11. A JEW’S TESTIMONY REGARDING A STATEMENT MADE IN HIS PRESENCE BY A MUSLIM (1681)¹

Werner Diem

ما هو كل اليهود سوا فلان (2) ولان يأكلو من اكلنا ومن لحمته وبيشترو من ال (3) سوق ويجيب لنا نطبخ لهوم وياكلو معنا امه اصلن (4) الطويل الرفيق من عندكم الله يرحمو داک

Arabic Transcription

مه هوم كل اليهود سوا فلان (2) ولان يأكلو من اكلنا ومن لحمته وبيشترو من ال (3) سوق ويجيب لنا نطبخ لهوم وياكلو معنا امه اصلن (4) الطويل الرفيق من عندكم الله يرحمو داک

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² Based on mu‘āmala.

³ Phonetic spelling instead of צגירה אל.

⁴ Feminine form, abbreviated at the end of the line.
Translation

Not all Jews are alike. So-and-so (2) and so-and-so eat from our food and from our meat, and buy from the (3) market and bring (it) to us so that we cook (it) for them, and they eat together with us. Concerning Aṣlān (4) the Tall, who belongs to you (Jews)—may God have mercy on him—he adheres to his (5) religion. He does not eat from our food. He does not taste our dishes. His behaviour is (6) excellent in terms of piety. He and I, and his business partner with him, were at the (7) Sūq Barakātīḥ (market). We, they and I, wanted to cross to Maḥallat Abū ʿAlī on that (8) day, when there was dust and wind. I had something to do in (9) the market, so they went ahead of me and went on the ferry. (When) I came to (10) the river in order to cross to Maḥallat ʿAlī, they told me that (11) Aṣlān the Tall and his companion went on the small ferry. (12) It capsized with them on board and no one escaped from the ferry except for a woman, who grabbed on to the horns of the cow, and she (alone) came out of it.

5 The speaker presupposes the listener’s knowledge of a cow that had been in the ferry.