

10-10-21
JTS
ENA 2805
f. 23

FROM: Yeshu'a b. Ismā'īl (Fustat)

TO: Nahray b. Nissīm (Alexandria)

DATE: Ca. 1080

- 1) In Your Name, O Merciful One
- 2) To his excellency, my lord, pre-eminent among
the havērīm, may God lengthen
- 3) his life and preserve his glory, support and
prosperity. I have already sent you several letters
expressing
- 4) the intensity of my loneliness for you,
and I pray that God, in His mercy, will bring close our meeting
in the most favorable
- 5) of circumstances and the happiest of purposes -- God willing.
I would like to inform you that I received
- 6) your letter on Sunday, the third of Kislēv, may
God show you its blessing
- 7) the happiness [of the months] that follow it, for
He is capable of realizing that which He wishes. [In your
letter] you mention your safe
- 8) arrival on Friday, praise and gratitude are due
to God, the Exalted, may He, in His mercy, not
deprive us
- 9) of his assistance both in spiritual and in worldly
affairs. [In your letter] you mentioned that
- 10) you have received the bag of coins and that the value
of each dinar is one qīrāt and 1/2 [plus one dinar] and
that the exchange rate is 46 and one-half.

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- 11) Please act in this matter as you see fit. I hope
that in whatever you do
- 12) For we have [often] benefited from your good intentions,
excellent religious qualities and fine character. May God increase
- 13) "grace and mercy and show him his reward in his
lifetime." Amen. As for the matter of the
slave-girl,
- 14) it is indeed, as you mentioned, an excellent sale.
I had feared [that the price] might only amount to
the 16 dinars you had mentioned.
- 15) As for the problem of collecting the [purchase price:] take
10 dinars from Ezra and the remainder from the purchaser.
- 16) if possible, please obtain the entire sum in dirhams at
the exchange rate that you mentioned. If the bearer of the
bag of coins
- 17) will hasten in coming up [to Fustat], perhaps he
can bring with him the sum of dinars in the form of
dirhams so that they can, God willing,
- 18) be sold before the Muslim festival. If you can find
someone who will be coming here even sooner, please send
the coins
- 19) with him in order to sell them before the
Muslim festival. You, may God preserve your life, are
aware
- 20) of my request with regard to the [quantity] of
pitch belonging to me which is now in the Dār
al-Būnnī.

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- 21) [You approached (?)] Rabbi Nathan and asked him
to take care of selling it and you told
him its price {
- 22) { } and he sold one qit'a (container?)
at 8 dinars. There is very little pitch on the market, [it
is hardly to be found]
- 23) { } all together two qit'as. Where
you are, you should be able to obtain a price of
9 dinars.
- 24) If you have the opportunity to sell both,
or even one of the qit'as, then please do so.
- 25) The price will not go down. Take care of
this matter properly and act in accordance with
- 26) the opportunities that God will make available. God
willing, we will all benefit from your good
intentions
- 27) in all matters, and there is no need to dwell
on the matter any further. Of the goods of
- 28) your protégé, Rabbi Abraham, only the chintz(?)
(shith) which he sent remains to be sold. I
had already requested
- 29) [that you ask Kh]ulayf b. Al-Buhtuj to
take care of its sale in any way he sees fit, either
- 30) [for cash or credit,] whatever he feels is best. Please
extend your kindness in this matter,
- 31) send for him and ask him to take care of this.
Let Ezra have them give the proceeds to him.

- 32) Hopefully God will provide me with an opportunity to purchase a buhār (three hundred-weight) of lacqueur on the basis of
- 33) delayed payment until God will facilitate the sale of the remainder of the hazelnuts so that we can buy
- 34) (the lacqueur), God willing. I passed by your house with your letter, but I didn't stay long. I conveyed to them
- 35) the contents of your letter and they were overjoyed at your safe arrival and gave thanks to God.
- 36) I mentioned to them what the Parnas said and I said: "If you want 10 dirhams for expenses,
- 37) I will give them to you (to tide you over) until the arrival of his letter with (further) instructions." Similarly, I conveyed your regards
- 38) to the Parnas and the Hazzān. I told the Parnas what you had said, and he replied as he did

SIDE II

- 1) previously. I intend to go see his excellency, our teacher, the great Rabbi, may God
- 2) preserve him { } and inform him of all that you have mentioned. Our lord,
- 3) the Nāsī, may his glory be exalted, arrived here, and I will visit him and convey to him everything that you mentioned.

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- 4) God willing, there will be a reconciliation. I asked you to have Rabbi Isaac the teacher
- 5) stop in at my home and instruct them with respect to what should be sold and with respect to the wheat; that is,
- 6) they should not neglect it nor should they lose out on it. If they can arrange for the grinding (of the wheat) at home, let them do this.
- 7) And if they are in need of anything, let them, if possible, sell some of the natron, be it a small
- 8) [or large amount up to one] qintār. I have already instructed 'Imrām b. Abī Mardūk in this matter.
- 9) [] Ezra that you paid for the slave girl. It is imperative that you tell him: "I took
- 10) [] 3 dinars and one-eighth, which is the sum that I paid." Let him finish up with this matter
- 11) [and take the outstanding sum (?)] from the price of the slave girl. Inform him that I paid to Isma'īl
- 12) b. Abī Ridā', the landlord, two and 1/4 full-weight dinars. He came to me on Friday,
- 13) after having been involved in some difficulties, accompanied by a soldier who was making demands on him. I was obliged to go out
- 14) and pay two and 1/4 dinars for him, thus making the total paid to the landlord six

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15) [dinars] and one-third. Please make this known to him.

