1932 Apr 11 – Jiryes to Suleiman – worried about KF, "if she gives you trouble, get rid of her"

My dear son, may God protect you,

Greetings, etc.

My dear son, you tell me that you are having difficulty with your wife. Since her folks are egging her on and she is pillaging from you with her daughter and gives all to her folks. Her folks are known to use their daughters and their in-laws and they have a reputation of having their daughters divorce their husbands, as happened with Liza, who they had remarried to another person. Also with Na'ame, they had her divorce and marry another person and now she is in Bethlehem. Get a grip. Do not waste your exile because of the hatred that was started between you and her. If you have two piasters, give them to her family [to get rid of them] and sell everything cheaply and come back. If she comes back with you, good and fair, and if she refuses to come back with you, leave her and I will find you another woman immediately. Her sisters told us that she sent money to fix their house because it had a major crack formed during the earthquake. I have not been telling you all this until you narrated to me what she did to you. You have been telling me so far that you are living happily together, which assured my thoughts. Try to manage with four or five hundred pounds and bring them back because the longer you are there the more she will take advantage of you. I am advising you based on my experience. Every piaster you get hold of send it, and invest it here and it will become like yeast until you return. You haven't heard this from me but I will give it to your 'other brother.' I am far away from you now. Had I been with you, I would show you what I would do with your in-law. They are lowly and greedy people. And I am telling you, come back for [the house without you is not a house.] This is my opinion, come back. As long as your wife follows her folks, she has no opinion of her own. Send me her father's address and do not let her see this letter. Come back, come back to your property. And please give our greetings to George, Fuad, Julia and Mary and to Katrina.

Your father who misses you,
Jiryes Suleiman Farhat

P.S. Your mother has become lightheaded. During the night and the day, she ____ about George and Fuad. Our souls are connected to these people. [Unreadable sentence]

P.S. From the writer. Dear Uncle. Please forgive our handwriting because it was written in a hurry. Send me a pen. This is my handwriting, I Jacob Farhat.

P.S. Answer immediately, even if you send it with a bird. I am very tired and the worries are shortening my life.

Translated by Salim Tamari