14. EGYPT: DAMURDĀŠĪ’S CHRONICLE OF EGYPT (FIRST HALF OF 18TH CENTURY)

Jérôme Lentin


Transcription

وبنرجع إلى عبدين باشا اختر سنته٢ سعوا له في عبد الله افندي الزويمجي فارد قتله
فاتها الخبر فوعز ما يعز عليه وقصد دفته وليس ليس قرندلي يلودث وخرج ملبس اخذه معه وما يحتاج إليه الأمر ونزل بولاقي بكسمه ٤ فرح فنزل في معاش٥ وسافر دمياط ومنها نزل في غليون وسافر إلى الشام له معنا [كلام] يوم الثلاثون دور عليه الباشا لم وجده٦ ارسل ضبطن٧ كامل الذي٧ وجده في بيته وكان له بيتين٨ بيت للحريم وبيت للعيله والمطبخ ثم إن الاغا المعين إراد يدخل٩ بيت الحريم معتهو أولاد الحاره وقالوا له لم له شى١٠ في هذا البيت اخذ ما وجد وطلع١١ وجعلوا ان١٢ عليه مال للميري وكان موجب حرصته إى اختياره١٣ في الأوجاق الجاويشية لأنه قد كان يلودث عندهم

Translation

(Crecelius and ʿAbd al-Wahhab Bakr 1991, 199)

Let us come back to ʿAbdīn Bāšā. At the end of his year [as governor], some people worked to set him against ʿAbdallah ʾAfandī the rūznāmji (executive director of the Treasury) and he planned to kill him. But this latter got informed. He distributed the possessions dear to him, cut his beard, dressed up as a Kalandar dervish [qarandali yūldāš], took a saddlebag where he put clothes and things he could need, and went to Būlāq disguised as a servant. He embarked on a germe boat and sailed to Damietta, from where he embarked on a galleon to Syria. We will come back to him later. On Tuesday, he [= ʿAbdīn Bāšā] searched for him but he could not find him. He ordered that everything that could be found in his house be seized. He [= ʿAbdallah ʾAfandī] had two houses, one for his women, and one for his servants and the kitchen. When the appointed ʾāġā wanted to enter the house of the women, the people of the quarter prevented him, saying: “He has nothing in this house.” The ʾāġā [just] confiscated what he had found and left. They [= ʿAbdallah ʾAfandi’s friends] claimed that he owed money to the land administration and that he had rented his shares to the elders [commanding officers] of the Jawīšiyya unit since he was their fellow. By doing that, they protected his shares from the Pasha. They pretended that they had bought them from him two years earlier, and that the renting-
contracts are the best source of information on who pays. ʿAbdallah ʿAfandî lived in Damascus for eight years.

**Commentary**

1. *b-* has inexplicably been omitted in the two editions.

2. For ِdamma in ـه representing the vowel [u] or [o] of the 3ms suffixed pronoun, see Lentin (2012, §3.9, 225–26).

3. ‘saddleback’ (classical ُحَرِّج, colloquial ُحَرَّج).

4. In Egyptian MA texts, verbs of movement often take a direct object (as they do in colloquial); cf. ُسَافَرُ دِمِيَاطُ (but note ُسَافَرْ إِلَى الشَّامِ).

5. ‘clothes, dress’ (colloquial).

6. مُعَاش a kind of (small) boat.

7. The form ُكَلَّامُ is rightly restored by the editors. This expression is frequently used in the text, as is also common in ‘popular’ literature, especially in the ُسِيْرَات.


9. اَرْسَلْ ضَبْط. Similar to ُبَأَثَة/بَأَثَت, the verb ُأَرْسَالُ(a) often functions as a factitive auxiliary (see Lentin 1997, §14.5.1, 633–36); the auxiliary verb is generally in the perfect.

10. ُكَامِلُ الْذِّي وَجَدَهُ. In Egyptian MA texts, ُكَامِلُ is the most common quantifier for ‘all, whole, entire’, even before a singular (pro)noun, as is the case here. It is the exact equivalent of Levantine MA ُجَمِيع (see text II.9, no. 5).

11. ُكَانَ لَهُ بِتَيْنِ. The former oblique case of the dual form ُ-أَيْنٌ/ ُ-عِن is the dominant form used in MA, regardless of the syntactic function of the noun (exactly like ُ-بَا in the sound mpl form, see text II.9, no. 13).
Modal auxiliaries are very often asyndetically constructed in MA texts.

For *lam* negating some types of nominal clauses see Lentin (1997, 782).

The colloquial verb طلع is the normal (Near Eastern) MA verb for ‘to walk out, go away, leave’.

For the meaning ‘to claim, pretend to’, see Dozy (1881, I 198).

Plural of اختيار ‘old man, senior’.

Colloquial turn of phrase indicating duration: prep. *ل* + pers. pron. + noun indicating a period of time + predicative clause ‘he... for a (two, three...) year(s)/month(s)’.