

1934 Feb 16 Jiryes, Sr. to Suleiman - Battle in Bethlehem.

My dear son,
Greetings, etc.

Now I want to tell you how your woman left. First, she went from here and stayed for a while in Bethlehem with her brothers. Then she went to the Consul and filed a case against me in which she claimed that the children are hungry, roaming in the streets of Ramallah. The Consul then sent a request to the military Governor in Ramallah. The Governor sent for me while she was there. And she asked that I surrender the children to her. And I said to the Governor, that the father of the children has sent them here until he returns. And I am now in the process of arranging for his papers to return. I cannot release the children because the father is coming back. If she insists on having a place (an apartment) by herself, I am willing to set it up for her and give her all the expenses until her husband comes back. She refused to stay with us and the Governor would not give her the right to take the children. I left her and went back to town and she went back to Bethlehem. There she secretly prepared travel papers without anybody's knowledge. Two days before her departure, she came to Ramallah in secret. She went to the school and kidnapped the little boy (*Fred*) and took him to Bethlehem and left him there. Then she came back to town in order to take the others. When she reached our front door, she left the car, entered the house, kidnapped the girl (*Mary*) while nobody was at the house except your sister Hilweh's little daughter (*Khadra*), the girl could not save Mary from her and she started screaming. The neighbors heard the screaming and came and freed the girl from her hands. Then she went back to Bethlehem. All this happened in my absence. When I came back home and found out that she kidnapped the boy, I ran after her to Bethlehem. And when I reached their house, the boy saw me. He jumped and ran towards me. I took the boy's hand and then they all started running after me. I fought with them but they were able to talk the boy from me. Her brothers beat me up and humiliated me. I then went to the police department and informed them, so that they will bring the boy from her hands. They refused to accept the case, since this is not their concern. Rather, it is the concern of the Ecclesiastical Court. Then I went to the Ecclesiastical Court and filed a suit. And I also filed a complaint with the Consul to delay her departure. And then I put a request with the Immigration Dept (to stop her from leaving), but she had already done all the paperwork previously. And she was able to take the boy. She left on Friday, 17 February. (Unreadable) without anybody's knowledge. God knows how much I spent/lost in this period. And I failed. I was unable to take the boy, who was compelled to go with her against his will. I am telling you that the 20 pounds you sent, not a penny entered my house. I had to pay for her - 16 pounds I had borrowed when I went to bring her. Now I paid them back. Since the day she went to Bethlehem for the first time, and I sent you a telegram, I went to get her and found that she had a debt of 2 1/2 pounds which I paid on her behalf and brought her back. That's what happened. Now I tell you, if you are a real man, try in any way to come back with her the moment she arrives. If she refuses to go back with you, try your utmost to take the boy and come back with him the soonest. Try by whatever means to take the boy from her. If you cannot, leave the boy and come back. Even if you lose the shop and the money. Come back without delay the moment she arrives. If you cannot bring her back, maybe it's for the better. Leave her and

come back with your head because it is not safe to live with her being with you there.
That's all I have to say. I send you greetings from your mother, sister, the children. All
are well and send you their regards.

Your father, Jiryes Farhat.

P.S. Let me know when you receive this letter and let me know what happens because my
mind is worried. Send me a letter within two weeks.

P.P.S Your nephew, Issa Yacoub Farhat (writer)