

## Claude Opus 4.6 Extended

April 18, 2026

[Fourteenth Century ACA Transcriptions and Translations/](#)

I have another document in Latin from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Please do your best to transcribe for Stage 1.

7:08 AM

Examined medieval Latin manuscript for careful transcription

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Let me examine the image closely.

This is a royal mandate from Joan I concerning the legal status and protections of Jews in his domains. The document is written in a fairly legible Gothic secretarial hand, though some passages are dense with abbreviations. Here's my Stage 1 transcription:

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**Document type:** Royal mandate / general privilege confirmation concerning Jewish legal protections

**Principal actors:** Joan I of Aragon (*Nos Iohannes etc.*)

**Date:** Given at Barcelona; the dating formula at the bottom is partially cut off but appears to read *dat[um] Barchinone* with a date I'll address below.

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### Stage 1 Transcription:

Nos Iohannes et cetera. Quia ut informati sumus [?] non legem ebraycam scire est magis de lege qui [?] Rabinis per [?] iudeos ebraico ydeomate [?] nominare [?] asociaciones fere smany [?] / in odis [?] et singulis casibus in quibus per dictam legem debar [?] cora [?] quoscumque p[er]sone [?] / Et eos Gydo [?] cresio [?] iudy [?] qui ultra [?] per [?] alios iudeos magis [?] minus [?] / a [?] minori comparecio [?] et exigris [?] per rabinos dicte legis Suburonis [?] absque mei [?] spali [?] commissione programa / ostendimus [?] non [?] penis casibus imaginariis [?] ne asoltos [?] formidados [?] / per [?] ita cum [?] quilibet /

licere debat [?] scire regulas suas per legis [?] / Tenor eius [?] concessiorum [?] est [?] per  
predictas / programa attestabitur [?] in tanto et [?] iudeis [?] non [?] solent [?] libere si [?]  
primis [?] / Exordimis [?] et / et [?] pro his regnor[um] [?] per iudeos / punis cohernos [?] /  
Consules prioratas et quecumque [?] comedia [?] tra / quilliq [?] consules [?] / Mandantes  
protande Gubernatori nostro genali eiusque vicesgerentibus / vicariis baiulis et cetera / ac  
consulis [?] et singulis officialibus nostris / nemo secretariis et / adelantis ac Bitoribus [?]  
quascumque aliamaque [?] iudeorum nostri domini [?] / et cuiusque singularibus nostris  
[?] / quatinus [?] per omnis [?] et [?] quicquid officialem [?] locatenentis [?] quisquis [?]  
consilionis [?] nostram [?] quam [?] sub [?] teneant / firmament [?] et observent [?] eamque  
[?] / Et [?] vos eis [?] libere perpitar [?] mandamus [?] obstantio [?] quibuslibet [?] / in cuius /  
rei testimonium [?] hanc fieris [?] sigillo nostro pendenti communitam [?]. Datum  
Barchinone primo [?] / die aprilis anno a nativitate domini millesimo .ccc. lxxxo vijo [?] .  
ffranciscus ça costa [?]

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### Preliminary observations:

This is a very difficult text with a high density of uncertain readings. A few things I'm fairly confident about:

1. **Opening:** *Nos Iohannes et cetera* — standard abbreviated intitlatio for Joan I.
2. **Subject matter:** This concerns the legal rights of Jews (*iudeos*) in relation to Hebrew law (*legem ebraycam*), rabbis (*Rabinis/rabinos*), and the freedom to know and practice their own legal traditions. The narratio appears to argue that knowledge of Hebrew law is a matter internal to the Jewish community and should not be subject to outside interference.
3. **Dispositio:** The *Mandantes* clause addresses the Governor General (*Gubernatori nostro genali*), his deputies (*vicesgerentibus*), vicars, batlles, and other officials, as well as Jewish communal officers — *secretariis, adelantis* (Castilian *adelantados*, communal leaders) — ordering them to observe and enforce this provision.
4. **Corroboration and date:** Sealed with the pendant seal. Dated at Barcelona, apparently 1 April 1387 (*primo die aprilis anno a nativitate domini millesimo .ccc. lxxxo vijo*). The vice-chancellor's signature is **Franciscus ça Costa**, consistent with the early months of Joan I's reign.
5. **Register:** The reference to Jewish communal governance terminology (*secretariis, adelantis*) alongside standard Crown officials is notable and consistent with Joan I's early confirmations of Jewish communal privileges upon his accession.

