Petition (*ʿArżuḥāl*) and Literature are Intertwined: Various Couplets Written on a Petition

Dilek Seniha Cenez Ülker

Author:

PhD Candidate, Istanbul University, Institute of Social Sciences, Department of History
dilekseniha.cenez@ogr.iu.edu.tr
ORCID: 0000-0002-1220-6191

Keywords:

ʿarżuḥāl, *mābeyn kitābeti*, *kātib*, Ottoman manuscripts, Diplomatica, Scribe

Cite this article:

Cenez Ülker, Dilek Seniha. "Petition (*ʿArżuḥāl*) and Literature are Intertwined: Various Couplets Written on a Petition" *Keshif*: E-Journal for Ottoman-Turkish Micro Editions 1/2 (Summer 2023): 25-31.
Available under http://doi.org/10.25365/kshf-23-02-05

Article DOI http://doi.org/10.25365/kshf-23-02-05
Published online November 15, 2023
© 2023 Dilek Seniha Cenez Ülker, 2023 published by *Keshif*: E-Journal for Ottoman-Turkish Micro Editions.
This is an Open Access article licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0. International License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Context

Considering the geographies governed by the Ottoman Empire, it is quite possible that various correspondence, documents or bureaucratic documentation in many archives and libraries other than the Ottoman Archives based in İstanbul could come to light. The document under examination here was also accessed in this respect. The document which is found in the *Manuscripts and Old Printed Works* section of the Austrian National Library under the shelfmark Cod. H.O.143 in folio 2V, is categorized as a petition in terms of diplomacy. And also, this manuscript is a judicial miscellany which belonged to the famous Austrian historian Joseph von Hammer Purgstall (1774-1856).

An *ʿarżuḥāl* is a document written by a person from a rank below to a higher authority to present a request or a complaint.[1] In the petition under examination, İskender, a scribe (*kātib*) who was still in employment and who stood out among the other scribes with his skills, is requested to be assigned to the secretariat of the Ottoman administration (*Mābeyn Kitābeti*) in Požega (Pojega).[2] If we analyse the signature at the end of the petition, we can see that the petitioner and the employer of İskender's is Ali (*Aḫlaṣu'l-vedād ʿAlī el-faḳīr*). What makes this document remarkable are the couplets written at the end of the document. Famous Şeyhü'l-islām Ebū's-suʿūd Efendi[3] who also had a literary works as a poet[4] is referred to in the second couplet. Except for the first and fourth couplets, we have not been able to determine to whom the other couplets belong. Accordingly, the first couple belongs to Sādıkī (in *Tāhmīs-i Sādıkī*)[5] and the fourth couple belongs to Osmanzāde Ahmed Tāib.[6] Apart from the couplet, although no date is given in the document, the dates when the Paşa named İbrahim became the

---

1 Mübahat S. Kütükoğlu, *Osmanlı Belgelerinin Dili: Diplomatik*, (İstanbul: Kubbealtı Akademisi Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı Yayınları, 1994), 303.

2 Pojega was a sanjak of the Bosnian province in 1580. See, Tahir Sezen, *Osmanlı Yer Adları*, (Ankara: Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2006), 412.

3 Ahmed Akgündüz, "Ebussuud Efendi", *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi*, 1994, X, 365-371.

4 Akgündüz, "Ebussuud Efendi", 370.

5 Tuğba Yiğit, *Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi Atıf Efendi Bölümü 2254 Numaradaki Şiir Mecmuası: 55a-99a Varakları Arası Transkripsiyonlu Metin ve İnceleme*, (Master thesiss, Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi, 2018), 112-113.

6 Murat Turğut, Osmanzāde Ahmed Tāib'in Ahlāk-ı Ahmedī isimli Eseri: İnceleme-Metin-İndeks, (Dicle Üniversitesi, 2019), 133.

Yeniçeri Ağası and *Beylerbeyi* are also recorded. We searched the Ottoman archives to identify İbrahim Paşa and found official records related to his position.[7] Furthermore, this note has nothing to do with the rest of the text. It may even have been added later by someone else.

Transcription

1) feʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilün

Dime cānāneye aġyār-la ṣoḥbet itme

Seni sevsin dir-iseñ aña naṣīḥat itme

2) *Merḥūm Müftī Ebū's-suʿūd Efendi'nüñdür.*

fāʿilātün – fāʿilātün – fāʿilātün – fāʿilün

ʿĀḳıbet ḥayretden özge nesne taḥṣīl itmedüm

Müntehā-yı rāh-ı ʿirfān ʿālem-i ḥayret gibi

3) *lehu*

fāʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilün

Ol cefālar ḳılıcı paslı Ṭımışḳī cāhil

Yārdan kesdi bizi miṣāl-le [?] *Frenk olsun*

4) *lehu*

mefāʿīlü – feʿūlün – mefāʿīlü – feʿūlün

Bülend-himmet ü ʿālī-naẓar gerek ādem

Ki himmetine göre kişide olur miḳdār

5) *lehu*

mefāʿīlün – mefāʿīlün – feʿūlün

Ġanīmet bil hużūr-ı dostānı

Vefāsuzdur vefāmuz bil sen anı

---

7 For the period when Paşa was Yeniçeri Ağası, See. BOA, *MD.43*,122. And for the period when Paşa was Beylerbeyi, See, BOA, *MD.43*, 84.

