

## Research Query: Two Ottoman or Turkish terms

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Hello,

I'm hoping someone has some suggestions for two words in a responsum by R. Joseph ibn Lev that I am stumped as to their meaning. I've had a couple of suggestions, and I have one idea of my own (but I don't know Turkish or Arabic, so it is just a stab in the dark).

The events take place in the Ottoman Empire, The topic of the responsum is about taxes (and an attempt to convince the Sultan to reduce them). The first term I was not able to understand is apparently a quantity of money. It is spelled differently two times, and I have not found it anywhere else.

Here are the two uses:

א"תתתתתת תת תתתתת תת

א"תתתת א"תת תת

So we are talking about 17 somethings for customs tax. Someone had suggested that it is a corruption of the word *mithkal*. Would you concur? Do you have any other idea?

The second term appears in the following sentence, twice. Apparently it is some kind of request.

תתתתת תתת תת תת תתתתת תתת תתתתתת תתת תתת תת תתתת תתת תת א"תת תתת תתת תת ... תתתת  
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תתת תתתתת תתתתת

Someone (different person) suggested that this is a corruption of the Turkish word *rica*, but the *c* is pronounced like a soft *g* in the Turkish word, so I'm not so convinced. And here's my stab in the dark: I (who don't know Turkish or Arabic; my expertise is the halakhic literature with some history) thought that maybe the word *ruq'ah* is being used to refer to an official document.

I would really appreciate any suggestions!

Thank you very much! And stay safe!

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