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A JEWISH PHYSICIAN GIVES TO HIS SON A NEW HOUSE ERECTED BY HIMSELF

Deed executed by a Muslim notary on (17 August 1054,)

PHeyd 1451

Papyri Collection Schott Reinhardt of the University of Heidleberg 1451.

The absence of signatures proves that the text is a copy of the original deed. Clearly it was made for the rabbinical court, since the names of the donator and the receiver are written on the reverse side in their Hebrew forms. Arabic Faraj Allah, "saved by God", 1.22, is rendered by Hebrew Yeshū a "salvation", and (Abū Mans)ūr, "aided by God", 1.1, by Elazar, which means the same. The kunya Abu 'l-Futūḥ, "the victorious" corresponds to the name Judah, cf. Judah's blessing in Genesis 49:8, and similarly Abu 'l-Hasan, literally "the father of the fair" matches Japheth which was understood as being derived from the Hebrew fafē meaning: beautiful.

Much of the first ten lines of page one and of the corresponding lines on the reverse side is lost. On the other hand, the left lower corner was cut away before the paper was used. Therefore, the last five lines are shorter than the others, but they are complete. The lacunae are tentatively complemented in parenthesis. The introductory three lines, which are only partly preserved state that (... Abu 'l-Mans) ur b. Abu 'l-Futuh b. Abu 'l-Hasan the practicing physician who is known to his witnesses (makes the following dispositions concerning a property of his,) the whole of the complete house (which is situated in the) Mamsusa quarter in the street of the Chain to the right of a person entering it from the west (... which is of n)ew construction, known as being built by the donator. At present it is to be described as follows:

It has two doorways, one of which is arched. Through it one

y/

enters a corridor in which there is a place for waterjars. The second gate leads to the groundfloor which is (newly?) built and comprises a sitting room with two vestibules and, opposite of it, a hall, two suffas (shelves) facing each other, (...) and a well which is to the right of the entrance and adjacent to the shelf. The sitting room has closets (...) and a ventilation chimney. On the backside of the hall mentioned above there are closets, a ventilation chimney and a passage to the right of the entrance. (The hall has also)...) a closet to the left of the entrance and a durga a.

The groundfloor comprises also a washroom adjacent to the sidilla' which is opposite of its entrance. Also adjacent to this sidilla is a door which leads to its (i.e. the groundfloor's) kitchen and its women's groundfloor and to a staircase built on a stone arch on which one ascends to its roof and to a merzamide room which belongs to its rights. The groundfloor also has pipes and other appurtenances

and rights.

This house with all its rights, appurtenances and conveniences has the following borders. First, to the south, the house of Mansur, the mason, and a ruin, belonging to the blessed Muzaffar divan. Secondly, to the north, a cattle pen which is there and was formerly known as belonging to Ibn Zanbur, but is now in the possession of the qadi Al-As ad Sharaf al-Din ("the blessed who makes honor to his religion"). Thirdly, to the east, the lane in which the house is situated and on which its gate and the second gate mentioned above open and which is

overlooked by its window balcony. Fourthly, a house known at present (!) as Ibn Ajami's and after his death known as...

This house, with all its rights, few or many, its site, its building, its groundfloor and upper floor, with all the rights known or believed as belonging to it, both within and without, has been given as a pious gift, which is valid, effective, absolute and final, to his own son Faraj Allah, the perfect man, the Jew, who is major, by the declaration of his above mentioned father made in our presence and presenting him to his witnesses.

His description: a young man of middle stature, mildly dark complexion, connected eyebrows, bluish-black eyes, hooked nose, round beard... and with no hair between the lower lip and the beard.

This gift was made out of paternal piety and love and he has accepted it from his father. The latter has transferred to him the above mentioned house and he has received it free from all obligations. (There follow three only partly preserved lines with legal phrases). Date: the tenth day of Jumada I, of the year (4)46) 1% August 1054.

In Hebrew letters: Yeshu a ben Elazar b. Judah b. Japheth ha-Levi.

On the bottom of the page, upside down: Abu Manşur, the physician (in Arabic).