

Letter on questions of religious law and other matters by Peraḥya Yijū,
most probably from Maḥalla, Egypt, to his brother Samuel in Cairo

Seventies or eighties of the 12th century

ULC Or 1080 J 38

17 cm broad. Of the height, 12-3 cm have been preserved, but clearly not much has been lost. Thus, we have here the same unusual size of paper, which we have already found in No. 75, another letter of Peraḥya, while in No. 69 and 74 he used oblong sheets, as was normally done in letters.

Light-brown, very thin paper, folded only 4 times, the folds being distant from each other about 3 cm. There are some holes and the writing is damaged also on the folds. How much exactly was lost at the bottom of the page cannot be made out.

On the backside, the address is given both in Hebrew and in Arabic letters. In addition, it contains a postscript in one line by the sender and draft of an answer by the receiver, P.'s brother Samuel. However, the script cannot be the same as that of the writer of No. 79. Although No. 79 was written by Samuel in Sicily, while he was a boy, whereas in No. 80 he was a member of the rabbinical court of Cairo and father of a son, still the two scripts are far too different than to admit the possibility that they belong to one and the same person. However, an examination of those two lines written in the left upper corner of No. 80 verso proves that they are in the style of the scribes of the Cairine court, which we know from very many documents, especially those emanating from the pens of Hillel b. Eli at the end of the 11th century and even more of Ḥalfōn b. Menasse in the first part of the 12th. See Index of