

Notes

- a) See p.
- b) This "Street of the Poor" appears in a number of Geniza papers, both under its Arabic and Hebrew names, and is also known from literary sources. However, the houses mentioned in the Geniza as found in this street were comparatively large buildings, and the same holds true of that referred to in our document (see Note g).
- c) In Cairo, even the houses themselves were at that time government property (cf. Lane-Pool, History of Egypt, p. 140).
- d) About five words are missing here.
- e) Since deathbed wills usually rendered the declarations made by the testator as literally as possible, it is highly probable that this and the following quotations from Talmudic literature were adduced by the dying woman herself. They are either redundant or inappropriate (see Notes i and k).
- f) "The little lady."
- g) No doubt this was far less than the real price, for we read below that four shares formed a dowry large enough to enable a girl to marry and that for the equivalent of two shares in the house, it was possible to transport the body of a dead person from Cairo to Jerusalem and to bury it there, which must have been a costly affair at that time.

- h) "Favorite." Of the name of her father, only the final h is preserved, preceded by two effaced letters. A name like Hibah or Shelah (Hebrew) suggests itself.
- i) A reference to a maxim of Jewish law, based on Numbers 32:20ff.
- k) The meaning intended by this quotation: the daughter of my brother is as close to me as my brother. Its actual meaning was quite different, namely that the children of one's son (in contrast to the children of one's daughter) are like one's own children (cf. Palest. Talmud Yevamoth, ch. 6, para. 6; cf. above Note e).
- l) Obviously the family of the testator's sister had received large presents from her during her lifetime. The declaration was made to protect these gifts against any claims by her legal heirs.