

Jerusalem, September 29, 1936

My dear Eva,

It's been almost a year since we last heard from each other. So much has happened in the meantime. Your last letter reached me shortly before I left for Palestine and I was so happy to hear all about you and the two little children. I'm also grateful for the instructions to Vardimon – unfortunately I have not been able to make use of them so far. You may know that Vardimon has now become a rich and powerful man, owner of the largest movie theater in Tel Aviv. Since I had not met him even after going there several times, I asked Eva Salomon-Süßmann to give him my regards as she knows him personally.

Initially (starting in December last year) I lived in Tel Aviv, and from the first moment when I entered this wonderful country, all the dullness and dejection of the last few years fell away like autumn leaves. From the very first moment I had work, and everything one did was for the good and furthered what was right. A thousand times I've thought about you and how much you belong here. There are also wonderful people here, the country embraces and nurtures them; for many of them it was a complete rebirth, I myself have gone through it in a very intense way. And then: all these young people, suntanned and strong, and a rhythm of work, freedom and hope, that is inspiring and quite intoxicating. And the strange thing was that everything in my personal life suddenly became good once more, and a great miracle happened: once again I met a person to whom I could unreservedly say "Yes". I had just started working then – it was in February – at the University Archive for Oriental Music in Jerusalem, and was living with Eva Held's mother. I got to know her lodger of long standing, an engineer and architect from Hamburg, and we clicked straight away, so there seemed an inevitability about our being man and wife after only one month. Now half a year has passed and hopefully in a few months you will hear from me again.

We live in a new garden suburb of Jerusalem that is populated by many German immigrants. You know - this Jerusalem [has] a completely different atmosphere, it is indeed the age-old capital of the world. Jews from all over the world, Persian, Bukharian, Yemenite, Moroccan, Samaritans and others, representatives of all peoples, races and religions. And then this enchanting landscape. We have a charming attic apartment on top of a brand new complex of houses – and a large terrace as well, from where there is an extensive view over the hill country of Judea with its fantastic colorful scenery.

We live here in a quiet and secluded environment; that's ideal for us, and it is also a consequence of the unrest. It is precisely here in and around Jerusalem that the contrasts are particularly stark, because everyone lives cheek by jowl. Almost every night there are gunshots in our area; during the day there are only a few streets in the Jewish 'city center' where you can move freely, and for more than five months now a curfew has kept everyone at home from 6.30 in the evening. Overall, this is a severe shock and the first big challenge to be faced. But we all believe that we will meet this

challenge, because we know what we are fighting for and how much blood has already been shed in this cause.