

Will of Abraham Dias Fernandes, otherwise Miguel Viana, otherwise Fernando Dias Fernandes. London, 4 January 1738.

The National Archives, Public Record Office, PROB 11/726/145

In the Name of God Amen.

I Abraham Dias Fernandes, otherwise Miguel Viana, otherwise Fernando Dias Fernandes, a native of the town of Pastrana, archbishopric of Toledo, in the Kingdom of Spain, a merchant dwelling in the City of London, in Fenchurch Street, in the Parish of St Gabriel, finding my self enjoying a perfect health, memory and such understanding as God was pleased to endow me with considering the uncertainty of human life and the infalibility of death, I make this my Testament and last Will in the manner following. Imprimis I recommend my Soul to the Almighty God of Israel of whom with true repentance and as perfect contrition I most humbly beg forgiveness for all trespasses and sins by me committed against his Divine Majesty, imploring his mercy to the end that he may receive my soul with pity whenever it shall depart from this World, and to suffer the same to enjoy of his Holy Glory my body it is my will shall be buried in the Portuguese Jews Burying Ground of this city, which at this time goes by the name of the New Burying Ground, and if possible in the grave next to that which my son Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, bought for himself joyning the place where his first wife was buried, and that my said buryal be made with that decency which my Executors hereinafter named shall think convenient, agreeable to the rights and ceremonies of my religion, and it is my will that on the day my body shall be committed to the Earth, the sum of twelve pounds sterling be divided amongst widows and needy persons of my Hebrew Portuguese Nation, the distribution of which I intirely leave to the direction of my Executors as far as relates to the objects of charity, amongst whom the said sum is to be divided and as to the fortune wherewith God has been pleased God to favour me with in this world and whereof I shall be in possession unto me belonging at the time of my decease I dispose of them in the manner and form following, that is to say. It is my will that, in the first place, all debts which at the time of my decease

shall appear to be by me really and justly owing be paid. Item I leave and bequeath to the Synagogue of the Portuguese Hebrew Nation of this city of London called Saar Ashamaim the sum of fifteen pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath to the Fraternity of Orphans of the Portuguese Hebrew Nation of this city ten pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Violante Lopes de Mattos, the wife of Gabriel Lopes de Mattos, living at Bayone, in the Kingdom of France, the sum of twenty five pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Mariana de Mattos Lopes, the wife of David de Mattos, dwelling at Bayone aforesaid, twenty five pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Brites Lopes Pinheiro, the wife of my brother Anthony Dias Fernandes, at present dwelling in the city of Lisbon, in the Kingdom of Portugal, twenty five pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Lewis de Mattos Lopes, otherwise Isaac de Mattos Lopes, dwelling in this city, fifteen pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Mariana de Mattos, the wife of John Mendes, dwelling at Bayonne, in France, the sum of ten pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto Jacob de Paz, the son of Francis de Paz, dec[eas]ed, dwelling at Bayone aforesaid in France, five pounds sterling as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath to Clara de Sampayo, widow, dwelling in the town of Trancozo, in the Kingdom of Portugal, five pounds sterling as a legacy, and whereas I do not know whether the said Clara de Sampayo is living or dead, it is my will that my Executors do send to inquire and if she be living, that in such case they, the said Executors, do order the said sum of five pounds to be delivered to her self, but if she be dead, then lett the said five pounds be paid to her daughters, in case any of them be living, if not, let the said sum of five pounds be paid to the heirs of the said Clara de Sampayo. Item I leave and bequeath unto Daniel Cohen de Azevedo, Raby and Master of the Fraternity of the Orphans, five pounds sterling as a legacy, and in case he shall happen to dye before me, I do order the said five pounds to be given to his eldest son then living. Item I leave and bequeath unto my daughter Rebecca Lopes Dias, the wife of Moses Lopes Dias, otherwise Gabriel Lopes Pinheiro, dwelling in this city, the sum of ten pounds as a legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto my grand daughter Rachael, the

