

1934 Jan 20 Jiryas, Sr. to Suleiman – KF went to Beth for Xmas

Greetings, etc...

Katherine went to Bethlehem for the Christmas holidays with her family, she gave them gifts - all of a sudden she has money to spend on them. She has 'locked' the children's clothes. She has been there for two weeks and the children are wearing the same clothes. She doesn't ask about them or us, is pillaging the house and giving her sisters half the children's clothes. She sent the bag back empty. Since the holidays, and Fouad wanted to go to pray, he asked her 'give me tarbush to wear' and she refused to give it to him. She made me upset. And I tell you, she pillaged half the house and took it to her sisters. She cares for nothing but herself. The payment for the teacher who taught her has not been paid. You sent us two pounds by Western Union, she took it and gave it to her sisters. We did not even smell this money. Everything goes to her sisters. I borrowed 1/2 pound so she could go to the doctor. Curse be her parents. Be careful, she intends to leave. She wants to write the land in her name. If that happens, she will destroy you. Be careful. No need to explain.

May God protect you. My sister, your mother, George and Fouad send you their greetings.

Suleiman (*Jiryas, Sr.*)

P.S. You sent their gifts to Bethlehem, and when we ask her about it, she denied it. Concerning the \$5 (dollars) you sent to the children, they saw nothing of it. Only her sister's children. She says "I got it in a letter. I am free what I do with it and where I want to stay I'll stay." I asked her about the children's clothes, which are locked in the trunk, except the Maltese blue suit. And she is provoking me and telling me to get them clothes. She is suggesting that I sell the crops and spend on them. If she had a million lire, she would not spend a penny on them. You should know that I am the one who is spending money on the children. You only send money to her, which she gives to her sisters. Send us money immediately because now she put me in debt for about 30 lire and this is the last letter. Either you send us money or sell a piece of the land so I can spend on the children. IF you don't do that, I will stop writing. Have some compassion (put some blood in yourself). Take responsibility. You brought them here and you want me to leave them hunger? This is not done. What you have done is undoable. You send money to her but not to the person who is spending on them. My hope is in you. You keep saying you don't want to send her money to prevent her from leaving. This is my hope in you, Suleiman. When you get this letter, immediately send some money and if you don't send it, tell me which piece of land I can sell so I can spend on them. Otherwise, she will sell the children's clothes and her clothes and will leave and be by your side within one month. Now take note. I need the money immediately, even if you send it by telegram.

May God Bless You.

Summary by Salim Tamari