1925 Feb 4 Hilweh and Jiryes to Suleiman – come back to your homeland -t

Ramallah 2/4/1925 (Feb, 4th 1925)

My dear son Suleiman and my dear brother Abu George,

We send you our blessing and we hope that you are in good health. From our side, thank God, we have everything, except seeing you and your dear family. The only thing, my Son and dear brother, we want you to know that for a while now, your father does not feel good. But thanks God today he is better and sends you and the family his kisses, regards and blessings.

Your father since you left him is worried and always sick and keeps going to the doctor. He borrowed from A'wad Rashid 30 lira and from Rosa his daughter-in-law 20 lira, if you are going to send money send it directly to their account. Your father transferred the registration of the house and land in your name. See how dear children are, you are a father now and know how hard it is to raise kids, it is like cutting flint-stone. Son, when we received the news about your new dear son (Fred), all the people in the city were happy and came to congratulate us, except your relatives and family, no one came and congratulated us.

My dear Son, your widowed sister is in your refuge, and she feels that her crown is Abu George. You should send her something to make her happy. Let her feel that she should not worry about anything while you are around, you catch more with honey. People talk and you know how they talk about the good and bad. You are her brother and you should let her know not to worry, you are her only brother and your cousins tease her and tell her that you even do not add regards to her in your letters.

Before your letter arrived your father was sick and a week ago he agreed that we bring him a doctor at night, twice. But God had mercy on us and gave him his health. Son you should get back home to your land and house, your father is not well enough to do the work in the land and cannot take care of the olive orchards.

Best regards and kisses for you, your wife and children. From our side your father sends his kisses and blessings, also your nephew and niece.

Um Seliuman (mother) and your sister Hilweh

The writer of the letter is your neighbour Abu Fawzi and sends his regards.

Translated by Jalal Farhat (Note: This letter is written by my grandmother and aunt Hilweh to

my father)