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Sinan (1490-1580), known as Maymar Sinan (Architect Sinan) was born in Caesaria (Gesaria). His name was Armen Sinanian. After graduating from military school, he became a senior officer in the Yenicheri army (kidnapped or adopted children of non-Muslims). After participating in the Balkan and Iraq wars, he was appointed chief architect of the Ottoman army. He built 360 structures—131 mosques, 55 schools, 19 mausoleums, 7 libraries, three hospital, 14 imarat, 8 bridges, 5 aqueducts, 17 khans, 31 palaces, 35 bathhouses, warehouses and city walls, including that of Jerusalem. In 1563 when Sultan Selim II ordered the deportation of Caesaria Armenians to Cyprus, Sinan asked the sultan to rescind his order. The sultan ignored Sinan's pleading but allowed Sinan's relatives to remain in Caesaria.

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