This one will benefit substantially from HTR reconciliation — the narratio in particular is very dense and my confidence in many readings is low. Ready for Stage 2 whenever you have the HTR output.

Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: [1] Nos Johannes dei gra[tia] Rex Aragonu[m] etc. Quia n[ost]re informati sum[us] q[uod] s[ecundu]m legem ebrayca[m] fia[m] est magis [2] dicte legis quu[m] rabinis seu iudeos ebraycos ydoneos nomiatur et p[ro]nunciandis sicut [3] mayus in o[mn]ib[us] et singlis casibus in quib[us] p[er] tota[m] lege[m] h[ab]ent curra[m] quoviscunq[ue] [4] p[ro]ferri. Et cum Eyone Mosse iudeo qui vulgo iudex int[er] alios iudeos magis nuncupat[ur] [5] p[er] n[ost]ra[m] gra[tia]m sicut est de mag[ist]ris seu rabinis d[ic]te legis dubitans absq[ue] t[er]m[in]i spacio p[er]missus p[re]rogatiua [6] p[ro]nunciandi seu pone casibus iudicantur tunc ambos f[ir]mando. P[ro]pterea cu[m] auctor[itate] [7] ha[be]at s[ecundu]m reglas co[m]mu[n]e sue legis. Tenore p[rese]ntis co[n]cedim[us] vob[is] q[uod] p[re]dicta [8] p[re]rogatiua et potestate in cartis su[m]ptone seu sculvatis libris et p[er]p[et]uis. Mandat[es] et [9] q[uod] p[er] vos sic p[ro]nunciat[um] int[er] iudeos p[ro]uerit(?) coherco(?) s[ecundu]m p[ro]cessus solutas et exme[n]da reme[...] [10] q[uod] nullis co[n]fusu[m]. Mandantes itaq[ue] vniuersis Gubernatori n[ost]ro gen[er]ali regni Valentie [11] Vicarys baylis azorym ac co[n]su[m]p[ti]s et singulis officialib[us] n[ost]ris / nimo s[ec]r[et]arys et [12] adelatanis ac rectorib[us] quarumcunq[ue] aliamar[um] iudeorum n[ost]ri d[omi]n[i] et eorum singlarib[us] n[ost]ris [13] p[rese]ntib[us] et futis et eorum officialiu[m] locatenentib[us] q[uod] co[n]cessione[m] n[ost]ram h[uius]m[od]i vob[is] teneat [14] firmiter et obs[er]uent eaq[ue] vob[is] vos uti libere p[er]mittant quocunq[ue] obstaculo q[ui]essem[us]. In cui[us] [15] rei testimoni[u]m p[rese]ntem fieri fecim[us] sigillo n[ost]ro iussimus co[m]muniry. Dat[um] Bar[chino]ne octauo [16] die aprilis anno a nat[ivitat]e d[omi]ni M° CCC° lxxx° vij°. francisc[us] de costa.

Show more

7:11 AM

Reconciled manuscript transcription against HTR output systematically

Reconciled manuscript transcription against HTR output systematically

Thank you, Jonathan. This HTR output is substantially more coherent than my initial reading on many passages. Let me work through the reconciliation systematically.

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## Stage 2 Reconciliation

### (A) Where HTR corrects Claude

The HTR is clearly superior in numerous places:

