

But when the Arabs came to Hebron, they marveled at the strong and beautiful construction of its walls and that there was no opening by which they could enter it. Meanwhile, some Jews, who had remained under the Greeks in that region, came over to them and said: "Grant us security so that we would have a similar status among you, and may we be conceded the right to build a synagogue in front of the entrance to the cave of Machpelah. If you will do this, we will show you where you should make a gateway."

And thus it was done.

13.3.17 *Christian collusion*

Civil strife among the Romans of Egypt led Cyrus, the Patriarch of Alexandria (the capital of Egypt) to admit the Muslim armies to Alexandria.

John, Bishop of Nikiu, *The Chronicle*, 120.17–28

[*The Chronicle of John, Bishop of Nikiu*, trans. R.H. Charles (London: William and Norgate, 1916), pp. 193–4]

120.17. And subsequently the patriarch Cyrus set out and went to Babylon to the Muslim, seeking by the offer of tribute to procure peace from them and put a stop to the war in the land of Egypt. And 'Amr welcomed his arrival, and said unto him: "Thou hast done well to come to us." And Cyrus answered and said unto him: "God has delivered this land into your hands: let there be no enmity from henceforth between you and Rome: heretofore there has been persistent strife with you." 18. And they fixed the amount of the tribute to be paid. And as for the Ishmaelites, they were not to intervene in any matter, but were to keep to themselves for eleven months. The Roman troops in Alexandria were to carry off their possessions and their treasures and proceed (home) by sea, and no other Roman army was to return. But those who wished to journey by land were to pay a monthly tribute. 19. And the Muslim were to take as hostages one hundred and fifty soldiers and fifty civilians and make peace. 20. And the Romans were to cease warring against the Muslim, and the Muslim were to desist from seizing Christian Churches, and the latter were not to intermeddle with any concerns of the Christians. 21. And the Jews were to be permitted to remain in the city of Alexandria.

22. And when the patriarch had concluded this negotiation, he returned to the city of Alexandria, and he reported to Theodore and the general Constantine (the conditions of peace), to the intent that they should report them to the emperor Heraclius and support them before him. 23. And straightway all the troops and the people of Alexandria and the general Theodore came together to him and paid their homage to the patriarch Cyrus. And he acquainted them with all the conditions which he had made with the Muslim, and he persuaded them all to accept