*HIPPO #2*

*“Benjamin of Tudela on the Caliph’s Court at Baghdad” (Chapter 14, page 358)*

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| **H** | ***H****istorical Context* | This was written in the late-12th century, when the Abbasid Dynasty was in decline. The author was living in the Muslim Spain (al-Andalus) under the last remaining Umayyad Dynasty kingdom. Islam dominated North Africa, Southwest Asia, Central Asia and had made inroads into India and Europe (Spain and the Balkans peninsula). Hostilities between Muslims and Christians was high (Crusade). |
| **I** | ***I****ntended Audience* | This was intended for the Sunni Muslims, Christians and Jews living in Spain. These people once controlled most of the Islamic world, but now were far removed from Abbasid controlled territories in places such as Baghdad.  |
| **P** | ***P****urpose* | The purpose of this document was a report on the city of Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid Dynasty. It was educational as it describes the Caliph, his relationship with his people, relatives and the food and architecture of Baghdad itself.  |
| **P** | ***P****oint of View* *(P.O.V.)* | The author is Benjamin of Tudela (Spain). He is a Jewish Rabbi. He is writing this from the point of view of an outsider. In Spain he is a religious minority. But the Muslims who live in Baghdad are from a different branch. He compares them to where he is from but also to Christians when he describes the Caliph as like the Pope.  |
| **O** | ***O****utside Info.* | This was written in the late 1100s by a Rabbi from Spain. By the late 15th century all Muslims and Jews will be expelled from Spain at the end of the Reconquista.  |