

I, 37 *Testimony by Abu 'l-Riḍā Joseph b. Abu 'l-Barakāt Lebdi*

Fustat, spring 1156

RNL Yevr.-Arab. I (Firkovitch II) 1700, f. 6

In spring 1156, 'Abu 'l-Riḍā, the perfumer, known as Ibn al-Lebdi,' together with three other persons, made a deposition in court with regard to a brawl which he had witnessed. Since a man living in Fustat about eighty years later was named Abu 'l-Riḍā Joseph b. Abu 'l-Barakāt Ibn al-Lebdi (I, 41), it is rather safe to assume that that one was a grandson of our Abu 'l-Riḍā. As Sitt al-Khāṣṣa had been willed by her father one half of his house, she and Joseph Abu 'l-Riḍā were probably the only surviving children of Abu 'l-Barakāt.<sup>1</sup>

{This perfumer Joseph Abu 'l-Riḍā is likely intended in the address of an interesting letter sent from Alexandria by a mother to her son, Abu 'l-'Izz b. Bishr, staying in Fustat at the 'store of Sheikh Abu 'l-Riḍā Ibn al-Lebdi.' Regards are sent to 'Sheikh Abu 'l-Riḍā the son of your paternal uncle and his son,' but it is not clear whether or not this was the same Abu 'l-Riḍā Ibn al-Lebdi.}<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This one half of the house was *willed* to her by her father {see I, 36, fol. 47v, lines 16-17}, not inherited by her from him. According to Jewish law she would not have inherited anything. Muslim law would have given her one third, and to Joseph two thirds. But Jewish law provided for freedom in dispositions in face of death and, as the Geniza shows, many made use of this opportunity. {Cf. Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 5:141-42; Rivlin, *Inheritance*.}

<sup>2</sup> CAJS 400. On this letter, see Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 6:141 (Index for Dropsic 400).

I, 38 *A Contribution to the Poor by Ibn al-Lebdi*

Fustat, July 1178

TS K 15, f. 6

The entries cited are from sec. b, col. 2, line 15, and sec. d, col. 2, line 4.

In a collection of 'wheat' for the poor in connection with a fast day in July 1178, one Ibn al-Lebdi, like some others, contributed twice and fair shares.<sup>1</sup> He might or might not have been identical with the perfumer of I, 37.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Details in Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 2:483-84, no 33.

<sup>2</sup> {Since in the second notation, he is called 'Ibn Bu 'l-Riḍā Ibn al-Lebdi,' he is evidently the latter's son.}