

# FIRST PATRIARCH

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The first Armenian patriarch of Jerusalem was Abraham (638-669). He was installed by Caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab after his conquest of Jerusalem in 638. Abraham also became the leader of the Eastern Orthodox churches (Jacobites, Copts, Assyrians and Abyssinians) in the Holy Land, prevalent to this day. Bishop Abraham had travelled in 629 to Mecca to seek protection from Emir Ali against deadly raids by wandering Bedouins thus he was fairly well known to the Mecca establishment.

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