

I, 40–42 *The Sons of Abu 'l-Barakāt II b. Joseph II*I, 40 *Power of Attorney by Naba' b. Abu 'l-Barakāt II re Claims on his Inheritance*

{Fustat, before 1237}

TS AS 148, f. 4

Naba', one of the younger sons of Abu 'l-Barakāt II who were present at their father's deathbed declaration (I, 39), appoints two attorneys for settling his claims on "sugar, sugar molasses,<sup>1</sup> and goods," left to him by his father. This item is a draft of an incomplete contract. {It appears to be an autograph of Abraham Maimonides. This is of interest both for his biography and for the legal phraseology he used in the contract.}

<sup>1</sup> A tentative translation of *qaḷāra*, an important and often mentioned by-product of the sugar industry. Details in Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 1:463, n. 134. Ordered for a household, e.g., V, 40a.

I, 41 *Deed of Partnership in the Late Abu 'l-Barakāt II's Sugar Factory*

Fustat, September 1239

Bodl. MS. Heb. a. 3 (Cat. 2873), fol. 16

Joseph III, by-named Abu 'l-Riḍā, b. Abu 'l-Barakāt II, and his brother Faḍl Allāh ('God's Bounty') receive loans in the amounts of 400 and 200 dinars from two investors and form a partnership with them for the operation of the sugar factory inherited from their father. They had bought part of it from their younger brothers. Unlike their ancestor Joseph Lebdi I, the two brothers must have possessed an inkling of Jewish learning, for both are honored with the Hebrew epithet *ha-talmīd*, 'scholar.' (This extensive and complicated document has been translated and commented upon for *Mediterranean People* {not preserved}.)<sup>1</sup>

{One of the investors is Sheikh al-Zakī Peraḥyā *ha-talmīd* b. Nissim, known as Ibn Yijū.<sup>2</sup> As we have already seen, descendants of India traders often no longer engaged in that commerce. Here the learned great-grandson of Abraham Ben Yijū, to whom chap. 3 is devoted, makes a loan to the learned great-grandsons of Joseph Lebdi I. Peraḥyā b. Nissim was a well-known Egyptian Jewish scholar, on whom see further pages 86–88.}

<sup>1</sup> {On this document, cf. Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 1:89, 367 (no. 26), 412, n. 32; on the sugar factory see further *ibid.*, 1:89, 412, n. 32; 4:37, 358, n. 184; 5:543, n. 40. Goitein's file for preparation of his book *Mediterranean People* contains only a transcript of the text with brief notes. I have supplied an edition of this document in the Hebrew version of the present book. For *talmīd*, an abbreviation of *talmīd haḥkāmīm*, see Friedman, *JMP*, 2:234, and literature cited there; Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 5:267, 580, n. 62.

<sup>2</sup> 'Yijū' is most faint and was not read by Goitein.}