

India II, 64

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15 August 1963

FD ~~Arabic~~ Arabic 40, <sup>56</sup> f. 56  
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Notes

known from another Geniza letter as visiting Ceylon (no. 240, 69)

Abū 'Alī b. Abī 'Omar writes from Aydhāb on his way to India to his family. <sup>most</sup> ~~rich~~ <sup>was</sup> probably <sup>lived</sup> in Fustāt. The letter is addressed to ~~his son Abū 'I-Mahāsīn~~ <sup>his son Abū 'I-Mahāsīn</sup> but while writing he has in mind his wife <sup>to</sup> whom he <sup>speaks and</sup> gives regards first (verso 3), while Abū 'I-Mahāsīn follows later (v. 4). He was accompanied by one Abū 'Omar <sup>(verso p. 5)</sup> most probably ~~another~~ <sup>son</sup> ~~of his~~ <sup>of his</sup> who was called ~~as usual~~ by the name of his dead <sup>grand-</sup> <sup>father.</sup>

As usual, Abū 'Alī had first tried to do business in Upper Egypt. When unsuccessful, he proceeded further at the advice of Abū 'Alā' b. Abī Nasr, a merchant <sup>also</sup> known from other India papers. He was able to do so after having received 30 dirhams from Khalef b. Madmūn, the well-known representative of the merchants in Aden, who succeeded his father in 1151. However, Minyāf, where Abū 'Alī did business, was plundered by the Ghuzz and the writer lost everything.

To make good for this loss, Abū 'Alī had to undertake the long journey to India.

At the end of the letter he refers to another matter. "The little one" most probably a daughter of his, or another very close relative, <sup>or</sup> married in Aden.

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