daughter of Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, my son, my large bed of jacaranda wood with all the furniture and things thereunto appertaining, and in like manner I leave and bequeath unto her my Sabbath silver lamp, as a token of my love. Item I leave and bequeath unto my grand daughter Rebecca, the daughter of my said son Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, another small bed of mine of jacaranda wood with all the furniture and other things thereunto appertaining, and in like manner my silver teapott, as a token of my love. Item I leave and bequeath unto my grand daughter Esther, daughter of my son Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, my silver (?) filligrain cover and gift of the inside in token of my love I bear to her. Item whereas in or about the month of April in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty six, I lent Samuel da Costa Alvaringa, deceased, the sum of twenty five pounds sterling, for which sum (according to my remembrance) he gave me a note, which I suppose will be found amongst my papers. It is my will that at any time whenever the said note to be found after my decease that it be delivered up by my Executors to the heirs of the said Samuel da Costa Alvaringa, to the end that they may tear it and that this debt may remain void I making hereby a free and frank donation thereof and do order that my Executor do not at any time pretend or demand any thing whatsoever of the said heirs or representatives of the said Samuel da Costa Alvaringa for or by reason or on account of the said debt. Item whereas in or about the month of January one thousand seven hundred and thirty six seven, I executed a notarial instrument whereby I freed and acquired my eldest son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, of all what by right of inheritance might appertain to me by the death of my son Moses Dias Fernandes out of the estate by him acquitted during the time he was in copartnership with my son Isaac. It is my will that the said instrument may remain firm and permanent and do hereby order my Ex[ecu]tors joyntly or separately that at no time after my decease they may demand or ask of him or his heirs or move any lawsuit for an account or by reason of the said inheritance of the estate, credits and effectrs of my said son Moses Dias Fernandes. Item and whereas at the time when my said eldest son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, celebrated his nuptials in the city of

Amsterdam with Mrs Rachael Aboab Osorio, I sent him from hence the following things to wit, a diamond necklace, a pair of diamond earrings, a diamond buckle, a new crimson damask bed, three pair of window curtains of the same, six small and one great chair and also some other things which likewise served for the functions of his said marriage, all which together with charges and brokerage cost me one thousand three hundred and ninety one pounds three shillings and four pence or thereabouts, as appears and may be seen by my books to which I referr. It is my will and by virtue of these presents I do make intire and general donation unto my said son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, and his heirs of the said sum of one thousand three hundred and ninety one pounds, three shillings and four pence or thereabouts or whatever, it shall appear by my books to be and do order my said Executors that they, at no time after my decease, do ask or demand anything whatsoever of him for by reason or on account of the said sum notwithstanding that this account will be found open in my books, which account it is my will that, by virtue of this my bequest and gift, shall be intirely closed and ballanced. Item, whereas it is my intention, in a short time God granting me life, to buy and receive in my own account a sufficient sum of the funds of the East India Company of this kingdom for the ends and purposes hereinafter specified. It is my will that out of such India stock as I shall leave in my acoount at the time of my decease there be separated and taken out one thousand four hundred pounds capital of the said stock, which are to serve for the exact accomplishment and intire satisfaction of the bequests hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, Item I leave and bequeath unto my son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, over and besides the bequests and dispositions by me herein before made in his favour, six hundred pounds capital of the said East India Stock of this kingdom to be transferred unto him imediately after my decease. Item I leave and bequeath unto my grandson Abraham, the son of my said son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, one hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company of this kingdom as a legacy to the end that, during his minority, the dividends which shall be made by the said company be paid unto him regularly, and that as soon as my said Grandson shall attain to the age of twenty one years, the said one hundred pounds

