

1933 Oct 20 George to Suleiman – my mother is crazy

Jurgi Suleiman Farhat

October 20, 1933

My dear father,

After kissing your hands, and asking for your blessing... we are well, nothing is missing except seeing the light of your face. Let me tell you father about my mother. She is of a different mind every minute. She acts like a mad woman... keeps cursing my grandpa and grandma, also my aunt. She gave [unreadable word] my clothes and my sibling's clothes to her nephews [her sister's children].

She goes to Bethlehem in a good mood, and comes back angry, quarrelling with my grandpa. She keeps beating me, very painfully, on my head. [Unreadable sentence] you know Fuad and Mary with grandpa, we take our food and drinks on the table. She maintains these poses until she leaves. She always seeks to influence Mary and Fuad so they will go back with her. If they dare talk [complain] to grandpa she attacks them and beats them up. Father they are afraid of her. She also beat me because my grandma told her this is enough. She beat her up until she fell to the floor, while my grandpa was away picking olives. When he came back he asked her 'why did you do this ya bint el awadim'. She cursed him and berated him. He could not say a word to her.

Father my mother is crazy. She leaves at ten in the morning, and does not come back until late in the evening. What can I say father... mother wants money. Without money she will not behave properly [btistageem]. Either you send money or she leaves. Grandpa has no money. He tried to borrow [money] but nobody will lend to him, since the property is registered in our name. May God protect you. Father do not send the letters in my mother's name. At the moment of writing this letter, she packed her clothes in a suitcase and took mine and my brother and sister's [ikhwti] clothes and called for a car to take us from school. I ran away and told her I want grandpa. My brother also cried and said he wanted our grandpa. She did not say a word. She took him and Mary to Bethlehem for a week or two. Not a word of goodbye to grandpa. He used to worship her. He would give her everything she needs. But like a mule she is spitting on her own fortune. Father please do something. Sell the store, and come back. Or send us some money for she is intent on some evil deed. We are afraid for you. Now immediately take care of the store and come back here. You know what your wife is like. She will write you some shit letters so she can incite you against us. Do not reply to her letters since she will be telling lies about my grandpa and grandma. Father she took all my clothes and left me only with what I am wearing. Even the underwear she took away.

May God protect you.

Your loving son who kisses your hands and prays for your long life.

Jurgi Suleiman Farhat

Translated by Salim Tamari