

Second translation

1934 Feb 4 Jiryes to Suleiman about Katherine (formerly Farhat Letter 1934)

Ramallah, February 4, 1934

To my dear son, may God keep him in good health,

While I was worried about you, we received your esteemed letter, bearing good news about you and your health. It gave us great pleasure to learn that you are doing very well. As for us at this time, we are in excellent health and we all miss your presence amongst us.

We have some news for you about Katrina. A couple of weeks ago she left for Bethlehem with her belongings, leaving her daughter and the boys with me. No matter what we did to convince her to stay, she wouldn't hear of it, as all she wanted was to go away. She wants to have a shop in order to make an income, and here it's not working out as she wishes. She cares not about the kids nor anything else. There's no food, no clothing, nothing. She's now doing twice as well as when she first arrived here, and her craziness is blinding her. Everyday she wants to go to Bethlehem, and she's anxiously expecting the money from you so she can leave. Don't you send her a penny in her name! She has received a certified letter saying she got five pounds. True or false, who knows? The children are with me. I'm paying for their schools. She doesn't spend a penny on the children; it's all spent on herself. Of the fifty pounds that you sent with her to spend on the home, she only spent eight pounds for two beds and a dresser. The rest was spent on her foolishness. She has made reservations with a travel agency to travel on the boat that will come on the 17th or the 21st of the month. And the minute she arrives at your place, she will be a calamity on you. She'll make you sell everything. We treated her better than King George's daughter. She doesn't drink a glass of water that we haven't fetched her ourselves. We've covered her with favors from head to toe. The minute she arrived here she up and left for Bethlehem, where she sleeps on the bare floor, without so much as a mattress. In our house she's got a thick mattress to sleep on, but she's not happy. And I can go on for four more pages at least. You know what her intentions are: she wants a share of both the shop and the land. When you make money from the shop you should leave it with others, not in your name. This is my best advice to you: any money you make, send it to anyone from our side.

Tell me, did you get the papers or not? Check with the consul at your end. God keep you and bless you.

Any news from Rabah's daughter? We don't want her, we don't want to know her address, or her name, or to worry about her expenses. These days there are lots of girls. You raise a girl, put down fifty pounds to marry her off.

As for the seeds, I'll send them to you with the next letter.

God keep you, may our Lord bless you. Everyone here joins me in extending to you their best wishes, as well as to Khalil.

Your father who misses you,
(Jiyres) George Sleyman Farhat

PS: As for the children, they don't have to worry about a thing. They laugh and play all day. We take care of them as you would yourself.

Note: the writer of this letter sends you his best regards: Issa Yacoub Farhat from Ramallah