

English Translation of the Orthodox Aramaic Text

On the _____ day of the week, the _____ day of the month _____ in the year five thousand seven hundred and _____ since the creation of the world according to the reckoning which we are accustomed to use here in the city of _____ in _____. That _____ son of _____ of the family _____ said to this maiden _____ daughter of _____ of the family _____, "Be my wife according to the law of Moses & Israel, and I will cherish, honor, support & maintain you in accordance with the custom of Jewish husbands, who cherish, honor, support & maintain their wives faithfully. And I here present you with the marriage gift of virgins, two hundred silver zuzim, which belongs to you, according to the laws of Moses & Israel; and I will also give you food, clothing & necessities, and live with you as husband & wife according to the universal custom." And _____, this maiden consented and became his wife. The trousseau that she brought to him from her father's house in silver, gold, valuables, clothing, furniture & bedclothes, all this _____, the bridegroom accepted in the sum of one hundred silver pieces, and _____ the bridegroom consented to increase this amount from his own property with the sum of one hundred silver pieces, making in all two hundred silver pieces. And thus said _____ the bridegroom, "the responsibility of this marriage contract, of this trousseau, and of this additional sum, I take upon myself & my heirs after me, so that they shall be paid from the best part of my property & possessions that I have beneath the whole heaven, that which I now possess or may hereafter acquire. All my property, real & personal, even the shirt from my back, shall be mortgaged to secure the payment of this marriage contract, of the trousseau & of the addition made to it, during my lifetime and after my death, from the present day and forever." _____ the bridegroom, has taken responsibility of this marriage contract, of the trousseau & the addition made to it, according to the restrictive usages of all marriage contracts and the additions to them made for the daughters of Israel, according to the institutions of our sages of blessed memory. It is not to be regarded as an indecisive contractual obligation or as a mere formula of a document. We have followed the legal formality of symbolic delivery (kinyan) between _____ son of _____ and _____ daughter of _____ this maiden and we have used a garment legally fit for the purpose, to strengthen all that is stated above.