

1934 Feb 16 – Jiryes to Suleiman - Fight and Flight (1 of two letters with same date and similar content)

My dear son, may God protect him,

I tell you that on this day, 16 Feb, I received news that Katrina took to the sea with Fuad. I sent you a telegram. A week ago she came to town, kidnapped the boy from school and when I heard the news I hired a taxi and followed them to Bethlehem. When the boy saw me, he ran towards me. I took him and left and was followed by her sisters and their husbands, who extracted the boy from me by force. Her sister Na'ame was beating me. I filed a case against her in the Ecclesiastical Court. I appointed a lawyer and for the last five or six days have been trying my utmost to prevent her from leaving and to take the boy away from her, which I couldn't. She left without us being able to prevent her. Neither us nor the courts could prevent her from leaving. She is coming to destroy your house. If she decides to come back with you, good luck. Otherwise take the boy from her and do not allow her to trick you. To hell with the shop. [Arabic: *beat the shop with a monkey*] and take the money from the bank if you can. [Goes on, repeating same thoughts] She obviously does not respond to good behavior, for what we have done for her nobody has experienced. Your cousins Shukri and Aziz and Sara and her sisters have spoiled her and I couldn't do anything about it until her sisters and her uncle asked me to register the house and the land in her name with a title deed as a condition for her staying here. And she registered a complaint against me with the Consul. The Consul sent a note to the Governor and both of us appeared before the Governor, who in his turn, refused to allow her to take the children. He said they should remain with their Grandpa. This happened on Monday. On Thursday, she came and kidnapped the boy and she left the country.

Let me know what happens between you and her at your end. Every month send me two letters, at the beginning and end of each month, so I that I can be informed. I have sent you a number of letters by air post. I beseech you not to stop writing. And may God protect you. Everybody sends their greetings,

Your father who misses you, Jiryes Farhat xxx

P.S. Be careful of her. Try to salvage your situation and do not allow her to take anything. Send us letters every month and be careful of her. Consult your heart and your heart will tell you what is true. The writer of this letter sends you his greetings. Issa Yacoub Farhat