

1933 Oct 2 (could be 4th) Katherine to Suleiman –I am tired of your family

Ramallah, Palestine

October 2 (possibly 4), 1933

My dear cousin [*husband*] Suleiman,

With a heart that misses you, I write to you hoping that the Lord keeps you in good health, etc, etc.

I want to tell you that I am tired of your family. Because their mindset is different from mine. These people, Suleiman, keep gossiping this and that and I hate this gossip. You know since I cannot do heavy labor. I cannot live their life. Your father doesn't seem to have a cent on him, and as for me, I don't have a cent anymore. When I had money, everybody was smiling at me. Today nobody looks at me. I need now to borrow to spend on the children. And I want to spend for my children since they are now eating 'tidbits' and he brings nothing to the house. What am I supposed to do? I need money and what would you say: Is this a life? Doctors here told me that I need an operation. And I feel as I am going to die. You can see how your folks live – [*zakar fi zakar*]. This is not really a life for me. I am telling you what I think and now I need money to rent a house and live by myself and be free. Not twenty people around me, each one of them judging my little and big activity. If you cannot send me money and help me [*free me from this condition*], better then, take me back. I will put the children in school and come to you. This is what I think. I am speaking to you plainly. Let me know what you think, and in any case, send me money for my operation immediately.

Peace to your dear soul.

Yours,

Katrina Farhat

Letter written in anger – some of it incoherent.

Translated by Salim Tamari