

Handwritten text at the top of the page, including a large number '11' and some illegible characters.

11  
K'kja j' eby le ja j' 1030  
K'kja j' 1030 Avle le 1030-ka  
1129

Blank lined area for writing, with faint horizontal lines and a vertical margin line on the left.

7. PAYMENT IN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS OF 1/4 DINAR DURING NINE YEARS  
APPROXIMATELY

(December, 1129)

ULC Or 1080 J 138 ,

The elder Abu 'l-Faraj, physician of the navy, appeared in court and produced an Arabic document showing that a debt of 22 dinars and a sum of approximately<sup>1</sup> 70 dirhems were payable to him by Abu 'l-Hasan b. Ma'mar Ibn al-Batt.<sup>2</sup>

After prolonged discussion an agreement was arranged between them to the effect that Abu 'l-Hasan would pay this sum in monthly installments of 1/4 dinar continuously as from the beginning of the month of Tebeth of the year 1441 (December 15, 1129). The symbolic purchase was made from him on this, and the elder Abu 'l-Faraj agreed to this distribution into installments. This arrangement was properly witnessed at the end of the month of Kislev 1441 (ended on December 14, 1129) in Fustat of Egypt, situated on the Nile River. Correct, valid, and confirmed.

Nathan ha-Kohen, <sup>son of</sup> R. Solomon ha-Kohen, m(ay his) s(oul rest in) E(den).<sup>3</sup>

# No devaluation was expected in those days. Still, waiting for the full repayment of one's money for nine years is exorbitant. An account written on the reverse side of this document, see p. , below, shows that people had owed money to the physician for four years.

Notes

1. The Muslim clerk, as usual, wrote hastily and there was some incertitude concerning the exact amount of the dirhems owed. In this case, however, the number of installments had to be agreed upon precisely. Before signing, one of the witnesses might have noted this deficiency, wherefore the document was crossed out and replaced by another version, which we do not have, of course.
2. "Duck," a nickname denoting a silly person in later Arabic, see Dozy, I, p. 93 a.
3. I have not yet found the key to ~~the~~ seven minuscules written in zigzag above and beneath the signature (h, k, sh, ', t, m, '). In signing other documents, even one from the same year 1129 (TS 10J<sup>7</sup>, f. 10), Nathan used slightly different letters; therefore they can represent only a secret code (and not the acrostic of a biblical verse, as often).