

1933 October 6 Katherine to Suleiman
Title: Grievance with Song

October 6, 1933
Ramallah, Palestine

Greetings, etc...

I wanted to write to you earlier, but did not know how to write. Now I have learned a bit. We are all in good health. We only want your letters. Please do not forget us, write at least once a week.

For some time, I have had no money to spend. I am at a loss. Your father has no money for living expenses and we live on "dipping bread". I am full of pain and have to have an operation. I cannot sleep at night. I am always crying about my condition and the children's condition. I hate that the children are asking for things and I cannot buy it for them. They break my heart. They think we came here for vacation.

Today I wrote to the American school and they asked for six pounds for the first fee. I had to borrow money from our cousin. People today do not like to lend unless you give them jewelry (collateral). And I had to do that for the children because they needed books, notebooks and shoes to play football. All of these are necessary things. I had to borrow, I am still feeling pain and I need the money so I can see the doctor.

Mary was crying today because she wants to go to school and I could not send her. You should know, cousin, that we cannot leave the children without school since they will lose what they have already learned. Mary always says that she wants to see her father. The children join me in kissing you and they send you their greetings.

Your cousin who misses you,
Katherine

Separate notation, possibly a song:

"My little one, you forgot all the efforts I have put in you. I have fed you almonds and sugar, but my bad luck made you neglect me. Who said that you will desert me, betray me and leave me? You forget my favors and look at me from above, as if you were superior. I have spent my life in loving you but did not see any peace in your company. You betrayer. May God punish you for you have made the world dark in my eyes."

Summary by Salim Tamari