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## The Undertaking by a Merchant to Provide His Orphaned Nephews

with One Dinar per Month by Trading with Their Capital

Minyat Ashna, near

(Cairo, January 1151)

Oxf. Bodl. a3 (2873), f. 5

The following action was taken in the presence of the undersigned witnesses. Thus it was: M. Kathir, the son of Abraham, m(ay he rest in) E(den), appeared before us, carrying with him a letter of our lord, Samuel the great Nagid, the prince of the people of the Lord of Hosts, chief of the notables, the prince of princes, the right hand of the government,<sup>a)</sup> the diadem of the house of David,<sup>b)</sup> may his rule last forever, as enduring as the moon, stating that the widow of Binyam,<sup>c)</sup> the son of Ibrahīm,<sup>d)</sup> appeared before his princely glory seeking his help with regard to the state of the orphans of the aforementioned Binyam, who had no means of support except for some shops which their father had bequeathed to them in the town of Malij, which is near Fustat, the rent of which did not provide them with adequate means of subsistence.

Therefore, the two judges<sup>e)</sup> (of Fustat) authorized an allotment for them of one dinar per month for food and clothing and released for them from the estate which their father had left, and which was held in trust by the two notables, M. and R. Shemaryahu ha-Kohen, the "perfect beauty,"<sup>f)</sup> and his partner, M. and R. Samuel, the son of our h(onored) g(reat and) h(oly) M. and R. Judah, known as Ben Asad, the

equivalent of twenty dinars, to be held in trust by Kathīr, their uncle, who was to trade with it and add the profit to the income from the aforementioned shops and give them one dinar per month.

He then came and, in our presence, received ten pounds of silk of the value of twenty dinars from the two aforementioned nobles<sup>ta</sup>~~men~~<sup>s</sup>, M. and R. Shemaryahu and M. and R. Samuel.

Then M. and R. Kathīr, the son of Abraham, said to us: "Be witness to my obligation and contract with me an agreement valid from this time; write it down and undersign it, using all the binding expressions, strict terms, and a wording which conveys rights, viz., that I have received and taken delivery of these twenty dinars; that they have come into my possession, and that I am responsible for them. I have taken all risk for them upon myself, and I shall hand over to the orphaned children of my brother Binyām, m(ay he rest in) E(den), one dinar per month, without delay, refusal, argument, or excuses, in addition to repaying this sum of money."

We made the symbolic purchase from M. Kathīr, the son of Abraham, m(ay he rest in) E(den), strictly and completely, in the required manner, concerning everything which was written and stated above.

What has taken place before us, we have written down and signed; this was done on Wednesday, the 21st day in the month of Tēvēth, in the year 1462 in the town of Minyat Ashna, which is near Fustat on

the Nile, under the jurisdiction of our lord, Samuel the great Nagid,  
the prince of the people of the Lord of Hosts, may his rule last for-  
ever, as enduring as the moon. Ratified, confirmed, and valid.

Solomon, son of Zur<sup>o</sup>ah, m(ay he rest in) E(den)

Perahyah ha-Kohen, son of Aaron, m(ay he rest in) E(den)

Yākhīn ha-Kohen, son of Saadiah, m(ay he rest in) E(den)

Notes

- a) The Nagid Samuel b. Hananiah was called "the right hand of the government" because of his honored position at the Fatimid court.
- b) Literally: "the diadem of the Nasiship." "Nasi" is a designation of the Jewish Exilarch of Baghdad, which traced its genealogy back to King David, or of a member of his family. This honorific title indicates that the Egyptian Nagid was recognized by the Exilarch of Baghdad (see p.       ).
- c) This is the Arabic form of the name "Benjamin," which itself is a Greek form used by Jews in Byzantine times.
- d) Although the scribe uses the Hebrew form of the name Abraham throughout, in this one instance he lapsed into the Arabic form which was obviously used in daily life.
- e) Literally: "the two courts." A judge was called "court," which is an abbreviation of "president of the court," because normally each community had only one professional judge, assisted by two or more learned lay members. However, the affairs of the orphans were administered by the two judges of the Palestinian and Iraq communities of Fustat, sitting together.
- f) For this strange honorific title, see p.       .
- g) Silk was normally traded in units of ten pounds. The quotation of twenty dinars is rather low. The average price in the middle of

Merchant's Provision for Orphaned Nephews/a3 (2873), f. 5

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the eleventh century was twenty-five dinars for ten pounds of  
silk.

