

Mohamed Kashaf

A fragment of Letter

P. Cairo Mus. C. G.10324.SR1301 (recto)
8.2 x 5.5 c. m.

Fayum (?)
IIRD cent. B. C. (?)

The document could be considered as a middle part of a letter. It consists of 6 lines. The left hand margin is 2.1 cm. Unfortunately, both the upper and lower margins are lost. On the right-hand the lines reaches the very edge of the fragment; so the margin on this side is not preserved, while the lines are complete. In spite of the fact that the first line suffers much cutting off, only traces of some letters legatures of this line could appear. Some letters of the text are fading, while others disappeared completely.

This fragmentary papyrus is mounted on chemise. Its verso is no longer visible, possibly blank. The document has no indication for its date or location but in accordance with the paleographical grounds the text would have dated back to the 2nd cent. B.C see e.g. P.Gur.XVIII, XIX (IIcent B. C).

It is notable to mention that the papyri found by the Egyptian Exploration Fund in 1886 by Hunt & Grenfell are originated from the Fayum provenance, and since this fragment is one of that collection, one could safely assume that our fragment would be originated from Fayum see; Arch. Fur. Pap., II, introd ,pp.8 - 84..

For close parallels see P. Gur. XVIII, XIX. (II cent B. C) , P. cong, XV,4& 5(II cent B. C).

The Text

Recto

..... [..... χαιρ]ειν τ
η]ύφράνθημεν ἐπίκτησε παραγενέσθαι
αναλ]αμβάνοντες καταλύσειν σὲ τα ἀδική-
4 ματα οὐ δὲ γὰρ ἄλλην καταφυγὴν
ἔχομεν ἡμεῖς γὰρ εἰωθάμεν τὴν γυ[να]ῖ-
-κα Τενίου τόν .ρ. μεν ... γιγ.

Translation:

We were happy with acquisition got, assuming that you will cancel the injuries. Without any other place of refuge. We have an idea that the wife Tenios[]to

Notes:

1 χαιρ]ειν I should be preceded by the name of the sender and the name of the addressee. The formula δεινός δεῖνω χαιρειν is common in papyri. There are traces of ± 4 letters before the lacuna, it could be the name of the addressee

4- οὐ δὲ γὰρ ἄλλῃν καταφυγὴν .

Such a formula is very rare in papyri. As far as I know, I did not find a similar construction elsewhere, but the nearest one is found in οὐκ ἔχω ἄλλῃν καταφυγὴν, P. Oxy I,130 Line 14(III cent B.C).

6- Τενίου the husband's name Τένιος is not found elsewhere in papyri, (cf. F.Preisigke, Namenbuch & D. Foraboschi, Onomanisticon).but in Foraboschi, Onomanisticon)cf τέννιος in P.Fouad 21(II cent B.C).

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[Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to blurring and orientation. It appears to be a list or set of instructions.]

410

1301-10324

