

TS NS J 270⁵.

In (your) name, oh Merci(ful).

My lord, dear and noble brother, may God prolong your life, keep and preserve you and never deprive me of you.

I had been living here in Ascalon in six thousand⁶ states of wellbeing, thanks to the beneficence of God, the exalted, when Musallam⁷ b. Abī Sahl approached me. I went with him up to Nablus and bought for him his sister. A debt of 60 dinars remained on me⁸, and he entreated⁹ me saying: "I ask you by God, let me bring her up¹⁰ to Fustat. She might be able to obtain part of her ransom."¹¹

Now he is gone and has disappeared, leaving me with a debt of 60 dinars. The Frank came to me, and I was looking for someone granting me a loan¹², but was not successful with anyone.

Then I presented my boy as a collateral against a loan on interest, but no one was prepared to take him as a collateral. It seems, there has not remained here anyone who believes that one is permitted to do a good work.

I ask you now to be so kind and to talk to Musallam and to tell him not to keep me any longer in abeyance; he should send me either the money or the girl. Approach him from any possible avenue and bring him to the (Jewish) courts. [...]¹³ you know that I do not possess either [...]¹³ Kindest regards to you and to your sons [also. Please] take urgent action in this matter for [.]¹⁴ I wish to be on good terms with the creditor. And your wellbeing may increase

Address:

To Bilbays¹⁵, to his honor, my dear brother, the elder Abu 'l-Bahā

Ibn Ghanā'im.

From his brother, who kisses his hands,¹⁶ Abū Sa'd Ibn Ghanā'im.