

~~The Community - Interconfessional Relations~~

A Deathbed Declaration Revealing Close Relations Between Muslims

and Jewish Religious Scholars

Old Cairo, March 24, 1182

Oxford, Bodl. Ms. Hebr. f 56 (Catal. 2821), f. 45a

(Small - but not too small - loans, like those mentioned in the first and main part of this declaration, were given only to close friends. It is, therefore, highly revealing to find here among the debtors of the dying man such a famous Jewish religious scholar like Maimonides, together with a similarly famous Muslim divine, Ibn Sanā' al-Mulk. Most probably the testator had to take out these loans, because his capital was tied up in business enterprises. Had they been given to him as a commenda or on another commercial basis, the fact would have been indicated, as it was with regard to the poll tax (see below).)

A. On Wednesday, the eighteenth of Nisan 1493, we called on the elder Abu 'l-Faraj, the honored notable, the wise and the prudent, son of our h(onored), g(reat and) h(oly) Ma(ster) a(nd) T(eacher) Moses, the elder, known as Ibn al-Kallām<sup>a</sup>) - m(ay he rest in) E(den), and found him ill, but with a clear mind. He said to us: "Please take notice of the following:

B. I owe to our glorious lord, our Master and Teacher Moses<sup>b</sup>) - m(ay his Rock) p(reserve him) - two and a half Egyptian dinars, as well as another sum; he is to be trusted whatever amount he may claim; ~~for it,~~