

of the garrison of Sewen: the temple in the garrison of Jeb should be destroyed. Thereupon Nephtan brought Egyptian and other troops; they came with their . . . to the garrison of Jeb, forced their way into this temple, and destroyed it down to the ground.

The stone pillars that were therein they broke in pieces; also this happened, that they destroyed the five entrances built of hewn stone that were in this temple; the door-leaves only left they standing and the brazen hinges of these door-leaves; the roof which consisted entirely of cedar beams with the rest of the (wall?) and whatever else was there, have they utterly burnt up with fire. The gold and sprinkling urns, and the utensils that were in the temple, all that have they robbed and appropriated.

But already in the days of the Kings of Egypt had our fathers built this temple in the garrison of Jeb; and when Cambyzes invaded Egypt, he found this temple already constructed; and the temples of the Gods of Egypt were all torn down; on the other hand no one inflicted any damage on anything connected with this temple.

After they (Waidrang and the priests of Chnub) had acted as told above, we, with our wives and children, wore sackcloth, fasted, and prayed to Yahu, the God of Heaven, who has given us an answer even in this Chalibiter Waidrang: the buckles have been taken from his feet; all the treasures that he had acquired have been lost; and all the men that wished evil to this temple, so they have all perished; that have we seen (with joy.)

Moreover we wrote formerly, at the time this misfortune befel us, a letter to you our Lord, also to Jehochanan, the High Priest, and to his colleagues, the priests of Jerusalem, and to his brother Ostan, that is Anami; and to the nobles of the

Jews; but they have sent us back no letter.

And since the Tammuz day of the fourteenth year of King Darius, even to this day, we wear sackcloth, and fast; our wives have become as a widow—also marriage does not take place in such mourning—we have neither annointed ourselves with oil, nor drunk wine.

Also from that time to this day of the seventeenth year of King Darius, have we in this temple offered no meat offering, incense, or dance.

Now, thus speak thy servants Jedoniah with his colleagues, and the Jews, all citizens of Jeb: If to our Lord it seems good, trouble thyself about this temple, to rebuild it, as it is not allowed to us to build it again. Think of those here in Egypt who have received thy benefits and favour. Let a note be sent from thee to them touching this temple of the God Yahu, to rebuild it in the garrison of Jeb, even as it was formerly. So shall we offer in thy name, on the altar of the God Yahu, meat offering, and incense, with dancing; and we shall at all times, with our wives and children, and all the Jews here, pray for thee, as indeed shall be done till this temple is rebuilt.

And thou shalt have a portion before Yahu, the God of Heaven, from each one that offers to him a dance offering and tithe offerings, to the value of 1000 Knhr of silver. And with respect to the gold, thereon have we sent a message and communication. All these things have we in a letter in our own name communicated to Delaya and Shelamja, the sons of Sanballat, Governor of Samaria. Also, of all that has happened to us, Arsham has had no knowledge.

On the 20th of Marchesvan (November) of the seventeenth year of King Darius."

That the request was complied with is shewn from another leaf that has been found, in several different