The Second Section (\textit{al-Qiṣṣa al-thāniyya})

2.1 \textit{Ad 2:1–4}

\textit{(י̊ 32r–33r; ס״ת 303–304)}

(2:1) After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done, and what had been decreed\textsuperscript{1} against her.

(2:2) Then the king's young men who were waiting upon him said, "Let young virgin women who are pleasing of appearance be sought out for him.

(2:3) "And let the king appoint agents\textsuperscript{2} throughout all the provinces\textsuperscript{3} of his

\textsuperscript{1} "had been decreed"—so (reading \textit{quṭiʿa}), per the MT passive רַזְגִּנ, though the unvocalized Judaeo-Arabic form (כשת) can also be construed here in the active voice (viz., \textit{qaṭaʿa}, "he had decreed").

\textsuperscript{2} Ar. \textit{wukalāʾ} (rendering Heb. וֹתֹאדֵקְפַּיַּו, as also in Gen 41:34, Saadia's only other extant rendering of this biblical lexeme), signifying those who were to do the work of gathering the virgins. This specific equivalency of \textit{םיִדיִקְפּ/wukalāʿ} in the present verse (\textit{inter alia}) is also adopted by Salmon, \textit{Esther}, ad loc. (MS NLR Evr.-Arab. II 3350, fol. 4'); Yefet, \textit{Esther}, 15\textsuperscript{5} (Ar.) / 189 (Eng.); al-Fāsī, \textit{Jāmīʿ}, 2:477; Tanḥum, \textit{Esther}, אב (Ar.) / 215 (Eng.) (likewise in his comment on 2 Kgs 11:18; per Tal, "Methods," 216); and, as a general equivalency (without specific reference to the present verse), by Ibn Janāḥ, \textit{alus}, 582. Cf., by contrast, the equation of \textit{פקדיס} ad loc. with 'ummāl ("administrators/overseers," hence signifying those who were to delegate and oversee the ones who did the actual work of gathering the virgins) adopted by Saadia's pupil Samuel b. Hofni, in his comment on Gen 41:34 (Commentary, הלקז–לזמ: קהל–ווקולא: קהל. And Solomon saw that the young man was doing the work himself, and so he made him the (official) agent (וֹתֹאדֵקְפַּיַּו) of all the labor of the house of Joseph (1 Kgs 11:28); the other type are 'administrators' ('ummāl) who are acknowledged throughout the administrative districts, as in the passage, \textit{And let the king appoint administrators in all the provinces of his kingdom} (Esth 2:3)").

\textsuperscript{3} Ar. \textit{mudun} (rendering Heb. \textit{כַּרְינוֹן}), on this sense of which see p. 114, n. 2 above.
"and let them gather"—so (Ar. wa-yahshu’irū), indicating Saadia’s construal of as a direct (i.e., juxtaposed) jussive (thus also Salmon, Esther, trans. [MS NLR Evr-Arab. II 3350, fol. 4’]: וּצְבְּקִיְו), rather than an indirect (i.e., subordinate-final) jussive (so, e.g., Yefet, Esther, trans. [15” (Ar.) /189 (Eng.)]: [יֵקוּרְמַת (יֵקוּרְמַת) (א)חשאקלט לשטוננהא לאבש[ב] (בייתכדכוקזחל) אקרמלךשבאמטמעיםירצוילשברהטמיסוי׳ר). On both types of jussive and their general indistinguishability, see Joüon and Muraoka, Grammar, 2:381, 383 (§§116a, d).

"the fortress"—Ar. al-jawsaq, on this sense of which see p. 125, n. 51 above.

"cosmetics"—Ar. ghumar (< sg. ghumra, as in his comment on Prov 20:30, cited below, and al-Fāsī, Jāmiʿ, 2:233), by which Saadia may specifically intend clarifying and cleansing cosmetics (as opposed to coloring cosmetics [see al-Bustānī below] or cosmetics in general), as expressly defined by Ibn Janāḥ, Usūl, 393 (s.v. מרופרותו (ו) הנושה. בית מרופרותו או העזר הגילה המتنظيفה לשבضر הנשים). Onboth types of jussive and their general indistinguishability, see Joüon and Muraoka, Grammar, 2:381, 383 (§§116a, d).

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