

for satisfaction, he ordered Šāfi to be flogged. But Šāfi protested, and shouted: "I am the 'boy' of the *Rayyis*,<sup>11</sup> the head of the *yeshiva*," while Abū Sa'īd declared: "I shall not renounce my claim." After the flogging, Šāfi was put in jail in the presence of his adversary, who had appealed to the chief for help, and in the presence of all the Jews who had come to the audience hall.

Before the flogging of the slave Šāfi one of the Maghrebi merchants had gone to the chief's house in order to save the slave. But when Abū Sa'īd Ibn Jamāhir learned that he wanted to save the slave, he began to incite some Muslims against the stranger; they gave him trouble and [threatened] him with fines and other matters, after having made false accusations against him.<sup>12</sup> Šāfi was set free from jail only after incurring loss of money.<sup>13</sup>

This is what happened. We wrote it down during the last ten days of the month of Tevet<sup>14</sup> of the year of the Creation<sup>15</sup> in the city of 'Aydhāb, which is situated on the shores of the Great Sea. Written between the lines: the Jews.<sup>16</sup>

*Correct, valid, and confirmed.*

(Room was left for at least twenty signatures, which may indicate that the Jewish travelers passing through 'Aydhāb contemplated concerted action against the high-handed Ibn Jamāhir. No signature is attached. For a possible explanation see the introduction.)

<sup>11</sup> The Ar. term for the head of the Jewish community.

<sup>12</sup> Ar. *ba'd al-iḳhrāq bih* (fourth for first form, as common). In the edited text *b* is printed for *ḳ*.

<sup>13</sup> He made a deal with the chief of the police. The document purposely remained vague on this point.

<sup>14</sup> At first sight it seems strange that the document, being dated on Tevet 21st, is again dated in a more general way at the end. This was done in order to enable witnesses to add their signatures to the original two signatures required by the law. A similar custom is found in Muslim and in pre-Islamic Coptic documents.

<sup>15</sup> See n. 8, above. The writer of this document was from the Maghreb or from Alexandria, where it was customary to count from the Creation. In the capital of Egypt Jewish documents were dated according to the so-called Seleucid era, which began in the autumn of 312 B.C.

<sup>16</sup> When words were added between the lines in a legal document, the addition had to be indicated as such at its end. The reference is to the last sentence of the second paragraph, where the text originally had: "all those that had come, etc."

## 80 IDENTIFICATION PAPERS FOR A FEMALE TRAVEL COMPANION

A man from Ceuta, Morocco, was imprisoned in Bijāya (Bougie), Algeria, and his goods confiscated, because he had been unable to produce identification papers for a woman accompanying him.

The note is written on a minute piece of thin, dark gray paper, and probably was inserted into a letter as a postscript. The handwriting is that of the thirteenth century.

University Library, Cambridge, Taylor-Schechter Collection, New Series NS J 286.

Furthermore, I inform you that I long and yearn for you. I also inform you that someone arrived here and told us that your son Nissīm traveled from Ceuta to Bijāya, where the governor of the town<sup>1</sup> found that a woman was in his company. He asked him: How is this woman related to you? He answered: She is my wife. However, when he was asked for her (marriage) certificate,<sup>2</sup> he replied that she had none. Upon this the governor took all his goods and put him into prison. Nothing remained in his possession. By God, do not tarry.<sup>3</sup>

Take note of this. Greetings. *And Peace.*

<sup>1</sup> Ar. *ṣāhib bijāya*, which could also mean: the ruler of the town. Most likely the reference is to a governor of the Ḥafṣids. The Ḥafṣids took the town in 1230 (see *El*<sup>2</sup>, III, 66), and, in the early period of their rule, still adhered to the stern regime of the Almohads.

<sup>2</sup> Ar. *aina ḳitābuhā*.

<sup>3</sup> Ar. *tataharrā*, spelled *ttḥr'y*, which spelling has not yet been found by me in other Geniza papers.

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