

## Simon VII Awad -- سمعان السابع عواد



**Simon VII Awad** (Arabic: سمعان السابع عواد), 1683–1756, was the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch from 1743 to his death in 1756.

Born in Hasroun in 1683. At the age of 13, Patriarch Douaihy sent him to the Maronite College in Rome, where only outstanding young Maronites were sent, to study Philosophy, Liturgy and European Arts. He returned to Mount Lebanon in 1707, where at that time, his uncle Jacob became the Maronite Patriarch. He was ordained a priest on June 10, 1708. For 8 years he was his uncle's secretary. On January 27, 1716 he was ordained Bishop of Damascus by his uncle and was assigned the servicing of the Tyre and Sidon parishes.

When Patriarch Joseph Dergham Khazen died on May 13, 1742, Simon Awad was elected the new Patriarch.

The persecutions that were carried out in Northern Lebanon by the Ottomans and the Hamadeh family pushed Patriarch Simon to leave the Patriarchal convent in Kannoubine and settle in the convent of Our Lady of Machmoucheh, the one he built when he was a bishop of the region.

The importance of Patriarch Simon Awad, in addition to his religious position, lies in his books which are still hand-written. Among them are: "Patriarchs of the Orient", "Proofs of Christian faith", "Explanations of the 4 Gospels", "Life of Patriarch Stephan Douaihy" and others.

When Bishop Simon Awad was elected Patriarch in 1742, he decided to leave Northern Lebanon and settle between the Machmoucheh convent and the village of El-Midane, which he had bought previously. His mother, brother and nephew were the first inhabitants of El-Midane.

Patriarch Simon Awad died on February 12, 1756 in El-Midane and was buried in the Machmoucheh convent where many of his relatives were also buried next to him. The importance of Patriarch Simon was in his arrival in the area where many Christians moved in because of his presence and because of his encouragement to other Christian families to move into the Jezzine region, which resulted in the demographic change of that region, as known today.