

## John XII Peter El Hajj -- يوحنا الثاني عشر بطرس الحاج



**John XII Peter El Hajj** (1817–1898), (Arabic: يوحنا الثاني عشر الحاج), was the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch from 1890 until his death in 1898.

John Peter El Hajj was born in the village of Dlebta, in the Keserwan District, Lebanon on November 1, 1817, son of the priest of the village. He studied in the seminary of 'Ain-Warka and was ordained priest on December 26, 1839.

After having studied Islamic law, on May 10, 1844 he was appointed judge in Mount Lebanon, a position he held till 1855 when he became secretary of Archbishop Paolo Brunoni, a Chypriot who was the Apostolic Legate of Syria. During the 1860 Lebanon conflict he took refuge in Beirut.

He was appointed Maronite bishop of Baalbek and consecrated bishop on August 15, 1861. In 1876 he followed Patriarch Paul Peter Massad in his travels to Rome, Paris and Istanbul. After Massad's death, John Peter El Hajj was unanimously elected patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites on April 28, 1890.

During his patriarchate, in 1893 he build a new palace around the earlier monastery in the winter residence of the Patriarch at Bkerké. He also supported without any hesitation the work of Latin missionaries. He died on December 24, 1898.