

## **Estêvão da Guarda and Josepe**

Rubrica

– Joseph, just one question:  
Did you pay what you owe  
to your collectors, fellow  
Jews – the required payment  
for your kind, rich and poor,  
or did a certain Sir  
suggest you were exempt?

– It's only natural, Steven,  
that we Jews appraise our own,  
but our collectors show  
no mercy, no compassion.  
That man pays what's proper,  
as do I, but when the number's  
high, seeks an exemption.

– Joseph, that's ridiculous –  
every payer's equal,  
and must give his legal  
share. There's no privilege,  
not for your collectors,  
who settle up like other  
men: there's no forgiveness.

– Steven, for the dereliction  
that you mention, he appeared  
before the court, to plead  
his case – he said he'd given  
a large sum, had no more  
debts, and even swore  
he'd prove his payment.

[...]

– Don No One, who hates me, says  
I lie about my worth,  
and about the health

of my estate – you know best,  
Steven, that I always pay,  
and that the public can see  
a list of all my assets.

– Joseph, I now realize  
what you speak is truth,  
that your fee befits your wealth.  
As wine from Alhariz  
is strong, so I'm certain–  
That Sir, who meant to gain,  
will face a higher justice.

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