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C'sh

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Islam

On Ransoming a captive

I wish to inform you, my dear and noble brother, may God lengthen your days and preserve you and give you life and not take you from me, that I was living in Askalon with six thousand shares of wellbeing from the grace of God, when Muslim <sup>Musallan</sup> ibn Abi Sahl came to me and I went with him to Nābulus and I bought his sister for him, and there remained a debt of 60 dinārs. Then he urged me and said 'I beg you, by God, let me go with her to Egypt; perhaps she will be able to obtain part of her ransom money. And then he went and disappeared and left me, and now the payment of the 60 dinārs has fallen due and the Frank has come to me. I tried to find someone who would lend me some money, and I did not succeed with anyone. I sent my son, offering him as pledge against the loan at interest, and did not find anyone willing to accept him as pledge. There is no one left who thinks it licit to do good. What I desire therefore is that of your kindness you speak to him and ask him not to put me off any longer. Let him send me either the gold or the girl. Be urgent with him and summon him before the judges [three words missing], for you know that I have no [some words missing] .. greeting to you and to your children and request you to act for me urgently in this matter for I am [words missing] good terms [?] with the creditor.

To be sent to Bilbays, to my dear brother, Shaykh  
Abu'l-Bahā ibn Ghanā'im, from his brother who kisses his  
hand, Abū Sa'd ibn Ghanā'im.

Geniza document,

Goitein, Tarbitz, xxi, 289-90.