

1934 April 1 Jiryas to Suleiman – she is a traitor  
Ramallah  
My dear son, may God preserve him,

I have received your letter, including your long explanation, and all is known to me now. I have already told you that she has left and is coming to you to ruin your house. Now, either she comes or she is coming to sweet talk you in order to get her objectives. I have told you in a number of letters that the money you save, send them in whichever way you can, because this will be your assets, for you and your children. Before she comes to you. You did not believe me. For ages, I've been arguing with you and explaining to you and your children, and you do not listen. Had you listened to me from the beginning, you would have saved yourself, but as the proverb says, 'Man consults the whole world and ends up making a decision from his own head.' I say to you, if you have gathered the whole wealth of America and she wants to convince you to stay, do not listen to her, for this woman is a traitor [khaine]. Whatever she speaks is lies and forgeries. Wait until she leaves the house one day and ask Fuad and let him tell you truthfully about her actions, and then you will see how she was with us here. She has made my blood dry and she shortened my life. By God, everything I am telling you is not an exaggeration. I found that she has no commerce in her husband, her children and property. All she wants is the money you give her and spend on her and her sisters, and to fill her pocket. All the time, I say 'Patience, patience, and patience again.' Fuad will tell you everything and even about the clothes she stole for her sisters.

You blame me for what happened to Fuad. Your cousin Shukri and I went there and when I called Fuad, he came down to greet me. I grabbed him and gave him to Shukri and said, 'Go back.' And then I sat down to distract them. After 15 minutes, her sister ran after him [Fuad in the hands of Shukri], she took the boy from him and he did not open his mouth. Then I saw her sister at the door, I grabbed him from her, and was soon attacked by her sister's husband and the neighbors. They started beating me up. All this period, he did not open his mouth. Then I went and reported this to the District Governor of Ramallah. He said, 'You must go and file a complaint.' I hired a lawyer for five pounds and started proceedings in the [civil] court. The next day, she took the boy and went to Haifa, then she went to the [shipping] company and I asked about her and was told that she had already left. I sent you the telegram and I received a response in which you tell me that you sent five pounds to Katrina. I went to see the Consul. He refused to give me the five pounds. He said, "This is in the name of Katrina, I cannot give them to you. I can only send them back to the sender." You wait for them [the money]. Mary has gained two rotls (6 kilos) while with us here, and I ask you to send us some money to take care of the land and come back immediately. If she chooses to come with you, fair and square. If she refuses to come, bring Fuad and come back to your patrimony [rizqatak – the property from which you live.] Be careful of her. Everybody sends their greetings and our greetings to Khalil.

Your father who misses you,  
Jiryas Suleiman Farhat  
xxx

Dictated to Issa Yacoub Farhat

And she says she doesn't have money! She had forty pieces of gold, each one a coin of 20 reals. She screams and she spends. If she said that she borrowed, do not believe her.  
Translated by Salim Tamari