

1933 Suleiman to Katherine – probably December bought goods, prices have doubled

Dear cousin Katrina, may God protect you,
After kissing your cheeks, and the cheeks of our dear children, etc.

You tell me that you have paid for our dear children at the American school six pounds for the first fee. I am very pleased. As for sending money, the truth is I have bought a lot of merchandise during this period because the price of goods is rising every day. Each day is more expensive than the day before. The children's overalls, which used to be \$.49 today cost \$.98 cents. Men's overalls, which used to be \$.75 today cost \$1.50. Men's shirts, which used to be \$.49 today is \$.98. Handkerchiefs, which used to cost \$.05 now cost \$.10. What used to cost \$.10 now costs \$.20, and all other goods at this rate. He who has lots of merchandise has benefited greatly. And that is why I have been buying. The truth is I owe Butler Brothers [a supplier?] some 3,000 real [dollars] and I do not sleep the night from worry. I am afraid to send you cash only to be squeezed by the merchants. So please, I beg you, Im George, please spend what you have and give me (you and my parents) until after Christmas until I pass through this season. Now I have so many commodities that I need to sell. Otherwise I would have sent you money a long time ago. But necessity has its conditions. I have nobody but you, Im George. You are everything to me, I would give my soul for your sake. Do not worry. As soon as I cover my debts, I will have lots of cash and I will send you plenty of money. That is all. When I read in your letter that Mary says "I want to see Daddy," I became very sad. I took her picture and started kissing it. I hope to God Almighty that the situation will improve so I can sell and come back to you. Conditions at the moment are improving here. About six hundred people have returned to work. Each one works forty hours a week. Even the girl who works for us, can only work forty hours. For this reason, many people have gone back to work.

I hope to God that if the situation continues to improve, I will be able to sell the land and the shop, and come back to you victorious and enriched, God willing. I only want from you to give up the idea of coming back to this country. For to me, one day in my homeland is better than a whole lifetime in this country. I can't wait to return to my homeland. But as long as you keep harping about coming here you will see life in our country as being difficult. If you remove from your head the image of this county [the US], you will see that there is no country like ours. I beg you to invest [tajri] in your children, in the source of livelihood [rizqek –includes both the land and profession] and in my folks. You must take care of my father and mother for they have become old. I do not mean that you should toil with your hands, for this is men's work, but make every effort to become interested in our livelihood [rizqek] for that is all we have. Look at our situation here. We have wasted our heart's blood. We have invested \$10,000 reals for the land and now it's worth nothing. This is our reward for investing in this country and deserting our homeland. Had I gone back to the old country and bought property there then you would find me happy with my children and my children's children. This country is for strangers. I will never invest again in it. I can't wait until I get rid of this country and go back. I thank God for every minute that you are back in our dear country for the Hell of our country is better than paradise here. I can't say more than this. A thousand

greetings to your dear soul and to our dear children George, Fuad and Mary. Kiss them for me, and to my dear father, I kiss his hands and to our dear mother, I ask for her blessing and to my dear sister and her children Issa and Khadra and to everybody who asks about us at your end.

Your cousin [husband] who misses you,
Suleiman Farhat

Translated by Salim Tamari