

Letter III

Writing to his sons, 'Allān reports that he had dismissed his travel companion and chosen another one, and that no one, not even in the Kāyim flotilla, had arrived in 'Aydhab. He regretted ^{to have} ~~to have~~ undertaken the voyage and advises his sons to form a partnership between them.

TS 8 J 17, f. 15 ^{India Book} "old," 380; "final," ch. 6, sec. 15.

A. Proemium

This my letter is for you, my children, so dear to me and with me, may God prolong your life and make your honored position, welfare, happiness, and prosperity permanent, and be for you and with you in all your affairs.

B. The writer's whereabouts and circumstances

Please take ^{note} ~~notice~~ that I arrived in Qūs(!) safely and parted company with the young man who was with me, Ibn al-Dallāla (the son of the Female Broker),⁷¹ and got rid of him completely. He is a bad person with little religion.⁷² I rented a space (in a boat)⁷³ with Yahyā,⁷⁴ and we are ready to depart. But up till now no one has arrived in 'Aydhab,⁷⁵ not even in this year's al-Kārim flotilla.⁷⁶ God is trusted to bring us together well in ^{his} ~~the~~ mercy and..., oh my children, may he keep you alive and bring us together well after successful completion of our (that is: my) affairs.

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C. ^{at having} ~~Regret to have~~ undertaken this voyage. Greetings.

I have set out for this voyage, but had ^I known what I would suffer from yearning after you, I would not have traveled, but come what may, the decisions are God's.⁷⁷

Accept the most perfect greetings, you and your families (wives), take good care of one another, and form a partnership⁷⁸; in this there will be your success. Convey the most excellent greetings to Abū Sa^cd, to his paternal uncle and to his mother⁷⁹; also to our neighbors. Please write me about the well-being of my son Zayn al-Dā^z.⁸⁰ The travelers have arrived here, but I did not notice any letters from you, which disquieted my mind very much. And Peace.

Address, right side;

This letter should arrive] at the House of 'Arūs b. Joseph [and be given to the House⁸¹ of the Levi-m(ay his) s(oul) be) b(ounded up) in the b(undle of Life)⁸²

Deliver and you will be rewarded!⁸³