1. **Line 1:** HTR's *Quia nos informati sumus quod secundum legem ebraycam* is far better than my garbled reading. "Because we have been informed that according to Hebrew law..." gives the narratio a logical opening.
2. **Line 2:** HTR's *dicte legis quam rabinis seu iudeos ebraycos ydoneos nominatur et pronunciandis* is coherent where mine was not — this refers to qualified (*ydoneos*) persons nominated as rabbis or Jewish judges for pronouncing judgments.
3. **Line 3:** *omnibus et singulis casibus* — standard formulaic language I should have caught. HTR's *per totam legem habent curram* (they have jurisdiction through the entire law) is plausible.
4. **Line 4:** This is a major correction. The HTR identifies a named individual: **Eyone Mosse** (*Et cum Eyone Mosse iudeo qui vulgo iudex inter alios iudeos magis nuncupatur*) — a Jew who is commonly called judge among other Jews. My reading was entirely garbled here. This transforms the document from a general privilege into a specific grant to a named person.
5. **Line 5:** HTR's *magistris seu rabinis dicte legis* (masters or rabbis of said law) and *prerogativa* are clearly correct against my readings.
6. **Line 7:** HTR's *Tenore presentis concedimus vobis quod predicta* is the correct formula — "By the tenor of the present [letter] we grant to you that the aforesaid..." This is the operative dispositio, and my reading missed the key verb *concedimus*.
7. **Line 10–11:** HTR's *Mandantes itaque* is correct over my *protande*. The list of officials receiving the mandate is better in the HTR overall.
8. **Line 12:** HTR's *rectoribus quarumcunque aliamarum iudeorum nostri dominii* is clearly correct — "rectors of whichever aljamas of Jews of our dominion." My *Bitoribus* was a misreading for *rectoribus*, and crucially *aliamarum* (aljamas) is the standard technical term.
9. **Line 13:** HTR's *presentibus et futuris et eorum officialium locatenentibus quod concessionem nostram huiusmodi vobis teneat* is standard and correct.
10. **Line 14:** *firmiter et observent eaque vobis vos uti libere permittant* — standard enforcement clause, much cleaner than my attempt.
11. **Line 15:** *presentem fieri fecimus sigillo nostro iussimus communiri* — correct corroboration formula.

## (B) Where Claude's reading is preferred or both are comparable

1. **Line 1, intitlatio:** The manuscript appears to have *Nos Iohannes etc.* in a highly compressed abbreviation after the name. The HTR expands this as *dei gratia Rex Aragonum etc.*, which is the correct full form but both are functionally equivalent — it's just a question of how much was written vs. abbreviated. I'd render this as *Nos Iohannes [dei gratia Rex Aragonum] etc.*
2. **Line 4, the name:** I need to flag that "Eyone Mosse" is the HTR's reading of what I could not resolve. Looking at the manuscript, the first name is genuinely difficult. It could be *Eyone*, *Eyoue*, *Ayone*, or similar. *Mosse* (Mossé) is a common Jewish name in Aragonese documents and seems secure. The first element needs archival verification.
3. **Line 15–16, the vice-chancellor's name:** My reading *ffrancisus ça Costa* reflects the standard Catalan form of this vice-chancellor's name (Francesc ça Costa). The HTR's *francisus de costa* is a plausible Latinization. Looking at the manuscript, the particle between the names appears to be *ça* rather than *de*, consistent with our previous documents. **Claude's reading preferred.**

## (C) Where both readings are uncertain

1. **Line 1:** The word between *ebraycam* and *est magis* — my *scire*, HTR's *fiam* — neither is fully convincing. Contextually *scire* (to know) works better ("to know [the law] is more a matter of said law than..."), but the letter-forms are unclear. [?]
2. **Lines 5–6:** The passage around *dubitans absque termini spacio permissus prerogativa pronunciandi seu pone casibus* — both readings are partially garbled. The general sense seems to be about the prerogative of pronouncing judgments without limitation, but the exact wording is uncertain in both sources.
3. **Lines 8–9:** The passage after the *concedimus* clause — HTR's *in cartis sumptone seu sculvatis libris et perpetuis* and what follows is not fully coherent. The general sense appears to concern the exercise of the granted prerogative and enforcement of judgments pronounced by the grantee, but specific words remain unresolved.
4. **Date — primo vs. octauo:** My reading was *primo die aprilis* (April 1), the HTR reads *octauo die aprilis* (April 8). Looking at the manuscript, the word before *die* is compressed. The HTR's *octauo* seems more plausible given the letter-forms, but this should be verified. I'll adopt *octauo* [?] provisionally.
5. **Line 3:** *quoviscunque* (HTR) — probably *quibuscunque* or *quouis [cunque]*, but the exact form is uncertain.

6. **Line 10:** HTR specifies *regni Valentie* after *Gubernatori nostro generali* — this would restrict the mandate to the kingdom of Valencia specifically rather than being a general mandate. Looking at the manuscript, I can see additional text after *generali* but cannot confirm *regni Valentie* with confidence. This has significant implications for the document's scope. **[?] — flag for archival verification.**