\* 5000. a3 (2013) f.5 Understanding of a merchant to provide his orphaned  
 nephew with one dinar per month for trading with their  
 capital of 20 dinars with income from rent of some village  
 1 מצפה שהיה לפנינו אנו העדים ההתוסים למטה כן (2) חנה חזר אלינא מן כתיב בה  
 אברהם נע ומעלה כתאב (3) סירנא שמואל הנביד הגדול נביר עם יי צבאות שר (4) השרים  
 נביר הנבידים ימין המלוכה נזר הנשיאות תכון (5) משרתו לעד כירח נכון והו יקתצי  
 חזר ארמלה בניהם (6) בן אברהם (1) מסתבית אלי ענר הדרת הנבידות פי חאל (7)  
 יתומי בניהם אלמדכור ואן מא להם מא יקים באודהם (8) אלא דכאכין ורתהא להם אבהם  
 בעיר מליג חסמוכה (9) לפסטאט מצריסלם יתחצל מן אנהאא מא יקים (10) באודהם  
 מקרא (1) להם בתי דינים דינר ואחד פי כל שחר (11) ברסם מונתהם וכסותהם ואלקא (1)  
 להם מן אלמודע (12) אלדי כלמה ואלדהם והו תחת יד שני השרים מן ור (13) שמריה  
 הכהן כליל חיופי ושריכה מן ור שמואל בר (14) כקס מן ור (1) יתורה הידוע בן אסר נל  
 מא יסארי עשרין (15) דינארא תכון ביר כתיב עתהם יתור בהא ויצף רבהא (16) אלי  
 מא יתחצל מן כרי אלדכאכין ויסלם להם דינאר ואחד (17) פי כל שחר וחזר ותסלם בין  
 ידינא עשרה ארסאל חריר (18) תסארי אלעשרין דינארא מן שני השרים אלמקדם דכרהם  
 (19) מן ור (1) שמריה וסר ור (1) שמואל וקאל לנא מן ור (1) כתיב (20) אברהם הור  
 עלאי שהדי וקנו מני מעכיו וכתבו וחתמו (21) עלאי בנמיס אלאלפאט אלמחכמה ובמיס  
 אלמקאני (22) אלמאכרה ובכל ליסאני דלכואתא אנני קד קבצת ותסלמת (23) חנה אלעשרין  
 דינארא וצאת אלי פי נהתי ודמתי (24) וקבלת עלי רוחי נמיס כסרהא ואני אוצל לאולאד  
 אכיי בניהם נל אליתוסים דינאר פי כל שחר בלא (25) מדאפעה ולא סמאנעה ולא  
 מתקנאז בחנה ולא (26) אעתלאל בעלהדון אלקיאס בהוצ אלמבלג וקנינא מן (27) מן  
 כתיב בר אברהם נל קנין נמור חמור בכלי חסר (28) על כל מא דכמיב ומפרס לעילא  
 ומא דהום קדמנא (29) כתבנא וחמסנא וכאן דלך בארבעא דשנא דהוא (30) (כתבנא  
 וחמסנא)) עשרין וחד יומי בירה (31) שנת דהיא שנת אתסב בעיר מניה אשנה דסמיכא (32)  
 לפסטאט מצרים דעל גילוס נהרא מותבה רשותיה (33) דאדונינו שמואל הנביד הגדול  
 נביר עם יי צבאות תכון משרתו לעד כירח נכון שריר ובריר וקיים  
 שלמה בר זרעה נל פרחיה הכהן בר אהרן נל (והוא שכתב את המסמך))  
 יכין הכהן בר סעדיה נל

T.T.O.  
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*Journal of Management Inquiry* 18(6) 709–724

10. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 277:1225-1226, 1997

*Journal of Management Inquiry* 18(6) 709–724

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

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*Journal of Management Education* 36(7) 809-826

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1996, 33, 1, 1-14.

*Journal of Management Education* 36(7) 809–827

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