Pompey's Pillar

The Pompey's Pillar was erected on top of Bab Sidra Hill, between the current Muslim cemetery area known as "Al-Amud" and the archaeological plateau of Kom el-Shuqafa. Pompey's Pillar has been mistakenly known since the Crusades as "Pompey's Pillar." This mistake stems from the Europeans' misconception that the head of Pompey (the Roman general who fled to Egypt to escape Julius Caesar and was killed by the Egyptians) was placed in a precious funerary urn and placed atop the column's capital. The column was also known as the "Theodosian Pillar" (during the Byzantine era).

The name Pompey's Pillar dates back to the Arab era, where it is believed to have come from the towering height of this column among 400 other columns, which resemble masts (ships' masts). Therefore, the Arabs called it "the Pillar of the Masts" - later "the Pillar of Pompey."

The Pompey's Pillar is located in a central location in the hall of the Serapeum Temple (the temple called the Palace of Alexandria during the Arab era). The column is prominently located among the ruins on that high hill, allowing it to be seen from afar.

The Pompey's Pillar is made of red granite. The body of the column is a single piece, 100 cm long. 20.75 meters, its diameter at the base is 2.70 meters and at the crown 2.30 meters. The total height of the column, including the base, is about 26.85 meters.