Much peace. Greetings to Master Nissīm,

16) may God preserve his life. Greetings to our master

Rabbi Nathan and his son, may God preserve his life

17) [and increase his prosperity.] Best regards to Abū-l

Hasan. Rabbi Abraham Al-Dayyān and his son

18) Rabbi Isaac send your excellency their best

regards. Regards to all who inquire after me [

19) And [] concerning the collection

of the two dinars which you mentioned from Rabbi

'Amram. Please do not delay it.

20) Please have Khulayf purchase a jug of

linseed oil and a jug of

21) good-quality radish oil for the house, no matter what

it costs. This must be done. And peace.

Address:

Right side: His excellency, our Rabbi Mahray, pre-eminent among the havārīm,
son of our Rabbi Nissīm, may his memory be blessed. May God
lengthen his life and preserve his glory and support.

Left side: Yeshū'a b. Isma'īl, may his rest be in heaven. Much peace.

(In Arabic letters)

Right side: To be delivered to the Money Changer's market, the stall of the
elder, Abū-l-Khayr.

In safekeeping, Delivery will be rewarded. To Alexandria, God willing.

Left side: In safekeeping, may God have mercy upon you. The stall of []
Money Changer's market.

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15) [dinars] and one-third. Please make this known to him.

Much p. ace. Greetings to Master Nissim,

השולח: ישועה בן אסמעיל

המקבל: נהראי בן נסים

גודל:

תיאור:

- (1) בל רח
- (2) הקדמת כתבי לחצרה מולאי גדול החכמים אטאל אללה
- (3) בקא ה ואראם עזה ותאירה ונעמאה אעלמת מא וצל
- (4) [אוי] מן שרה אלוהשה אסל אללה קרב אלגמע עלי אפצל
- (5) חאל ואסר מראד ברחמתה אן שא אללה ואעלמה אן וצל אלי
- (6) כתאבה יום אלאחד האלה ראש כסליו ערפה אללה ברכתה
- (7) וסעארה מא יליה אנה עלי מא שא קארר ידכר וצולהם
- (8) [יום] אלגמ[עה ס] אלמין ללה אלחמר ואלשכר אללה תל לא יכליה
- (9) [אזא] מן ח[ו]ן אלחופיק דין ודניא ברחמתה דכר אמר אל
- (10) צרה אנה קבצאה וסניחא קי[ו] [אז] כל דין ואן אלצרף לו וצל
- (11) [אז] מן דלך מא חסן ענדה ארגו אן לי פי מא יפעלה [אז] וצל
- (12) לאן ננחפע כחסן ניתה וגורה דינה וחסן טויתה זארה אללה
- (13) חן וחסד ויראהו עולמו בחייו אמן וכולך אמר אלגאריה פמא
- (14) הו אלא כמא דכר ביע גיד ואנמא כאן כופי כמא דכר לו דין
- (15) ואלעמל עלי קבצה אלו ד[אז] מן עזרא ואלכקיה מן אלמשתרי
- (16) ולעל יחצל כאלכל דר[אז] מן אלצרף אלדי דכר ואן כאן מוצל אלצרה
- (17) מסרע אלטלוע לעל יכוון דר[אז] חמן אלד[אז] צחכתה חכא[אז] וקבל
- (18) אלאיד אן שא אללה ואן אחפק מן הו אסרע מנה ינפלהא
- (19) [צחכתה] מן אול ביע קבל אלאיד והו אחיאה אללה עאלמא
- (20) [מא] כנה סאלתה פי אמר אלחמר אלדי לי פי דאר אלכוני [אז] וצל
- (21) [אז] מן דלך מא חסן ענדה ארגו אן לי פי מא יפעלה [אז] וצל
- (22) [אז] כאן אשתרא קטעה סער ח דינ והו קליל [אז] וצל
- (23) [מנה] פי גמיע קטעתינ פיגב אן יכוון ענדכם קט ד[אז] וצל
- (24) כאן אחפק לה ביע אלגמיע יפעל או ביע ואחדה לאן אלס
- (25) איד מא ינקץ פיחד[אז] פי דלך כמא יגב פאן סהל יפעל
- (26) מא יסאחלה אללה לה ננחפע אן שא אללה בחסן אלניה מן אל
- (27) [ג] מיע מא נחחאג חאכיה פי דלך בקי מן חואיג מרב
- (28) [אב] דהם צניעתה ביע אלשיח אלדי אנפר כנה סאלתה
- (29) [אז] כ[אז] בן אלככתג כיעהם כיף מא יראה אמא כאל
- (30) [אז] או גא[אז] בר חסס מא יחסן ענדה יחפצל יתס פצלה פי

א. י. ש.

chintz?
p. 23a
Calico

