

1939 Mar 6 Mitri Saade (brother) to Katherine –

Bethlehem, Palestine

To my dear sister Katrina, may God protect her,

Greetings, etc. I want to tell you that your son George is here from Ramallah and he wants to know if you were able to do anything. I showed him all your letters. He is now staying with his grandfather in Ramallah. His father Suleiman has left for New York six months ago. George said Suleiman got married to a woman from Gaza and left her with her family in Gaza. Suleiman Farhat is a base man with no origin. He is the rotten son of a rotten man. He has no fear of God. I tell you, my sister Katrina, that I have travelled with our cousin [my wife] to Romania and have sold all our household furniture. I had thought that they would allow us to reside there as in the past. When we arrived in Romania, we found that the regime has changed and strict regulations were imposed by the government on all foreigners. We had a 3-month visa from the Romania consul in Jerusalem. When we arrived in Romania we hired a lawyer who told us that he can arrange a two-month residency for us. We told them we need a permanent residence, and they said this is impossible, even if you pay 100 pounds, they can only give permission for half a year. We were therefore compelled to go back home after we sold our furniture, and now our house [in Bethlehem] is completely empty and we have not a penny left to buy our household needs. Now our country is in the midst of a rebellion [shawashir] and there is no business and no work. We are at a loss for what to do, for all the money we had we spent for our travel to Romania and the expenses for coming back. If, my dear sister, you can help us, even with five pounds, to make our ends meet, we can buy and sell vegetables with little capital, so that we can manage until the situation improves. These five pounds, I assure you my dear sister, are a loan. When God improves our situation, we will repay you. Enough of this. From here, our family sends you their greetings, our mother and father are here and send you their greetings and to your children individually.

Your brother Mitri Saade

P.S. My brothers Saleh and Nichola sent us money while we were in Romania so we could return because we told him that the government would not allow us to have residency. They helped us as best they could. As for your son George, he is happy. Do not worry about him. Now he is with his grandpa in Ramallah and every two or three weeks he comes to visit us in Bethlehem. He is waiting for you to arrange for his travel to your end. We informed him that his sister [Julia] went down to Mexico to arrange for his entry papers and that she was unable to do it. We understood that perhaps in the future, she might be able to find a way because his father went to New York and left his son George with his grandfather. Now George is happy – do not worry about him. That is all I need to tell you. My greetings to your children.

Your brother who blesses you, Mitri Abdullah Saade
Translated by Salim Tamari