

## Saint Shallita - - مار شليطا



St. Shallita's Feast Day is celebrated on October 20.

Shallita, also known as Artemius, was born in the fourth century and died in Antioch in the year 363.

He was a Christian general of the Roman Empire, and was ordered by Emperor Constantine II to go in the lands beyond the Danube and to bring back to Constantinople the relics of the Apostles Andrew and Timothy, and the Evangelist Luke. Shallita accomplished his task, and in the year 360 was rewarded with a promotion as the Roman Administrator of Egypt.

One year later, Constantine II was succeeded by his cousin Julian, who was a pagan. The people of Alexandria, in Shallita's Province, accused Shallita of several atrocities stemming from his persecution of pagans in Alexandria, and his use of troops in the seizure and desecration of the Temple of Serapis.

Emperor Julian had Shallita removed for misadministration of his Province and sent him to Antioch. Julian then condemned Shallita to death, and he was beheaded in 363 in the city of Antioch.

He is recognized as a saint for his martyrdom. He was greatly venerated at the site of the Church of Saint John the Forerunner in Constantinople.

In Lebanon, all farmers who own livestock have great devotion to Saint Shallita.