

1933 October 21 Shukri Farhat to Suleiman – report of fight between KF and Farhats

I will tell you what happened today: Your cousin Katrina had a fight with all the members of your family - your mother, your father and your sister. The reason for the dispute is that your father says that you gave her 50 liras and we have not seen anything of it. Where did she go with it? These monies were spent in the following way: As for the money which you had given her (or them?), she bought two beds, costing four liras. She then made mattresses for these beds, 5 liras and 1/2. She bought a cupboard for 6.5 liras. She paid 3 liras and 1/2 for the werko (land tax). She paid 6 1/2 liras for the children's school. He took from her 4 liras for plastering the shop and then she bought yogurt for 1 lira and flour for a lira and a half. And then 6 1/2 liras she repaid a debt which he had on clothes. Then she paid two liras to the butcher to whom he was indebted. And then she paid 1 lira for pigeons for the boys. These are only expenses which we know about. Excluded from these are expenses on the children and the whole family, including vegetables, eggs and meat. And yet the money is not yet depleted and they are already fighting. (They still think she has money) She is coming to my house always crying and saying "please speak to him. Make him stop demanding things like where is the money? give me money!" I went there with her to talk to him. He would not respond. He expelled her from the house and closed the cistern to prevent her and her children from drinking. I had to give her 3 pounds to feed your children. Then we went again to your father's house, together with my uncle Ibrahim Azuz and Ghneim, the son of AbuGhneim and I spoke with him to give her a room by herself and at least supplies for one month, so she can write to you and tell you the situation. He was not agreeable to this arrangement. Only that she stays with me in my house. As for your wife and your sister Hilweh, they are like oil and water (rusiyeh). They cannot stand each other. I thought we would make her live alone so that she will have some peace and they would stop fighting in Ramallah. But he would never agree to this. And she could not stand the situation any more and went to her brothers in Bethlehem. As for your father, whatever your sister and your mother say becomes the final word. For we used to have long talks with him and he sometimes would agree with us. But when he goes to see your mother and sister, they would overturn everything we agreed on. So here we have told you the truth of what happened here. My understanding is that she cannot tolerate this situation. She has no money to spend and he refuses to give her money or food. So she had to go to Bethlehem to her brothers. And even though she did not know anybody in Ramallah, she would come to our house to socialize with my wife and divert her anger. Because of this, he became hostile to us and he stopped greeting us (would not recognize us). For your father is a solitary man. He does not socialize with any of his own kin. Everyone in Ramallah knows these features of him. And I am telling you the truth. And I have to tell you what's in my heart about your father, mother and sister. For your father follows the opinion of your sister and your mother.

Greetings from all your relatives here and my blessings.

Your cousin Shukri Farhat

Translated by Salim Tamari