מנהל משק יועץ לבעליו השוהה במקום אחר

בענייני מכוורת

TS 13 7 26, f. 19 19 77, 13 26 0"0 1,"

- בקא מצרה סידנא שר השרים 1 סְרֶבָ הדה אלמרף אטאל אללה בקא מצרה סידנא שר השרים
- 2 נגיד הנגידים עוז כל בית ישראל ירום הודה ויגדל כבודה
-], אעלאמהא אן אלנהל אד לם ישתרי לה שי יקוא בה ואלא חלף [
- 4 לאן אתפק ממלוכהא מעהא עלי אן יצל שי ישתרי בה כמ[ס]ין אכלוה
 - 5 והי בעשרין דינר ולם יצל שי וקד בקי מן אואן שרי אלנחל
 - 6 בקיה הדא אלשהר אלדי הו שהר שבת ערפהא אללה ברכתה
 - 7 בכבבבה וממלוכהא מנחטר גואב הדה אלאסטר במא תראה
 - 8 ותאמר בה פאן רא[י]ת שרי אלנחל פתנפד אלדנאניר
 - 9 צחבה מן תראה סרעה ויכון צחבתהא כתאבהא
 - 10 אלכרים אלי אלשיך אבו גאלב צאמן גזירה קוסיניא
 - 11 פשרי אלנהל מן גזירתה פיכון מצמון כתאבהא באן
 - 12 יסאעד ממבבב# ממלוכהא עלי מא תרסמה ואן עאד ראיהא

(שוליים:) ±€

- 1 ען אלשרי פינפד רסול וכחאב 2 אלי מן ת[ר]אָה יקף מע ממלוכהא
- 3 פילביע אלשוי אלדי קד בקי מן אלנחל 4 ואלא תלף וראיהא אלצאיר פי גמיע
 - 5 מא תראה ותאמר בה ושלום 6 הדרתה ושני חמודיה

(ברמש הגליון:)

- 1 השרים היקרים יגדל לעד 2 אמן סלה עבדהא יקבל ידהא
- 3 אלכרימה והו שדיד אלשוק אלי 4 ראויתהא הּקְבה יסתגיב מנה
 - 5 מא ידעוה להא ולולדיהא 5
- קַמָּאָ מנע ממלוכהא ען אלפלוע אלי 8 [חצר]תְּיְעוֹיְ אלכתאב סוי אלדיין 7

A Farm Manager Advises the Absentee Landlord to Replenish
His Stock of Bees

T.-3. 13 J 26, f. 19

(As can be concluded from the epithets used in this letter, it was addressed to Mevorakh, Nagid, or head of the Jews in the Fatimid empire, around 1079-1110 (see p.). The high price of the beehives and the fact that a special letter to the tex-farmer of the district concerned was necessary for their acquisition, as well as some minor details, are of . interest. The postscript explains why we have comparatively little material about farming in the Genisa: these affairs were normally attended to in person and not by correspondence.)

In Y(our name,) O Me(reiful).

The reason for the writing of these lines - may God prolong the life of your Excellency, our lord, the Prince of the Frinces, the Magid, the strength of the House of Israel, may his glory be enhanced and his honor wax - is to inform you that the bees will parish if they are not reinforced by some additional stock. It was agreed between your servent and you that for would send money for the purchase of fifty beshives, costing twenty dinars. However, nothing has arrived and only the remainder of this month of Teveth (December/January) - may God let you experience its blessings - remains for purchasing bees. I will swait an answer to these lines with your instructions and orders. If you decide to purchase the bees, please send the money immediately, and together with it a letter to the elder Abū Chālib, the tax-farmer of Jaxīrat Causaniyya. Tor the bees will have to be purchased there, and a kind letter from you will help your servant to carry out your instructions.

If, however, you have abandoned your plan to buy bees, please send a messenger together with a letter to whomever you see fit to assist me in the selling of the small stock of bees, which still remain; for if it will not be sold immediately, it will perish. Whatever you see fit to order will be carried out. May the well-being of your Excellency and that the your two sons, the noble princes, wax forever. Amon. Seleb.

Your servent bisses your kind hand. He is full of longing to see you. May t(he) H(oly one) b(e He) b(lessed) accept from him his prayers for you and for your sons, may their well-being be plenty.

Instead of writing, your servant intended to come upb) to your Excellency, but was advised by the <u>Judge</u>^{e)} not to do so.

Name of the sendor, written on the otherwise blank reverse side of the letter:

Your servent Abu 'l-Faraj, son of Hillel, m(ay he rest in) E(den).

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Notes

- a) A district in Lover Egypt, between Alexandria and Cairo.
- b) From Lower Egypt, one's travel led on the Mile upstream to Cairo.
- o) Presumably the local judge of the place, from which the letter was sent. Most likely, he also copied out this most beautifully written letter; for otherwise, one or more honorific spithets would have been attached to the word "Judge."

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