

1932 March 25 Jiryas, Sr. (with note from Issa Yacoub Farhat) to Suleiman – berating in-laws, don't trust Katherine -t

Greetings, etc.

You tell us you are tired of your wife and her daughter. Sell everything and don't allow her to abuse you. Sell everything because hatred has happened between you. She keeps pillaging you. We know how they treat their daughters here in Bethlehem. Their house cracked on the day of the earthquake. Katherine sent money to fix it. I did not tell you this until you told me you were having trouble. 400 or 500 lira (unreadable) because the longer you are there, the worse it will be. She will steal from you without your knowledge. I advise you that every piaster she puts her hand on, she sends to her family. All your in-laws are avaricious people because they are a low class of people. My house is in ruins and she sends money to her father's house. Your house is in ruins and I advise you to come back since your wife keeps sending money to her family and she has no decency. And send the address of her father, and don't show her this letter. And from me I say, come back, come back, come back. Greetings to George, Mary, Fouad and to Lady Katrina.

-Your father who loves you,

(Jiryas) Sleman Farhat

Note from writer Issa Jacob Farhat: I send you greetings and seek your help in every letter. You never reply. Send me a good pen to write with, the pens you sent are no good. Send a Parker and a hand watch. Keep them in mind.

P.S.: I do not sleep the night and you are always in my thoughts. Do not show her this letter.

P.S. All our countrymen have returned. Everybody who has money is afraid to spend it. Bring her back and come back and stay away from her family. Here she cannot talk. Come back immediately and may God protect you.

Translated by Salim Tamari