1929 May 25 Jiryes to Suleiman – money and property

Dear esteemed [khawajah] Suleiman,

Greetings, etc.

I received your letter containing good news about you and your family, etc.

Concerning our situation, I have divided the property with Yousef to your sisters children. They received half the Shu'ab al Medina and half Agbat al Khanazir and Almisha [names of pieces of land] including 31 olive trees and shami figs and 300 olive trees and Tariq Abu Asfur and Ef'ah. Every piaster I spent I have kept a register. I have taken El Misha and half Shu'ab al Medina in addition to the expenses that I have incurred. They include the title deeds, which are with me. Do not worry about me. Every piaster I have spent, I have been able to replace. The government has issued orders to reassess the land value and has tied them to the value of the tithe. An official committee went over the land [surveyed] piece by piece which was then recorded in official logs in the survey department of the land registry. Every person had to write a declaration on their possessions and the possessions of their children. I recorded the property in Jirgie's name and that of his siblings. Those pieces which were transferred to us from your sister's [Khadra] children, namely El Misha and Shu'ab al Medina, I registered them also in the name of Jirgie and his siblings like the rest of the property. We paid 10 piasters per meter for Shu'ab al Medina and 100 pounds for El Misha. Ibrahim Azuz took from your Aunt's wife El Abed for 100 pounds [10 piasters per meter] above what we paid. By the great God I have not (unreadable) to preserve them for the children. I will send you the maps and the title deeds and you will send us 100 pounds to cover my expenses, which I have incurred in this case. If you send them it's fine, if you don't send them I will manage to get them. I will think of this as the future of your children because Al Misha land alone produces ten jrar [plural of jararr- about a ton of olive oil.] It is a land we will not give up, even if our souls went to its creator. I am your camel (you can build on me). As long as I am here, you should not worry. The property today is in very good condition. The land now is full of trees and vineyards and the fields are full. The pears and apples which we had planted are now a meter and a half high. This February, the Jordan Valley was attached by swarms of locusts and now the eggs are hatching and the government has organized a campaign of eradication, but we don't know what will happen when the hatched eggs start flying. This year on the 20th of April, we had four days of rain. The fields were very thirsty and now, thank God, everything is well. A ratl [3 kg] of wheat yield today 4 piasters before we send them to the mill. And God protect you. Your father who misses you and sends his greetings, your sister and your mother and her son Issa and Khadra and please remember to give our greetings to Miss Katrina and kiss the children for us.

Uncle, please forgive the handwriting.

P.P.S. Dear Uncle, may God protect him. We were worried about you, having not heard and then we got your letter bearing the good news. You keep postponing the sending of

the fountain pen and I was hoping that it would come in this letter. Please give our greetings to khawajah Jurgie and khawajah Fuad and Sit Katrina and Sit Julia and Sit Mary. Yours, Issa Yacoub Farhat.

P.S. Khawaji Ayoub Shehadheh El Ajluny sends you his greetings.

Translation by Salim Tamari