capital stock of the said East India Company be transferred unto him, for him to do therewith according to his will and pleasure, and in case my said grandson Abram shall happen to dye before he attains to the said age of twenty one years, it is my will that his said father Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, do succeed him in this legacy. Item I leave and bequeath unto my grandson Moses, the son of my son Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, the sum of one hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company of this kingdom to the end that, during his minority, the dividends which shall be made by the said company be paid to him regularly, and that as soon as my said grandson shall attain to the age of twenty one years, the said one hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company be transferred to him, for him to do therewith according to his will and pleasure, and in case my said grandson Moses shall happen to dye before he attains the said age of twenty one years, it is my will that his said father Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, do succeed him in this legacy; and the remaining six hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company of this Kingdom it is my will that my Executors hereinafter named do pay unto my daughter Rebecca Lopes Dias, the wife of Gabriel Lopes Pinheiro, otherwise Moses Lopes Dias, the dividends which the said company shall from time to time make upon the said sum of six hundred pounds capital for her to enjoy the same during her life, and by her death, it is my will that the said dividends be payd from time to time to my grandson Jacob Lopes Dias, the son of my said daughter Rebecca and of the said Gabriel Lopes Pinheiro, during his life untill he shall have issue by lawfull matrimony, when it is my will that the said six hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company be transferred and delivered unto him for him to enjoy the same and dispose thereof according to his will and pleasure, and if my said grandson Jacob should happen to dye without lawfull issue, it is my will that my heir hereinafter mentioned do succeed my said grandson in the said inheritance of the said six hundred pounds capital East India stock. Item and in case that at the time of my decease I shall not have left East India Stock of my account in the books of the said company or a sufficient sum thereof to accomplish the four preceeding bequests amounting in the whole to one

thousand four hundred pounds capital stock in the said company, it is my will that my Executors hereinafter named do raise out of the best part of my estate as much money as shall be necessary to buy the said one thousand four hundred pounds capital stock of the said East India Company, or as much as shall be wanting to compleat the said sum, and in all respects they are to comply with my will as I have settforth in the said four bequests. Item I leave and bequeath unto my son Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, over and besides the bequests by me hereinafter before made, the sum of fifty pounds in money as a legacy; and as to what relates to the rest and residue of my estate and effects, which by any ways, means or in any manner may appertain to me at the time of my decease after all my legacys and bequests herein before mentioned shall be paid, I leave and bequeath the same unto my son Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, whom by virtue of these presents I do constitute, name and appoint for my universal heir of all the rest and residue of my said estate, creditts, effects, actions, inheritances, jewells, plate, gold, moveables, furniture of my house and all what shall or may appertain to me by any (?), way, means, reason, motive or manner, whatsoever at the time of my decease without any reservation, whatsoever for him and his heirs to enjoy the same for ever as his and their own goods and chattells I do hereby name, constitute and appoint my sons Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, and Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, to be my Executors and adm[inistra]tors of this my last will and testament, by which I do revoke, disannull and make void any other testaments and codicills by me made before the date hereof, it being my will that only these presents may have force, vigour and validity both in courts and out thereof in witness whereof I have signed this my last will contained in twelve pages at the foot of each of the said pages at the end thereof and have affixed my seal (whereof I commonly make use) at the head of the first page upon the extreams of a red silk ribbon with which these presents are stitch, and in like manner I have affixed my said seal at the end of my last signature at the foot thereof in London, the fourth day of the month of January 1737/38. Brittish style. Abraham Dias Frz: signed, sealed, published and declared by the said testator Abraham Dias Fernandes, otherwise Miguel Viana, otherwise

Fernando Dias Fernandes as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence have here signed our names as witnesses. Joseph Dias Fernandes. Solomon Da Costa. Abraham Portello. John Da Costa, notary publick 1737/8. Exd.

I John Da Costa of London, notary publick by Royal authority duly admitted and sworn do hereby certify that the annexed is a true and faith translation out of Portugueze according to the best of my skill and knowledge, which after examination I attest in London the eleventh day of May one thousand seven hundred and forty three.

John Da Costa noty pub. 1743

This Will was proved at London before the wo[rshi]ppfull Robert Chapman, Doctor of Laws, surrogate of the right worshipfull John Bettersworth, Doctor of Laws, Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, lawfully constituted the tenth day of May in the year if our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty three, by the oaths of Isaac Dias Fernandes, otherwise Isaac Viana, and Daniel Dias Fernandes, otherwise Daniel Viana, the sons of the deceased and executors in the said will named do whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, chattells and creditts of the said deceased being first sworn duly to administer. Ex:d