#### (D) Reconciled Transcription

Nos Iohannes [dei gratia Rex Aragonum] et cetera. Quia nos informati sumus quod secundum legem ebraycam scire [?] est magis dicte legis quam rabinis seu iudeos ebraycos ydoneos nominatur et pronuntiandis sicut mayus [?] in omnibus et singulis casibus in quibus per totam legem habent curram quouiscunque [?] proferri. Et cum Eyone [?] Mosse iudeo qui vulgo iudex inter alios iudeos magis nuncupatur per nostram gratiam sicut est de magistris seu rabinis dicte legis dubitans [?] absque termini spacio permissus [?] prerogatiua pronuntiandi seu pone [?] casibus iudicantur [?] tunc ambos [?] firmando. Propterea cum auctoritate habeat secundum regulas communes sue legis. Tenore presentis concedimus vobis quod predicta prerogatiua et potestate in cartis [?] sumptone [?] seu sculvatis [?] libris et perpetuis [?]. Mandantes [?] et quod per vos sic pronunciatum inter iudeos prouerit [?] coherco [?] secundum processus solutas et exmenda [?] reme[...] quod nullis confusum [?]. Mandantes itaque vniuersis Gubernatori nostro generali regni Valentie [?] vicariis baiulis azorym [?] ac consulis [?] et singulis officialibus nostris necnon [?] secretariis et adelantanis ac rectoribus quarumcunque aliamarum iudeorum nostri domini et eorum singularibus nostris presentibus et futuris et eorum officialium locatenentibus quod concessionem nostram huiusmodi vobis teneant firmiter et observent eaque vobis vos uti libere permittant quocunque obstaculo quiessente [?]. In cuius rei testimonium presentem fieri fecimus sigillo nostro iussimus communiri. Datum Barchinone octauo [?] die aprilis anno a nativitate domini millesimo CCC° lxxx° vij°. ffranciscus ça Costa.

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**Summary:** This is a grant by Joan I to a Jewish individual named Eyone [?] Mosse, recognizing his authority to judge according to Hebrew law — essentially confirming his role as a communal judge (*iudex*) with the prerogative of pronouncing legal judgments in cases governed by Jewish law. The *mandantes* clause orders all royal officials and Jewish communal authorities (secretaris, adelantats, rectors of aljamas) to respect and enforce this concession. Dated at Barcelona, 8 [?] April 1387, signed by vice-chancellor Francesc ça Costa.

The central narratio and dispositio (roughly lines 5–9) remain the weakest part of the transcription and would benefit most from archival re-examination. Ready for your corrections before Stage 3.

In line 4, the name is actually a form of Hasdai Crescas, and is in this document rendered by the scribe as Eyday Cresques. The macron over the surname is for the "ue." For the name at the end of line 16, your reading is more correct than the other HTR. The difficult word in line 1 looks to me like either "liatum" or "licitum." For lines 5-6 you can proceed with the general sense you concluded. To the best of my ability, I am going to transcribe line 8: "prorogativa et potestatem in tanibus superdictis uti valcatis libere et imprime. Citdamus eius..." All of the other issues you can use your judgment as you look over the document again in Stage 3. Please now proceed to Stage 3.

7:26 AM

Reconciled manuscript corrections and prepared scholarly edition

Reconciled manuscript corrections and prepared scholarly edition

Excellent — the identification of **Eyday Cresques** as a scribal rendering of **Hasdai Crescas** is a major find. Let me integrate all your corrections and produce the Stage 3 edition.

Reconciled manuscript variants and prepared comprehensive textual edition

Reconciled manuscript variants and prepared comprehensive textual edition

Now let me look closely at the manuscript one more time with your corrections in mind before drafting the edition.

Synthesized textual corrections and advanced transcription work

Synthesized textual corrections and advanced transcription work

Here's the completed Stage 3 edition. A few notes on editorial decisions:

The footnote on Crescas (n. 4) is extended given the significance of the identification — this is very early evidence for his formal judicial standing as a *dayyan*, issued barely three weeks into Joan I's reign. I flagged the chronological implication for your dissertation: whether this represents a pre-existing relationship with Joan or a standard accession-moment petition.

For the narratio, I translated for sense rather than attempting a clause-by-clause rendering, since too many individual readings remain uncertain. Your reading of line 8 was critical for establishing the dispositio — *uti valeatis libere et impune* gives us the operative grant

language. I rendered your *tanibus* as *casibus* [?] in the transcription since *casibus superdictis* ("in the above-stated cases") is the formulaically expected phrase, but flagged the uncertainty.

The *regni Valentie* question in the *Mandantes* clause is worth pursuing at the archive — if the mandate is addressed specifically to the Governor General of Valencia, that could indicate a particular local context for the grant (perhaps resistance to Crescas's authority in Valencian aljamas).

Aca joani grantcrescas judicialauthority 1387 04 08

Document · MD

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