

II, 3 *Letter from Amram b. Joseph to Nahray b. Nissim Inquiring about a Letter Sent to Aden*

{Alexandria, 1094–96/7}

Bodl. MS. Heb. d. 75, fol. 19

Much torn and effaced. Published in Gil, *Ishmael*, 4:242–45, no. 675.

After twenty-seven lines of expressions of friendship and admiration for Nahray and Mevōrākh, the *Rayyis*, Amram asks again whether any news had arrived concerning his brother-in-law Nissim. Amram had given a letter to the merchant Joseph b. Abū Kathīr Ibn Yahboy (see II, 2, n. 5[b]), who was on his way back to Aden, and waited for the outcome.

{The dating of the document is based on the following considerations. In lines 17–18, the writer seems to allude to Mevōrākh's second appointment as Nagid, which occurred in 1094. Nahray b. Nissim died in 1096 or 1097. The dating of the related letters in this file follows consequently.}

II, 4 *Letter from Amram b. Joseph to Nahray b. Nissim: Request to Forward a Letter to Ḥasan b. Bundār*

{Alexandria, 1094–96/7}

ENA 2805, f. 22

Ed. Gil, *Ishmael*, 4:251–53, no. 677.

The ends of the lines are torn away, but they can be restored almost entirely.

Lines 1–12. Congratulations on the recovery of Nissim, Nahray's son, from a grave illness.

Lines 12–23. Amram had learned that his brother-in-law Abu 'l-Faraj had arrived from India in Mirbāt on the southeastern tip of the Arabian peninsula, and intended to sail directly to the Red Sea port of 'Aydhāb, which meant that he would not touch Aden.¹ Under these circumstances, Amram found it appropriate to address Ḥasan b. Bundār in person and asks Nahray to forward his letter, either with one of the Jewish merchants, or, if they all had already left, with a trustworthy Muslim.

Lines 24–33. Nahray is strongly cautioned to take good care of his son; a relapse after illness was more dangerous than the illness itself.²

{See the introduction to II, 3, for the dating.}

¹ Similarly, Joseph Lebdi traveled from Mirbāt directly to the Red Sea port of Dahlak; see I, 14, lines 22–32.

² {Arabic *al-naksa ashadd min al-maraḍ*; see Goitein, *Med. Soc.*, 5:110, 536, n. 349, quoting another document.}