

Lesson 5 =e The Rule of the GINKIM { ^ }

In addition to the Coptic letters, the Coptic Language also make use of a dot-like phonatic symbol. The GINKIM was not part of the original language, but was added to help readers pronounce the words. There are various forms for the GINKIM ( ^ ~ = ) and though some argue that the shape affects the opening of the mouth, it's generally accepted that they're all pronounced alike.

The Rule:

I. When it comes over a vowel letter, it splits the word, because the letter must be pronounced by itself.

A. First, we need to know the Coptic vowel letters:

The way I learned them is to first write the English vowel letters and then match their Coptic counterparts:  
(English) A E I O U  
(Coptic) a e 3 i o v w  
Note: Y is considered a vowel because when it follows an O, it is pronounced an O; some authers consider OY rather than just Y as a vowel

B. Examples:

A`aron is pron. A\_a\_roon means Aaron  
Mari`a Mari\_a Mary  
`Ebol E\_VOL Of  
Pek`3pocPEK\_EE\_POC Your Garden

II. When GINKIM comes over a consonant letter, an e sound proceeds the letter.

A. For Example:

`k = ek `m = em `n = en `d = ed

B. Real Examples:

`K`cmarwovtis pron. EK-ES-MARO-OOT means You are Blessed  
`Nnovb EN-NOUB The Gold  
`MMariam EM-MARIAM Of Mary

III. Try reading these words:

Word	Meaning
A4`i	(He) Came
)e`otkoc	Mother of God
`Eron	(unto) us
All3loviall	Alleluia
Pi`ehoov	The day
Ei`e`i	I must come
`Ajioc	Holy (Greek)
`Xovab	Holy (Coptic)
%`triac	The Trinity
`Nte	Of
`Precbvteroc	Presbyters (priests)
`Fran	The Name
@ep`hmot	Thank (you)
`Apctoloc	Apostle
`Al30wc	Truely
Pi`wov	The Glory
`Am3n	Amen