

1933 Feb 12 Jiryas to Suleiman – happy to hear

Ramallah

My dear son, may God preserve him,

Greetings, etc. I received your last letter in which you tell me that you have not yet received the papers. I tell you that it left Jerusalem at the beginning of January and since your letter is dated Jan 19, it is probable that you will receive it within two or three days. We were very happy to know that you intend to send your wife and children. They are all welcome, but please try to have them come soonest, so that we can see them before the holidays [Easter]. As for you, Mrs. Katrina, do not think that you are coming to a hamlet [khirbeh]. You are coming to a big city which is known as the bride of Palestine. We are all here to serve you. We want you to come and see your land before we die so that we can also see you. Once you are here, you will see how happy and free you will be. But if you do not like it, you can always go back. You are free to do what you want. But as I would think, Miss Katrina, when you come here, even if we want to get rid of you, you will decide to stay because there is no place better than here for having a restful time. All outside visitors from Egypt, from Haifa, from Beirut, from all over, come to Ramallah for their summer vacations. Doctors prefer it to Mt. Lebanon. We want to see you before we die and for you, you'll get to know your land and other property. All our intent is your happiness, so please do not deny us the right to see you so that we spend the rest of our lives with you and see your fruits, your children. I particularly would love to see the children playing on their property. This is our intention. As for you, Mrs. Katrina, please come before the feast [Easter] because then the trees will be in blossom. For you and the children take the place of their father, and more. Mrs. Katrina, we recently had five American women come here and they decided they don't want to leave. Finally, my warmest greetings and kisses to the cheeks of the children. From here, your mother, your sister and the children send you their greetings.

Yours,

Jiryas Suleiman Farhat

Dictated to Issa Yacoub Farhat, your nephew who sends you his greetings.

P.S. Let us know when they leave.

Translated by Salim Tamari