



**the
palestinian
museum**

جمعية غير حكومية Non-Governmental Association

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A Letter from the Sameeh Hammoudeh Collection

Handwritten in English, this document shows a letter from the Sameeh Hammoudeh Collection.

My dear Ismail Bey:-

I have just been up to Bertha's twice to bring your "brother boy" & sister Anna Grace, then we were reminded that today the mail left for Adana, so I went again to find the letter mother had written to you - but I could not find it, so there was nothing to do but for me to write a short letter, instead, to accompany Bertha's.

You will be glad to know that we have had our first rain, so the people can all begin to plow. We had gone to the end of our last cistern, & were thinking of going to your house for water, when the rain came that night. But you cannot imagine how different things are here: when we look out at night the place looks all dark! As different as things are to you in Adana, after living here all your life, so different are our surroundings of 24 years, now everything looks changed! It is true the houses are there! But where are

the "Sukran"?! With your face & your house dark, & Selim Effendi no more, & his house dark, the whole neighborhood looks changed. Even the whole city seems different to the city we have known these 25 years!

We called, once, on the Mudir el-Maarif, & he returned the call. He is a quiet man, but is not satisfied here.

Everyone now is asking When will Ismail Bey return? Now that the English Consul did not want to take your house, we are expecting a telegram that your house should not be rented, for you will occupy it.

The sisters were saying how busy Mrs Ismail was, & how beautifully she cleaned the house when the sad news came of your sister's death. They, first, thought they would not let you know, but Bertha said, she would write you, so they gave in. It seems Hussin insisted that the body should be brought from Ramleh, so it could be buried near his father.

With warm Lucas greetings from all Yours truly
Jacob Eliakim