

1930 Aug 16 Hilweh and Issa to Suleiman - conditions, money transitions

To my dear brother,

Greetings, etc. We received your telegraphic letter containing 100 pounds, minus 25 piasters, I mean it was missing 25 piasters. We have been in a very tight spot and I want to thank you for your generosity, which has taken us from desperation to relief. My brother, our father was going to use the loan money and invest, and then we had this rebellion followed by the boycott. And then the Jews started to throw salt on Arab crops, which ruined a lot of these crops. The economy was wrecked. [Unreadable]. All of this requires patience. What we are owed immediately are as followed: we owe your godfather Bulos fifty pounds. We gave him 25 out of the hundred [that you sent], we gave Abdullah Hanna fifty pounds. We gave Jiryeh Fahdheh ten pounds. We still owe him 14 ½ pounds. For my father has spent all this year indisposed. We owed 10 pounds for the shops, we paid 5 pounds for the land tax. We still owe Abdullah Hanna 50 pounds. My brother, all this requires patience. My father, in his sickness, is unable to reach the groves. We have plowed our land for 20 pounds. He has been toiling in these plots all his life, and all he has left for you is worth 500 pounds and perhaps more. The trees now have reached my height, the grapes are mostly grafted, you should see them – each vine is holding five or six bunches. It lightens your heart, my brother. Everybody is envious of us. If we sell these properties, we will end up with nothing. No, our hope is that you will get your act together. All we need now is 75 pounds, which will cover us. And then you will put your father's mind at rest. That is all we need. We want your safety and the security of your children. May God preserve you for us. Please give our greetings to Mrs. Katrina and Misters George, Fuad, Miss Julia and Mary. Immediately we want you to take a picture with you and the family and send it to us with a fountain pen. From here everybody sends their greetings.

Dictated to your nephew who misses you.

Translated by Salim Tamari