

1933 no date, probably Sep Jiryes to Suleiman, written by Issa Y Farhat

"Wants to put kids in boarding school." -t

My dear son, may God protect him. Greetings, etc.

I will tell you about the children's health, they are all well, missing only the prospect of seeing you. I tell you my son that I need money because I have a 30-pound obligation (not a debt). The creditor keeps pushing me and keeps saying "I want them". I have gone over half of Ramallah to borrow money to repay this debt and nobody wants to help me. Because people have stopped giving credit. It used to be that if I asked for 1000 pounds, I could get it easily. Now I need 30 pounds and I cannot get it. I am telling you that I need the money urgently and I am waiting for you to send it by telegram.

Miss Katrina and the children are learning Arabic. They have a special tutor who comes to the house to teach them. Miss Katrina's health is very good today. I also tell you that she does not "carry a straw". She does not touch anything (*not allowing her to do any labor*). Your sister Hilweh is serving her and would not allow her to do any work. She is happy with the children.

Miss Katrina went to the head of the American School and told him about the children and that she wants to put them in the boarding section so she can travel. The teacher (principal), Mr. Khalil Abdullah Totah, told her that: "If you want to travel, take the children with you because your children are young and their Arabic is not good. They would not do well if you put them in the boarding section. It is better for them to be in the external section." He also told her that travel expenses are costly and for that kind of money you can teach them for two years. And he also told her that the school expenses are 75 pounds for boarding school and 15 pounds for external students.

I am telling you, my son, the first year they are not going to learn anything. It is better to put them in the external section, and that she stays with them. It would be better if you would write to her a letter telling her to stay with them.

As for the situation here, the town has grown considerably and a lot of new buildings. New homes have bathrooms and also wash basins. You see a lot of homes with two, three and four floors. I am telling you, sell your shop and come and open a business here, while the going is good. I am telling you, come back so I can see you before your mother or I die. Because, my son, we are at the top of the ladder, me and your mother. I am telling you to come and take care of your property.

May God protect you and bless you.
Jiryes Suleiman Farhat

(Written by Issa Yacoub Farhat)

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