

1933 Oct 3 – Jiryas to Suleiman – complaining about KF

My dear son,

Greetings, etc.

I am writing this to tell you that since your woman has arrived, we treat her in the best possible manner. We are keen to keep her happy so that she will not think of going back because I know that if she goes back, it will cost you a lot of money. In spite of this, she is not happy. She keeps saying, I want to go back. I want to tell you that I have not received any money from her, not a piaster, even though I have to spend a lot of money from my own purse. She keeps going to Bethlehem to her sisters and she spends according to her whims. She never tells me where she is going. She does not spend a piaster on her children and I cannot hide from you, my son, that the children cost more these days, and by chance this year was a bad year [for *the olive crops*]. This is God's will –what can we do? Now I have lots of debts because I cannot leave the children without an expenditure. Every other day she says I want to leave. She is very stubborn and she only does what she thinks. She never listens to me or anybody else. For this reason, my dear son, I beg you, now that your family is here, to liquidate your assets, even though you may lose a little, and come back here. For here you are the head of the household and you can take care of your own property. Also, you can start a business in Jerusalem or Ramallah and live like a king. You can teach your children and save for your future. This is my opinion. A person should always listen to his parents. Many people in Ramallah have been able to save money from their businesses and invest in plantations and they have become very rich. For 1,000 pounds, you can invest in an orange grove and then you can work in commerce. There is a lot of work here for people who have money, much more than at your end, because the expenses here are much lower than they are by you. Do not allow her to go back. Tell me immediately about your intentions so we can act accordingly. From our side, we will do everything possible to prevent her from leaving (going back). One word from you is enough. Do your utmost to come to your family and stabilize your life. On the 5th of October the children will enter the Friends School. The last letter you sent, in which you said to her that you would be sending money within a month made her very angry. She became terse and said that she wants to go back. It seems that she does not want to leave you alone in the shop and that her daughter [Julia] sends her secret news, the contents of which I am not aware of, but it seems that it makes her upset. For this reason, manage your situation, come back so that she will not go back and be a burden on you. I think this is enough for you to understand what I am saying. Do not allow anybody to see my letters. Finally, warm greetings from here, from your sister and her children and your cousins.

Your father who misses you, Jiryas Farhat

Translated by Salim Tamari