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 18. A Man of Standing (jāh) Questions

His Partners

This interesting document differs so completely from anything found in the Geniza that it is likely that not only the parties, but also the clerk writing, and the elders witnessing it were foreigners. The father of the two brothers appearing in it is called ar-Raqqī, from Raqqa, once a great city in the northwestern corner of Mesopotamia (today a field of ruins in Syria). Their partner, who took care of them, when they arrived from abroad, professedly did so merely "out of love," which means, that he was either a relative or, at least, a compatriot. It is likely that our Sadaqa b. Semah, is identical with a man of the same name who in Cairo, Dec., 1126, had dealings with a man from Raḥba, a town not far away from Raqqah, in product^s typical of northern Syria, such as olive oil, gall nuts, and jujube.¹ His father-in-law was Neṭīrā, which was the name of a famous Jewish family in Iraq.²

If this identification is correct, we would know the approximate time of our document, which lists the day of the Muslim month, but not the year. I assume that this omission was made purposely in order to characterize the document as a private declaration and not as an official deposition in court. That these declarations are constantly made under oath is entirely against Jewish law, custom, and legal procedure, as they are app^earant in the Cairo Geniza.

Much can be learned from this document about the nature of partnership and other socio-economic matters, such as the relationship between turnover, profit, and personal expenses. A discussion of these points is found in Med. Soc. I, especially, pp. 174 and 203.

The witnesses named in this document testify herewith that they know Ya'qūb b. Yūsuf, and Dā'ūd and Sadaqa the sons of Semah, which occurred because of a dispute about a partnership which was between them.

The typist
 made a large
 omission