

NELSON GLUECK
162 GLENMARY AVENUE
CINCINNATI 20, OHIO

30 August, 1947

Dear William:

We got back last week from Colorado, after having a wonderful vacation. It is the first time in a number of years that Helen and Charles Jonathan and were together in this country. It was a rough camp in the mountains. We slept in a small tent on the ground, and did a great deal of horseback riding.

I found the card with the two alternatives on the Shukri matter, and checked the one suggesting that he be given five pounds a month till July 1948. I have been thinking about the matter since then, and would like to suggest that a definitive settlement be made now. I believe it will create an impossible situation among the servant staff if you take Shukri back next year. He was receiving what was, comparatively speaking, an excellent wage. He has been increasingly guilty of stealing during the last years, and the main reason I instituted the severe checks in the kitchen that I did was to put more and more controls over him. His "percentages" were getting completely out of bound. You may recall from my letters or reports, that I instituted the practice of weighing the meats, vegetable etc., and of checking in other ways. And he had constantly to be watched. That is true of almost any one who may take his place, although at the present, Omar, who has succeeded him is absolutely honest.

The morale and comparative efficiency of the servant staff has been maintained by a series of balances and counterbalances among the servants. I never permitted one clique or members of one family to run the place, because that meant that there were no checks on each other through mutual jealousies, and no one who could do anything he or she wanted with out being reported on. If Shukri is reinstated, it means that he will rule the roost. That won't matter if you are there next year, or if I, inshallah, am the the year after, although it will make things with the rest of the servants very difficult. It will definitely make Mrs. Rommerantz's position most difficult, if not untenable, because Shukri would like to have her removed, for the sake of having that check also removed. I am afraid that Omar and Melene who have been with us for years would leave, because he would attempt to tyrannize them. The situation might become completely unmanageable, should someone be director for a while who hasn't a great deal of experience at the school.

too much →

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Land purchased land with it,

Shukri has attempted to tyrannize Umar and Helene, and not succeeding has tried to get them removed. He has accused them of sleeping together. I doubt it, but my answer has always been that I didn't care what the servants did outside of the school grounds, as long their conduct and work inside our compound was proper and satisfactory.

In a word, what my thought is, is this. Perhaps, too large a sum may have been offered to Shukri as a final pay-off of all obligations on the part of the School. But having once been dismissed, I feel that it would be a mistake to take him back, even when you return to Jerusalem, inshalla next year. There is no question in my mind but that he would be better off if he accepted the L.P. 500 offered him, ~~but~~ did not take it in one lump sum, but rather at the rate of L.P. 5 a month. It is perfectly ridiculous to think that he can purchase a taxi for L.P. 500. Any halfway decent car in Palestine today costs on the black market from 1500 to 2000 pounds, and so few cars are being imported for legal sale, that they are distributed by the Government, - allocations being determined probably by pull or by bribes.

Shukri is not badly off. He has a two story house in Jifneh, some land there, and he is still able to get a job. And, furthermore, the demands which his sons and his wife's family are going to continue to make on him increasingly will make it more and more difficult for him to remain comparatively honest.

I think I wrote in a previous letter, that having taken the action, I thought we would have to back up what Burrows decided to do. Upon thinking over the matter, I feel that from many points of view, that is the correct thing to do. May I suggest that you urge Shukri to take the L.P. 500 and buy some more land in Jifneh with it. Land prices being what they are, he won't be able to buy much, but he will have more in the long run than he will have financing his sons, who, I am afraid, have become effendis. I don't think Shukri should now or next year be taken back into employment at the School.

As for myself, I am commencing the new work, and will work with all my might, but my heart is in the school in Jerusalem. I abide by my intention to return, inshallah, permanently two years hence. And I am planning now to return immediately for four or five months, beginning next June. I have talked the matter over thoroughly with Helen, and she is agreed with me that I am to go back for such a period beginning next summer. I am organizing things here now, with that in view, and with my laying down of this new work here completely several years hence. An executive assistant has been appointed, who already is being given authority to do most

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of the inner administrative work. He is very capable. Blank has been appointed Chairman of the faculty, and will tend to all student records, arrangement of classes, credits, etc. He is very good at that, and likes that kind of work. In a word, the machinery is being set up that is needed at the College today. I have no fear of delegating authority, and I don't propose to be an office executive. I have oversimplified in presenting the situation, but that is the general picture.

what I should like, if possible, when returning to Jerusalem next summer, is to be appointed professor of Archaeology at the school. I should then work several months in T.J., finishing some sectors + missed, and going over ~~xxxxxxx~~ some sites, about which questions have arisen in the course of my writing them up, that I can't answer without a reexamination, if possible. However, I am not going to delay the ms. of Explorations IV, on that account. I have taken out the materials again today, and will start working on them again this week. Since my return from Colorado last week, I completely rewrote the articles on Edom and Moab for the Britannica. S.A. Cook's articles which they sent me could not be revised. If you and Sellers do any digging next summer, I should like to join you, and could do my T.J. work afterwards. I want to spend a minimum of 4 months, and hope to arrange it so that I can spend 5 months in Palestine and Transjordan.

with best regards,

sincerely,