

1938 May 17 – George to Katherine – escape to Bethlehem

Bethlehem, Palestine

My gracious dear Mother,

May God protect you, etc. I tell you I am now with my grandma and grandpa in Bethlehem since May 13, 1938. We (I) are waiting for the letter that my Uncle Nicola told me about, which was sent to my grandpa [Abdullah] in which he indicates that he had sent a letter to the Consul. At any moment when the response from the Consul arrives we (I) will be ready, but until now the letter has not arrived. I will then send you all the details from my side. Do not worry, Mother, I am happy at my grandpa's. Also, please send me money besides the ticket. For example, I have no clothes. I need a pair of trousers and a shirt and other clothing items. Could you also send food money? Send the check via my grandfather, Abdullah Saade in Bethlehem. Before I arrived to Bethlehem, my grandma and my aunt Zeina were in Zarqa [Transjordan] for three days and they will spend their ten-day vacation [*changing air*]. Greetings from my grandpa and grandma and all my aunts to you and to Julia and to Fuad and Mary. My uncles also send their greetings. And my love to my dear Mother and to Julia and to Fuad and to Mary and everybody by you. Please hurry with sending the papers and the passport and I urgently need the money for travel expenses.

Your dear son who kisses your hand,  
George Suleiman Farhat from Bethlehem

P.S. When I was with my father Suleiman [can be read as 'when I was with Suleiman's father', meaning his grandfather] he would take all the money that I earned. He would put me to work doing hard labor on the road like a donkey and he would say, "If you do not work, I will not feed you, I will not give you drink." He would beat me always like a donkey. When I saw this, I escaped to my grandpa in Bethlehem. I have been here for 10 days. Here I am happy, I eat and drink. Do not worry about me. I am waiting for your immediate response.

Translated by Salim Tamari