

(Fully Translated)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Beneficent.

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all worlds. Prayers and peace be upon His Messenger.

To the Father, the [paternal] Uncle, and the beloved Shaykh, may Allah protect and watch over all of you.

May Allah be pleased with us and with all of you. May each year find you well and in good health. May Allah have mercy on the deceased Muslims. I ask the Almighty Allah that this letter finds all of you well and in good health and soon to be relieved.

Praise Allah, I received the letter from you and I wrote back as soon as I read it. I ask that all of you coordinate with Shaykh 'Uthman [to] send the children. My beloved father, by God, immediately after reading the letter, I told him [and] he will send all of them. He said that 'Abdallah was still in the school and Suham still has a year of breast feeding. So I told him, "All of them." God willing, my dear father and emir, I want to adhere to what you wrote, listening and abiding by everything from your (TN: plural) end. For I am the negligent son to you, and they are your grandchildren. God knows that I understand that all of you miss them dearly.

My beloved shaykh, as all of you know, roughly three days after the death of [my dear wife], may Allah have mercy on her, I was wishing to propose to any widow so I that could gather my children and they wouldn't have to live without a mother and a father. I was wishing for guidance, and I told myself that I would await your (TN: plural) correspondence, but this was before, and the years passed. Most of the time, I remained in the house and it was very difficult for me and for them; however, with God's grace, [we] made it through. During the time of the holiday, 'A'ishah (Var.: 'Ayisha or 'Aisha) was very sad up into the afternoon, and no one could make her feel better. She was there wearing her holiday dress. So, in the early morning [the next day], I took them to our old house and bathed all of them and dressed them in their holiday clothes, and praise Allah, she was much more happy. A photograph of them is attached to the letter. After this, I decided to begin searching for any widow so that I wouldn't be living in sin for the sake of my children. I proposed to the daughter of Shaykh 'Abd-al-

Rahman pm (TN: sic; "pm" as given in Latin characters in the original), may Allah have mercy on him, from the family of Abu Bakr, may Allah have mercy on him. By the grace of Allah, [I proposed to her] three days before receiving the letter from all of you.

My dear father, by God, I proposed without your knowledge, and the reason for this was a lack of correspondence with all of you. If [had been communication], I wouldn't have dared to do so; however, with Allah's grace, I did so. This is difficult to go back on; however, if Allah wills it and this is not agreed upon, then I will await until Allah relieves it.

My shaykh and my emir, do not forget me in your prayers, with patience and in being steadfast. Pray that Allah rewards me with martyrdom upon His path, advancing forward and not in retreat. I am ready for any order you may give me. My father, may Allah reward all of you for the amount (TN: of money) that you sent, it was a great amount. I put/deposited it such that Allah may heal the hearts of the believers. May Allah accept this from us and from all of you. May Allah be patient with us and with all of you. Peace be upon you, with the mercy and blessings of Allah.

Your [delinquent] son, Abu 'Abdallah al-Halabi.

Dated: 20 Shawwal (TN: year not given)

My beloved Shaykh, praise be to Allah, then praise be to Allah, then praise be to Allah. The reply came with the rejection of the family of Abu Bakr al-Suri, may Allah have mercy on him. Praise be to Allah that the children be with all of you. This was the matter that made me feel compelled to propose. Praise Allah, I will wait, and this is best, so that both we and all of you may be relieved of these matters.