




REMEMBERING FOR ETERNITY:  
THE ASCETIC LANDSCAPE AS CULTURAL  
DISCOURSE IN EARLY CHRISTIAN EGYPT



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*The landscape of Egyptian monasticism that emerges in the works of Christian authors reflects a cultural discourse constructed through a complex interplay of historical development and literary portrayal. Shaped by the needs of the present, the memory and portrayal of the past fashions an artificial world that serves to naturalize its creators' own particular cultural and social construction of reality. This paper argues that the development of the ascetic landscape in Egypt corresponds with and promotes the construction of the great tradition of the church, naturalizing its emerging ideology in and through the memory of the past.*

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