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 Agalmation, |[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 Agalmation 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.