the poor, and persistent in prayer and fasting. His parents wanted him to get married, but he declined. He distributed his money among works of righteousness.

When Emperor Diocletian reigned and knew that Abe-Fam did not raise incense to idols, he sent instructions to the Governor Arianus -governor of Ansena (Mallawy)- to torture St. Abe-Fam if he did not offer incense to the idols. The governor did as directed and went to Oseem and when he saw the saint he said, "Peace be with you". The saint re-

plied, "Why do you speak the word of peace? Did not you know that peace is only for the righteous? And **"There is no peace for the wicked, says the Lord."** (Isaiah 48:22). The Governor became very angry and took the saint to Qaw where he tortured and then proceeded to have him beheaded.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to St. Abe-Fam and strengthened him. Saint Abe-Fam lifted his eyes up toward Heaven and was mercilessly beheaded. The believers then took his martyred body and buried him with revered veneration in a hill of sand west of Tema (Souhag).

This Saint completed his earthly strife on the 27th day of Tubah, in the fourth century. A church was built and given his honored name in Tema and another in Oseem (Geeza).

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