

1933 Oct 19 Jiryes to Suleiman - title: Your Wife is Corrupted; come back before she leaves, protecting Hilweh

My dear son Suleiman, may God protect him,

Greetings, etc. ...

Dear Suleiman,

I had written to you and explained how your cousin (wife) is behaving. That thing is increasing every day. She also keeps going to Bethlehem to see her sisters and always comes back in a bad mood, fighting us. Obviously, someone is corrupting her mind, and she is predisposed to corruption. Even though we have never upset her. We always are kind to her and she is the opposite. And now she has declared war on your sister Hilweh so that she can kick her out of the house. All this happened after she came back from Bethlehem. My dear son, I have treated her well. But she is stubborn.

She responds to people who are corrupters and they incite her against us. She goes here and there and listens to people's gossip.

My dear son, I cannot do without your sister Hilweh, not even for a minute. First because of the property and second because she serves me. Remember: first I ruined her marriage chances and second, I have ruined her work chances, so that she will be devoted to helping me. How then do you expect me to leave her after she has wasted her youth without a husband and no work? And if I left her, who will serve me? Who will take care of the property? Nobody will be helping me.

If your wife continues to listen to corrupters, she will ruin our house. I beg you to write to her and explain to her what our customs are. It is better that she hears these things from you than from me. It would be a great pity if she continues on this line.

And now, I press you. Dissolve your assets, solve your problems immediately and come back before she comes to you. Also, be careful from her people by your end and I only have to hint here.

Sell and come. It's better that you come even if you lose some money in your shop.

Love from your mother and everyone sends their greetings.

Your father

Translation by Salim Tamari