

caused me anguish and took sleep away from my eyes. Had I ready money which I could collect and send him, I would not care. The trouble is, my brother, that I have none at present, for something strange happened this year: not a single grain I earned remained with me, but everything went back to the merchants completely and in full. Now you wrote that you earned 100 dinars unexpectedly, through a tip I gave you. Will you, then, pay those hundred dinars for me as recompense, which will spare me trouble, for I explained the situation to you and you understand the hint.

For my part, I shall send you merchandise in these new ships, and I hope that it will sell well and bring us relief. During the whole of last summer I was in Qayrawān to arrange for the dispatch of the consignments belonging to M. Abu 'l-Faraj (Ibn 'Allān) and found that no one wanted to undertake an overseas journey this year. These new Spanish ships, however, were bought by the merchants and loaded, and I and everyone else hope for God's blessing—may he grant relief to me and to them. Now, brother, mind our friendship and the education given to you by me, and the bread and salt we have eaten together, for it was for a time like this that I took you on. Therefore, be my proxy everywhere and reply to every detail in this letter. Deal discreetly with this affair of Ibn 'Allān, both in person and through your friends, so that he may not encroach upon me, and I hope my lord, the Nagid, will do the rest and provide me with his protection.

G. CONCLUSION

Please convey my best greetings to M. Abū Ghālib, your brother-in-law, for I know him and his paternal uncles and know what pious people they are. May God strengthen you through each other; you have indeed attained a fine status.

Kindest regards to you personally, and regards to those under your care, as well as to everyone asking about me.

(Address:)

To my brother and master Abu 'l-Khayr—may God prolong his life—the dear Zakariyyā, son of Tammām—(may he) *r(est in E(den)*

May God be his protector.

From Yahyā, son of Mūsā—(may his) *s(oul rest in) p(eace)*—
Majjānī

His . . .

19 AN ENCLOSURE ON BUSINESS IN JERUSALEM

About Middle of the Eleventh Century

The form of the paper—a long strip (7 x 2 inches), folded twice lengthwise—as well as the arrangement of the writing, indicate that the text does not represent part of a sheet, but was an enclosure attached to a letter—most probably one dealing with public affairs. Only a few of such small-sized enclosures have been preserved.

Jewish Theological Seminary of America, JTS Geniza Misc. 15.

You inquired about *silḳ*. Here, black and sky blue are mostly in demand, and, indeed, all colors. Crimson, however, does not sell in Jerusalem, but it might be sold in Ramle or in Ascalon. Corals are weak in Jerusalem, for it is a poor town. In any case, bring them or a part of them, for success is in the hand of God. If Persians happen to arrive, they may buy them. And Peace upon you.

(It is characteristic of the medieval predilection for variety [*Med. Soc.*, II, 237] that in this small note Jerusalem is first called by its more ancient name *Bayt al-maqdis* ["The Temple"] and later by the one still in use *Al-Quds* ["Sanctuary"]. Many Persians, Jewish as well as Muslim, visited in Jerusalem or even settled there.)

20 WEAVING, EMBROIDERING, AND BLEACHING OF A THOUSAND GARMENTS

Tyre-Jerusalem, Eleventh Century

Yarn sent from Jerusalem was worked by Jewish craftsmen in Tyre, Lebanon, into clothes. A report about such work is contained