6) *lehu*

fāʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilātün – feʿilün

Cümle keyfiyeti gördük mey ü ney her ne ki var

Bāḳīsin añlamaduḳ aṣḳ u muḥabbetden eyü

7) Temme

8) *İbrāhīm Paşa 987 yeñiçeri aġası oldı, 990 senesinde beylerbegi oldı*

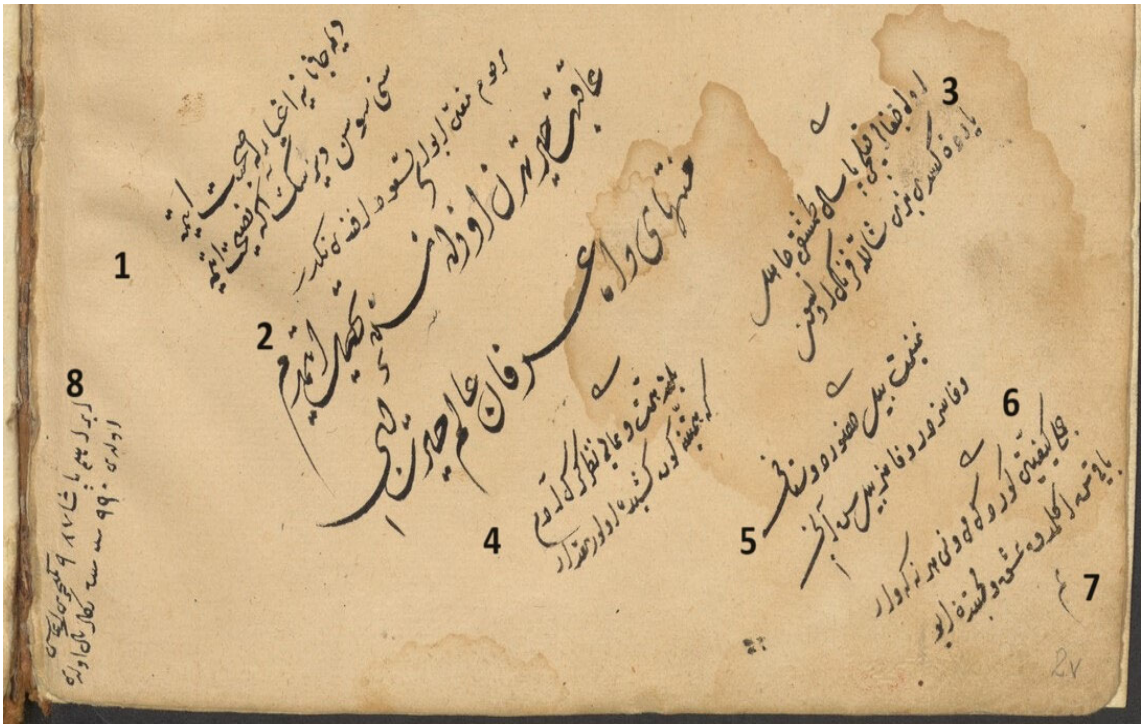
Translation

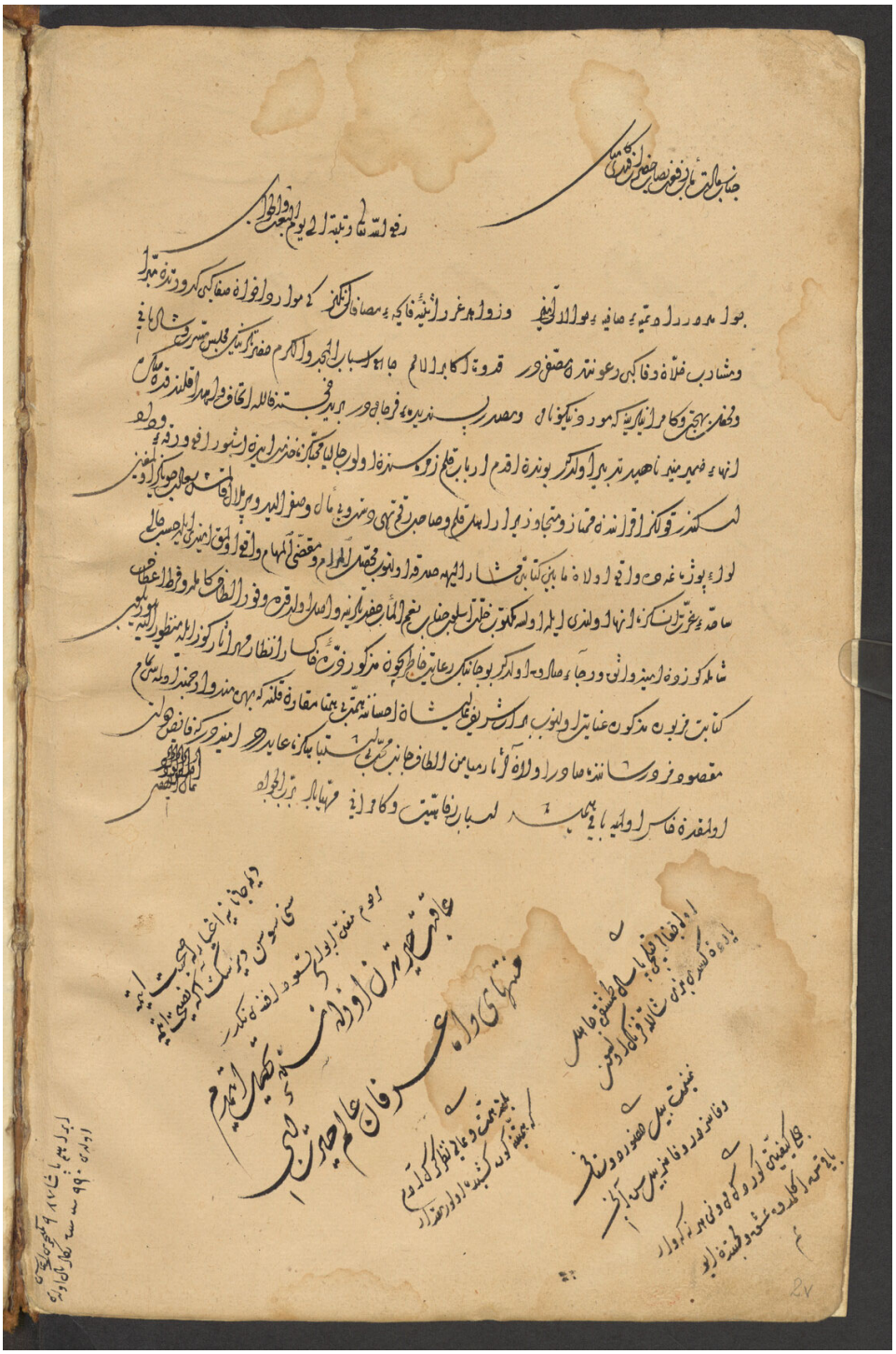
1) Do not tell your lover, do not speak with the strangers
   If you want her/him to love you, don't advise her/him.
   It belongs to the deceased Sheikhulislam Ebu's-suʿūd Efendi.
2) At the end I attained nothing but astonishment.
   The end of the path of knowledge is like the world of astonishment
3) The sword of those miseries is rusty, absolutely ignorant
   It separated us from the lover by order, let it be Frank. [?]
4) Man needs great endeavour and far sight
   That every day is a testimony to man's endeavour
5) Consider the presence of friends as a booty.
   Our loyalty is disloyal, know that.
6) We've seen the every aspect of [the world], wine, ney, whatever it is
   The rest we did not understand better than love and affection.

7) Finished

8) İbrahim Pasha became the Janissary agha in 987 (1579/1580), became Beglerbegi in 990 (1582/1583).

Facsimile





Bibliography

Akgündüz, Ahmed. "Ebussuud Efendi", *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi*. X, 1994.

Kütükoğlu, Mübahat S. *Osmanlı Belgelerinin Dili-Diplomatik*. İstanbul: Kubbealtı Akademisi Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı Yayınları, 1994.

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Handschriften und Alte Drucke. Cod. H.O.143

Sezen, Tahir. *Osmanlı Yer Adları*. Ankara: Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2006

Turğut, Murat. *Osmanzāde Ahmed Tāib'in Ahlāk-ı Ahmedī isimli Eseri / İnceleme-Metin-İndeks*. Dicle Üniversitesi: 2019.

Yiğit, Tuğba. Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi Atıf Efendi Bölümü 2254 Numaradaki Şiir Mecmuası: 55a-99a Varakları Arası Transkripsiyonlu Metin ve İnceleme. Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi, 2018.

https://www.ttk.gov.tr/tarih-cevirme-kilavuzu/