

DEAR HOURANI HORANEY HORANY FAMILY

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE THE PLEASURE OR PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU ON THIS HAPPY OCCASION, I SHALL CERTAINLY BE THINKING OF YOU ALL WITH MUCH AFFECTION AND LOVE

I WISH TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY REUNION, BUT I ALSO WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT IN FACT THE FIRST REUNION TOOK PLACE IN 1929. SOMEONE GOT THE ARITHMETIC WRONG!

I HAVE IN FRONT OF ME THE PHOTO OF THAT FIRST HISTORIC MEETING AT WHICH MY FATHER FADLO, MY MOTHER SOUMAYA, AND MY SISTER WADIA ARE IN THE CENTER. ,MANY OF YOUR FATHERS MOTHERS UNCLES AUNTS AND COUSINS ARE IN THE PHOTO, SO I SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK COUSIN JIM TO CIRCULATE THE PHOTO AND YOU CAN TRY TO IDENTIFY THEM. YOU MIGHT EVEN FIND YOUR OWN PHOTOS AMONG THEM.

MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE HOURANI FAMILY ARE RELATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE COMMON ANCESTORS, MY GRANDFATHER ISA HOURANI AND MY GRANDMOTHER KHAZNA SABBAGH. HANGING IN THE FRONT ROOM OF THE HOURANI HOUSE IN JEDEIDEH IS A PHOTO OF MY GRANDMOTHER UM FADLO, FADLO, AND HIS FIVE SISTERS- NAAME, SALIMA, TELJI, RAKHIYYA, AND RAHIL I SHALL ATTEMPT TO SEND A COPY OF THIS PHOTO IN TIME FOR YOUR MEETING, BUT IF I DO NOT SUCCEED I WILL TRY LATER,, AND IF THERE IS ANY DEMAND, WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE IN THE FORM OF A POST CARD OR SOUVENIR.

NOW FR MY OWN NEWS.. I SUCCESSFULLY REACHED MY HUNDRETH YEAR ON APRIL 6. A PARTY TO CELEBRATE WAS HELD IN MY DAUGHTER ZELFA'S HOUSE IN LONDON AT WHICH THERE WERE ABOUT SEVENTY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. MY GRANDDAUGHTER SOUMAYA AND HER BROTHER SKANDAR SAID SOME KIND WORDS ABOUT THEIR ECCENTRIC JIDOO, AND AN EXTRAORDINARY CAKE ADORNED THE TABLE. ZELFA'S FOOD WAS EQUALLY EXTRAORDINARY.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE ASKING HOW DID I MANAGE TO REACH THIS VENERABLE AGE ? PARTLY, POSSIBLY MAINLY, FOR GENETIC REASONS: MY GRANDMOTHER AND AUNTS ALL REACHED THEIR NINETIES EXCEPT RAHIL WHO THEY SAID DIED YOUNG AT THE AGE OF 84.

I CAN ALSO PASS ON TO YOU MY OWN 'SECRET' FOR LIVING LONG: FIRSTLY, PAY MORE ATTENTION TOYOUR STATE OF MIND THAN TO YOUR BODILY INFIRMITIES- THESE LATTER ARE INEVITABLE, BUT MENTAL ACTIVITIES AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS KEEP YOU YOUNG IN SPIRIT THOUGH OLD IN YEARS.

AND ONE LAST ADVICE: EAT SLOWLY! MOST PEOPLE WHOM I KNOW GOBBLE THEIR FOOD UP AS THOUGH THEY ARE DESPERATELY HUNGRY: THIS MEANS THEY EAT TWICE AS MUCH AS NECESSARY, AND SUFFER ALL THE CONSEQUENCES OF INDIGESTION AND OVERWEIGHT. LOOK AT YOUR SELVESIN THE MIRROR AND BE HORRIFIED YOU GOBBLERS.
IT IS ALSO VERY IMPOLITE TOFINISH YOUR FOOD BEFORE YOUR ELDERS AND LEAVE THE TABLE WITHOUT EXCUSING YOURSELVES.

AND ONE LAST WORD: I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY MANY OF THE HORANI AMERICAN COUSINS IN LEBANON NEXT YEAR WHEN-HOPEFULLY- THERE WILL BE 'PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILLTO ALL MANKIND'.

CECIL



Fadlo
1871-1960

Raheel m. Talji m. Sumaya Racy m. Rakhiyya m.
Milhem Dabaghi Nicola Qoteit Shibli Hourani

Text
Text

Selima
d. 1953
m.
Habib Hourani

Um Fadlo
Khazna Sabbagh
1836-1926

Naameh
1860-1960
m.
Said Farhoud

