

LETTER I
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□□□ Allān b. Hassūn, still a novice in the India □□□
□□□ trade, writes from Aden to his uncle and
□□□ father-in-law 'Arūs b. Joseph in Fustat, Egypt

TS 10 J 16, f. 1, 'India Book, Old 143; 'Final ch. 6, sec. 11] Centre

A. Introduction - 3 ut A / answer

□□ I am writing to you, my father, ²⁶ who is dear to me and with me, may God prolong his life and make permanent his honored position, his support and help, ²⁷ his safety and well-being, may he never leave him without full success, ²⁸ and may he be for him and with him in all his undertakings.

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nyphen

B. Prices in Aden - 3

What you wish to know: I arrived safely in Aden, but found the markets to be dull. Half of what I had with me was not sold. The modish garments ²⁹ sold for 5 1/2 to 5 to 4 1/2 mithqals [Egyptian dinars], the maqta ³⁰ for 2 1/2 to 2 1/4, the saris [futas] for 1 3/4 to 1 1/2. Please take notice. One hundred mithqals and some singles were cashed for these.

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2 1/4
1 1/2

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C. Decision to travel to India - 3

Having sought God's guidance, I decided to travel to Sindabur ³¹ with the corals and storax, ³² for I did not find a market for it [meaning the corals]; all they offered me for it [in Aden] was 18 [dinars] per selling unit. ³³

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D. Arrangements with Joseph, another nephew of 'Arūs

Do not ask what Joseph did to me. He came to me during the night before my departure and said: 'My paternal uncle ['Arūs] and Siba told me that you should not travel on the ocean.' He took from me 65 dinars for silver, 25 dinars for 10 maqta's, and 30 maqta's, which he took with him.

E. Previous sales in ports on the west coast of the Red Sea

As to the balance of the 70 mithqals: for 10 mithqals I sold cloaks in Dahlak to Sirāj on condition that I would take the money at my return with the al-Kārim flotilla. I sold him [also] cloaks for 40 mithqals; and also in Bādē I sold to Ibn Nājī cloaks for 4 mithqals, and in Suwākin to 'Abd al-Rāziq cloaks for 20 mithqals. The promissory notes signed by them will be with me until I return safely and receive these sums in full, if God will.

F. The sinful senior cousin Joseph

Joseph stays in Lakhba with the whores (Heb.), 'the company' and a beardless youth, who serves them drinks.

Verso, Address

To my father and lord, 'Arūs, son of Joseph, (may he rest in Eden).

May God prolong his life and make his honored position permanent.

(from) His scion 'Allāl, son of Hassūn

maqta's

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line for line

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