

g from qus

Time  
2 1/2 hr  
by

every month

You wrote in your letter to Abū Ishāq that (you could not come here, as) the poll tax officials would apprehend you on our account. However,

Aswan 8 J 26, f. 18/p. 2

it has pleased God to let me earn enough to pay the tax, and so have your father and your brother Abū Saḥl; thus you would not be molested on our account. In addition, if you came down, God would not withhold from you a livelihood here. You could call out and offer your wares on the square,<sup>a)</sup> for the art of silk weaving is very much in demand. Your father and myself were questioned (by the police) because of you. Therefore, I would ask you, by God, not to stay on in Aswan. However, if you regard your return to Old Cairo as inadvisable, the choice is with you - may God direct you to do what is good.

I send you greetings and so does your lord.<sup>b)</sup> Your mother weeps night and day and greets you. I wrote you another letter and gave it to Abū Ishāq, but I do not know whether it has reached you or not. May God let us see a good end to everything.

(Marginal note:)

Your father spent one night in prison because of you. Therefore, do not tarry, but come down soon.

(Postscript: <sup>c)</sup>)

The wife of your paternal uncle greets you. ʿĀḥir cries and says: "When will brother come?" May God unite us all soon.

One irdabb of wheat of middle quality costs forty-two (dirham). May God make it cheaper, Amen. I wrote this letter in a hurry.

Aswan 8 J 26, f. 18/p. 3

(Address in Arabic characters:)

To be delivered in Qūs to Hū 'Imrān, the son of the one-eyed teacher. From his brother Bayān - may he be made his ransom.

#### Notes

- a) There were a number of squares in the bazaar of Old Cairo, such as those of the perfumers, clothiers, or date merchants.
- b) I.e. your father.
- c) Written on the reverse side in the same direction as the first page.