

BGU 4.1058

P.Berol. 13068 verso

Other editions: Sudhoff, *Ärztliches* pp. 159-160; Mitteis, *Chrest.* 170; CPG 1.4, the text translated here; Migliardi Zingale, *Vita privata* 4; Straus, *L'esclave* 2

Other translations: Thierfelder, *Unbekannte antike Welt*, pp. 22-23; Manca Masciadri and Montevecchi, CPG 1, p. 59 (repeated in Migliardi Zingale, *Vita privata*, pp. 7-9); Rowlandson, *Woman and Society*, pp. 275-276; Schubert, *Vivre en Égypte*, pp. 56-57; Straus, *L'esclave*, pp. 7-8; Modrzejewski, *Le droit grec après Alexandre*, pp. 111-113

Scan: Berliner Papyrusdatenbank

Other texts on the recto: BGU 4.1133, 1138

Wetnursing contract (*synchoresis*)

March 30, 13 BC

(a) *Adressee*

|¹ To Protarchos,

(b1) *Party 1*

|² from Sillis, the son of Ptolemaios, of the deme of Philometor,

(b2) *Party 2*

and |³ from his mother, Philotera, the daughter of |⁴ Theodoros, a Persian, with as guardian her husband |⁵ Ptolemaios, the son of Sillis, of the deme of Philometor.

(c) *Agreement to nurse a child for wages*

|⁶ Concerning the points at issue, |⁷ Philotera agrees that she will provide her own slave |⁸ Zosime for a period of two years from Pharmouthi |⁹ of the present 17th year of Caesar (*Augustus*) to nurse |¹⁰ and suckle in the home of Philotera herself |¹² his female infant foundling slave child, |¹³ whose name is Agalvation, |¹¹ whom Sillis (*papyrus reads: Skillis*) has handed over to her, |¹³ for the wages agreed upon |¹⁴ for the milk and the nursing |¹⁵ including oil and food: twelve silver drachmas each month,

(d) *Receipt of wages in advance*

|¹⁸ and Philotera has right now received from Sillis, |¹⁹ in cash and not through a bank, |¹⁶ the aggregate sum of the nursing |¹⁷ wages for two years, 288 silver drachmas,

(e) *Child mortality clause*

and Philotera agrees, if it so happens that the aforementioned |²⁰ child Agalvation suffer a fatality |²¹ within the two years, |²² after taking up another child, necessarily to provide |²³ her slave girl to nurse it, and to make her |²⁴ completely available for whatever (*child*) she takes up, for two whole |²⁵ years, receiving nothing at all on account of the fact that |²⁶ she has undertaken to nurse (*a child*) on condition that death does not result in loss to the owner,

(f) *Nurse's (owner's) obligations*

and she agrees from ^{|27} now on to provide her slave seeing ^{|28} to her own and the child's proper ^{|29} care by not ruining her milk ^{|30} or lying with a man or becoming pregnant again ^{|31} or taking another child to suckle in addition, and she agrees that whatever ^{|32} of this man (*Sillis*)'s things she receives or is entrusted with ^{|33} she will keep safe and will give back whenever it is asked ^{|34} for, or else she agrees that she will pay the value of each except in case of ^{|35} evident wear and tear, in which case, once it has been ^{|36} made clear, she should be released (*from liability*; BGU 4, p. 161), and she agrees not to abandon the ^{|37} nursing within the time,

(g) *Penalty clause*

and she agrees, if she transgresses any of these ^{|38} (*provisions*), to pay back the ^{|39} sum of the nursing wages she has received along with half as much again ^{|40} and the damages and expenses and another ^{|41} penalty of 500 silver drachmas and the statutory ^{|42} penalty (*to the state*), while the right of execution (*of the claim*) belongs to Sillis ^{|43} from Philotera herself and from ^{|44} all her belongings just as if by virtue of a ^{|45} legal decision, while all safe-conducts ^{|46} (*and*) every kind of protection she adduces are ineffective,

(h) *Memorandum about another child*

^{|49} and she agrees that the agreement ^{|48} Philotera has made with Sillis concerning a slave child ^{|50} nursed in the company of the other ^{|47} remains effective and secure.

(i) *Joint request for registration*

We request (*registration*).

(j) *Date*

^{|51}Year 17 of Caesar (*Augustus*), Pharmouthi 14.