

1934 Oct 1 Jiryis to Suleiman with Hebrew notation

Written on October 1st, 1934

My dear son Khawajah Isliman may God preserve him.
Greetings, etc... we miss nothing except seeing the light of your face

I will now tell you about recent developments here. We have a brand new street in our neighborhood. They have destroyed several houses in order to broaden the street. Those are the houses of Hanna al Kharseh, the house of Hanna al Ajluni, the house of Shehadeh Abu Martha, and the house of Sam'an Ajluni. Four houses they demolished in the quarter, and their owners will be compensated. And now we have a brand new street in Ramallah.

My son, may God preserve you, come back, you and the (rest) of your family. Mary is always remembering Foddy (Freddy?) and keeps saying he is on his way...my father is coming back. She is at school, and I have placed Jurgi in the Latin [al Teen, i.e. Catholic] school, which is better than the Friends school [Quakers]. It is costing me ten liras [Palestinian pounds]... in addition to the baby [khlaf al baibi? unreadable]. He is now doing very well in school. That is all I have now. Your mother and I are very anxious to see you [our soul is connected to you].

Come back. Remember you have been away for 25 years in exile [ghurbeh]. May God preserve you. Your mother, your sister, Issa, Khadra, Jurgi, and Mary send you their greetings. Please give our greetings to Um Jurgi [your wife] and to Foddy [Freddy]. Kiss Foddy for me, and give our best to dear Khalil my nephew.

Your loving father
Jiryis Sliman Farhat

[followed by a song written in Yiddish in Hebrew character--my suspicion is that this is a Jewish writer who befriended Jiryis and wrote the letter on his behalf]

Translated by Salim Tamari

Hebrew translation

Line 1: You (man/women) who made me suffer so much

Line 2: You (man/woman) whom I love very much

Line 3: I don't want to know anything (else) about you.