## 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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