

III, 10a *Beginning of a Letter from Khalaf b. Isaac to Abraham Ben Yijū*

Aden, ca. 1138–50

ENA 2727, f. 7b

{The first (nine) lines of a letter from Khalaf b. Isaac to Abraham Ben Yijū, torn away at the fold. Lines 1–3 quote Job 22:25; 8:7; Gen. 28:14. The last two verses, quoted from memory, are written with some errors, especially the last one. Lines 4–9: salutation to Ben Yijū, in Hebrew and Arabic, and acknowledgment of receipt of his letter. Of the body of Khalaf's letter, only one line written in the margin, is preserved: "The small items (*tafāriq*, see 649, n. 5), all of them from your servant..." Verso contains three lines with the names—and the accompanying polite phrases—of the addressee and the sender. Ben Yijū's father, as in the address on III, 9v (see there, 592, n. 37) and III, 10v, is styled 'the scribe' (*sōfer*). Khalaf refers to himself as 'his servant, who counts his praise' (Heb.). Ben Yijū added, in Judeo-Arabic, a fourth line under the address: "in which is written the *intercalation* of five years." For calendars written by Ben Yijū, see the introduction to III, 1. Khalaf adds the blessing for the dead to his father's name, from which we learn that the letter was written sometime after the beginning of 1138.}<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> {This document, III, 10a, was identified, copied and numbered '56a' in the 'Old List' by Prof. Goitein, but not transferred to the 'New List.' For the date of Khalaf b. Isaac's father, see II, 51, line 6.}

III, 11 *Letter from Khalaf b. Isaac to Abraham Ben Yijū*

Aden, probably 1140 {after July 29, 1139}

TS 18J 5, f. 1

The upper part, containing the polite phrases of the preamble, has been detached. On that section of the verso the address had been written, which thus also is lost. Likewise, the left lower corner, containing parts of fifteen lines (lines 39–54), has been torn away.

The identity of the letter's writer and addressee can be fixed with certainty despite the lack of the address. Lines 1–49 are written by the same clerk who wrote III, 12, while the postscripts and the remarks on the margin and between the lines are in the hand of Khalaf b. Isaac; see the introduction to III, 10. The addressee is referred to as Abū Ishāq (line 2), the honorary by-name given to Ben Yijū in the addresses of Khalaf's letters III, 10, {10a,} 12 and 16, but never, for example, by Joseph b. Abraham. In addition, there are a number of obvious references to III, 10; see here lines 11, 13, 21 and 32. This provides us also with the date of our fragment. If III, 10 was sent in {or after} 1139 {1138}, as we assumed, III, 11 must have been written in {or after} 1140 {1139} and some time after August 15 {July 29, 1139}, the last day of the month of Av of that year; see line 8.

Although the same clerk wrote III, 11 and 12, he did not use the same paper. No. III, 11 is smaller and light gray, while III, 12 is light brown. The latter is smoother, while the paper of our letter is rather woolly. The ink seeped through to the verso; and unlike III, 12, the blank space there could not be used by the recipient for making notes. Because of the narrower size of the paper, the clerk's calligraphic script is somewhat smaller than in III, 12, an aesthetic rule followed by all better scribes. {The clerk can be identified as Samuel b. Moses b. Eleazar. He signed II, 71 and penned a marriage contract preserved in ENA NS 1, f. 13 (L 49) & ENA NS 2, f. 25.}