

1934 probably February - says Jan 20 (not the right date) – Jiryres to Suleiman
I have the children

Ramallah, Palestine
Jan 20, 1934 (not the right date)

My dear son, may God protect you. I want to tell you about our conditions. You know, concerning your wife, we have tried everything with her, the good and the bad until she started cursing me. I have been tolerating her behavior for your sake. The [good] treatment that this woman received, there is nothing like it. But her sisters and her sister's husbands are rotten people. She keeps spending her money on them, and nothing for her own children. Even if the boy dies, she will not give him a penny. Even when the holiday came, she would only treat him at her sisters' because these people are beggars. They do not have basic items in their house. Finally, I went there and took the boys and the girls from her and they are all here. Now I am spending on them. Since the day she arrived, she has not spent one penny on the children for it is I who spent on them for everything. This Friday I have received 20 English pounds from you. I used them to pay for the debts owed by your wife. We still owe them ten pounds. I beg you to send them. I also tell you that she's doing the paperwork for her travel. I took the children from her for fear that she will take them with her. Do not worry at all. Only worry about this shrew [janieh] that you are stuck with. Do whatever possible to sell everything and bring whatever you can before she comes to you for then she will pillage the shop and she would say, "This is my toil and I am the one who made it." Even the children's clothes she took. She refused to give us anything and now I have to buy them everything until you send material from your side. I beg you to send them some clothes in the post for they have nothing to wear. Do not neglect the children because they are with me. Even if Jesus Christ himself came to your wife, she would only do what's in her head. As for the money, do not delay even if you send 10 reals [dollars] a month expenditure, for these are your children. Everything they see they want. Resolve your situation and come back. Fix things and come back because she's coming your way and she's going to destroy your houses. As for the papers concerning your return, I had sent them two months ago. Please let me know if you received them or not. Please inquire with the American Consul at your end because the paper must have arrived. I have received news that she intends to leave in the Italian ship, which is the biggest ship in the world, on the 21st of this month. (*Discrepancy in date – probably means the letter was written in February*). Be careful, I have told you now. Don't tell me later that I have deceived you. I have told you this in a number of letters and I am not to blame. When she leaves I will send you a telegram.

Your father who misses you and blesses you,
Jiryres Suleiman Farhat
Ramallah

As dictated to Issa Yacoub Farhat