

# History of Arab Peoples Hawami

# Byzantine Empire

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Byzantine Empire was originally the Roman Empire S. Italy, Sicily, with African coast, Egypt, Syria & Anatolia & Mesopotamia - all under rule of Constantinople. Became known by its former name for Constantinople which was Byzantium. Emperor ruled from Mesopotamia speaking and civil monuments a great cities of Antioch & Alexandria were centres of Greek culture. Byzantium was more Greek than Roman because of these things.

The Byzantine Empire became Xth although pagan worship continued until 6th cent, in temples that had been turned into churches. The big question for

the societies of this Empire was the meaning of life & how it should be lived with coming of Islam Arabic religion & lang. dominated but conversion not always complete.

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Poetry began as a cultural identity among pastoral tribespeople & was initially formed out of the dialects of Arabic. It developed out of the elevated rhythms & rhymes used for incantations & spells. Later poetry was set to music. (Beginning of the liturgy & style which was ornate & highly embellished.)

~~Although~~ Arabic was dominant language liturgies of some of the eastern churches still retained the Syriac & Coptic. Jews retained Hebrew & Aramaic, etc. While Zoroastrians kept their Persian scriptures. Liturgy was developed from the elevated rhythms & rhymes used for incantations & spells associated with Persian worship & the poetry of the pastoral tribespeople which was initially

contained within Arabian dialects.