

and

2. From Baghdad to Jerusalem

(July 18 + 969)

This ^{frag. contains a fragment of} ~~is the work of~~ a letter sent by Sherira ^{the Gaon} to his colleague, the H. of the J. of Jerusalem. Sherira, ~~son and grandson of a Gaon~~ ^{provided the aged} ~~question of Pumbedita, whom by that time had succeeded~~ ^{it is not} ~~to Baghdad. He was in office from 967 to 1004~~ ^{through} when he was succeeded by his equally famous son Hay, who already had more or less taken control of the affairs of the yeshiva as from 965, when he was appointed president of the high court. He died in 1006 at the age of almost a hundred years. Sherira's 'Epistle to Qaisara', formally an answer to a query, contains ^{account} ~~antiquity~~ of the Jewish academy of Babylonia since their inception and is our main source for their history.

By the tenth century many bagian Jews had settled in Palestine, clinging to the relig. rites & customs of their country of origin & paying allegiance to the yeshivas of Baghdad. But Pal. was under the authority of the J. of Jer. legal decisions & public announcements in the synag. had even to follow the bag. rules, but to be made authorized by the Gaon of J. Our ~~letter~~ fragments show that even a letter by such great an authority as Sherira

if could be

- In the lost part of the letter

that J. is much ^{the} ~~far~~ ^{more} ~~likely~~ ^{likely} to be ~~convinced~~ ^{convinced} by a ~~well~~ ^{well} ~~advised~~ ^{advised} ~~committee~~ ^{committee} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~go~~ ^{go} ~~before~~ ^{before}, ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~prevalence~~ ^{prevalence} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~local~~ ^{local} ~~while~~ ^{while} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~ABR~~ ^{ABR}, ~~caliph~~ ^{caliph} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~kingd~~ ^{kingd} ~~amirs~~ ^{amirs} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~much~~ ^{much} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~con~~ ^{con} ~~form~~ ^{form} ~~ing~~ ^{ing} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~a~~ ^a ~~principle~~ ^{principle} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~justice~~ ^{justice} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~well~~ ^{well} ~~estab~~ ^{estab} ~~lished~~ ^{lished} ~~abroad~~ ^{abroad}, ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~former~~ ^{former} ~~times~~ ^{times}, ~~namely~~ ^{namely}, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~on~~ ^{on}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~ ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{be}. ~~It~~ ^{It} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} ~~people~~ ^{people} ~~always~~ ^{always} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~pre~~ ^{pre} ~~valence~~ ^{valence} ~~over~~ ^{over} ~~minor~~ ^{minor} ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~may~~

In the last part of the letter the names of numerous members of the League of - concerning Palestine ~~especially one of them~~ who he literally contributed to the upkeep of the Faith yesterday. But none ~~has not~~ mentioned with praise. Prayers had been asked for them at the yesterday's prayer also at the Holy services of today.

The letter is in Hebrew. Learned correspondence
For the letter assumes that the same conditions
had prevailed
used to be in Aramaic, the ~~official~~ language of
the Academy. Letters of public purport were in
Hebrew which by that time was better understood
Aramaic was dying out.

[illegible]

ENA 4009 ✓

He is honored, esteemed, and highly ^{venerated} regarded by us. There is no one like him among our followers.

We have mentioned him (in ~~the~~ public prayers).

We ask now the head of the yeshiva - may he live for ever - to give instructions that the letter ~~may~~ be read with in public, as ~~it~~ so often ^{there} done with the letters of our fathers, and we have expressly stated in our letter that it should be read with the permission of the head of the yeshiva - may the Allmerciful keep him. Please act accordingly without delay and inform us that our wish has been fulfilled and the letter has been read in public ^{including the letter} and that we have blessed in our prayers all those mentioned by name. ✓

happen to

If you have any wishes, please let us know, so that we may discharge our obligations in accordance with them. ✓

And God ^{in his mercy, grace and} may protect you.

Postscript by Shimon's son Hay

From me, too, Hay, the president of the court, the son of the head of the yeshiva, may the illustrious lord, the head of the y - may he live for ever - receive myriads of greetings. I, too,

Only

and defender of ^{his} ~~your~~ footsteps, ^{May} ~~and~~ ^{his} ~~your~~ lower
may kindly design to give instructions to inform me
about ^{his} ~~your~~ well being and ^{any} wish or need which ~~you~~ ^{he}
or ^{his} ~~your~~ associates may have so that I may ^{be able to} discharge
my obligations accordingly.

^{acc 2} That ~~your~~ cheer of peace may be spread over
~~you~~ from heaven.

13 Apr 1300.

A somewhat formulated occasion of the Convention
 1/ ~~for~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~MTI~~ ^{MTI} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~Uda~~ ^{Uda}, ~~Galilee~~ ^{Galilee} (middle of second
 century A.D.), see Shih-hsiang-shih 2:16.

2/ ~~See~~ ^{See} ~~Ed.~~ ^{Ed.} ~~MTI~~ ^{MTI} ~~p.~~ ^{p.} ~~110~~ ¹¹⁰. ~~See~~ ^{See} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~Cat.~~ ^{Cat.} ~~pl. 68~~ ^{pl. 68}

3/ ^{Arabic} ~~Arabic~~ ^{factor} ~~factor~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{J.} ~~J. ^{giving} ~~giving~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{Palastine} ~~Palastine~~; he was
 mentioned in the Post part of the letter.~~~~

4/ The Babylon. games ^{usually} ~~always~~ refer to the ^{games} ~~games~~
 in the plural.

5/ "There", that is,
 6/ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Palastine} ~~Palastine. Hebrew ^{sham} ~~sham~~ ^{Arabic} ~~Arabic
^{tammam} ~~tammam~~, the standing expression for ^{Palastine} ~~Palastine~~
 in the ^{Tab.} ~~Tab. ^{Talmud} ~~Talmud~~~~~~~~

7/ The father and grandfather of Shorin who
 also had been ^{games} ~~games~~ ^{see above} ~~see above~~.

8/ It seems that the ^{form} ~~form~~ ^{of} ~~of ^{the} ~~the ^{J.} ~~J. ^{had} ~~had ^{demanded} ~~demanded
 that letters circular ^{by the Babylonian questions} ~~of public~~ ^{should be} ~~should be~~
 forwarded to the ^{Iraqi} ~~Iraqi ^{concrete} ~~concrete ⁱⁿ ~~in ^{Palastine} ~~Palastine~~
 through him.~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

9/ A polite hint to the old scholar that he was
 prepared to answer questions of his ^{J.} ~~J.
 colleagues. ^{That} ~~That ^{such} ~~such ^a ~~a ^{case} ~~case ^{of} ~~of ^a ~~a ^{query} ~~query ^{submitted} ~~submitted
 by a ^{J.} ~~J. ^{from} ~~from ^{Hay} ~~Hay, ^{Shorin's} ~~Shorin's ^{son} ~~son, ^{to} ~~to ^{Med} ~~Med ^{Sec II} ~~Sec II~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~