

1933 June 6 Suleiman to Jiryes – KF arriving in Jaffa, treat her well

My Dear Father and the Crown of my Head,

Greetings, etc.

Now I tell you, my dear father, apropos of what I have already written to you, that the family is leaving here to come to you. They will take the boat on this day, June 6, and will arrive in Jaffa on June 26. I trust that you will go to Jaffa to meet them on that day, my dear father, and I have to tell you about my cousin [wife] Katrina. She was not happy here as I told you then and her mind is rotten. [Unreadable]. But please I beg you, you, mother and sister, to treat her well even if she is a ball of fire, cool it down because the customs here are different from our country's customs, and she is used to the customs of this country. Please make every effort not to make her unhappy for the sake of the children, my father. You can't imagine how happy I will be if I receive a letter indicating that she is happy with you. I promise you, a real promise, that I will not be long. As soon as I get rid of the shop, I will be by you. I have given Katrina some money with the tickets and other expenses, the trip has cost me \$2,000 dollars [*equivalent of \$20,000 today*]. And now I am swimming in debt, may God improve my situation. I also have to tell you that she took a paper to arrange for her return if she doesn't like it there. And if she does come back, this time she will finish me. And if she takes her case to the government [courts], I would lose all, for in this country, judgment is always with women, even if she is guilty. What I need from you, therefore, is to hire a servant for her if necessary and to keep her satisfied until I come back. And then I will take care of her. Remember, that if you treat her well, she will respond better. I need not beseech you more than this since you are the 'master of those who know.' I entrust the children in your care, take care of them and 'dress them well'. [Unreadable].

Salaams to your dear soul and to my dear mother, I ask for her blessing and to my dear sister and nephew Issa and Khadra as well and all those by you.

Your son who misses you,

Suleiman Jiryes Farhat

Translated by Salim Tamari