

1933, prob Sep or Oct 1933 – no date given- Suleiman to Katherine - stay put I'm coming, glad you are learning to write in Arabic.

After kissing your cheeks and the cheeks of our beloved children, George, Fuad, and Mary. Hope everything is well, etc.

I have received your dear letter and your explanation has become known to me. You tell me that you have appointed a private tutor for the children. I am very pleased about this, especially because you have also learned to write. May God preserve you to me, Im George. May God keep you for me, Im George. As for the schools, I think it's better for them to register as external students because the children do not have the basics. I say it's better to have them as external students in the first year. As for your saying that you are regretting your return, I have been very upset by this. I am against the idea that you come back here because I am not staying long and I can't wait to finish my business here and go back to the homeland. As you know, I love our country without limit. I can't wait to return. If you want to be a stubborn woman and come back, you will be crazy. You will have no brains. The moment I sell the shop I will do it and take the first boat to our country. If you decide to come here and do not find me, what will you do? And then your regret will be no good. I want you to be reasonable, think straight, and take care of the children and our property and be kind to my folks and then you will only have bliss and contentment. At the moment, I am very strapped with expenses for other merchants because I just paid the tithe for the land and I of course, also paid your travel expenses. All these expenses came together and I cannot forget about paying the merchants and send you money instead. For when the merchandise arrives, they want their money immediately. But do not worry about this. I am your camel. I will not over burden you with expenses. Every time I have some money, I will send you as I promised. On your part I want you to soften things with my folks so that you can live together peacefully. If my father needs some money, I ask you to give it to him because he tells me that he has a debt of 30 pounds. So give him the money so he can pay his debts.

As for Julia, if she likes to go back, I have spoken with her before she left and went to school. Before I had told you that she worked for me during the vacation and when the college [high school] re-opened, she said, "I do not want to work. I want to go back to my teacher at Long Beach and I want to go to school there until I finish and then I'll go to the higher school [college]." May God bless her. She studies night and day. [Her reputation makes you raise your head]. I am very proud of her. I talked with her about going back to the old country. She said 'I will not go back until I finish my studies. When that happens, we will talk about it.' For my part, I will make every effort that she comes back with me when I return. Do not have worries on this issue. Finally, I kiss your cheeks and the cheeks of our beloved George and Fuad and Mary and a thousand greetings to my father and I kiss the hands of my dear Mother and greetings to my dear sister and to the children of my sister, Issa and Khadra and everybody who asks about me from your end. From here, my cousin Khalil sends his greetings.

Your cousin [husband], Suleiman Jiryes Farhat
Translated by Salim Tamari