

My Priceless, dearest!

18/2 1940

Obviously I don't know my dearest, if or when this letter will reach you, I will try to once again to bring our whole situation to your knowledge from me, and to explain everything else.

It has already passed quite a time since we last heard from you, and hope that you are all healthy

Is it already about 4 years we have heard nothing? But thanks to G-d it is not quite that bad. I went to the post office, and they told me that on your side you can still send words, so why are you not doing so? Have we become so insignificant to you? O, I do know that this is not the case; but the proportion of pessimism it brings is heavy on me.

Still, we are ALL alive thank G-d we are healthy. But the sicknesses which the strong cold has brought harsh conditions, but one wants to be thankful - in one way or other one copes, and after all it is only temporary, and as far we can rely on each other, we endure.

Therefore I will not go into a detailed report of our difficulties.

I wait and wait for a letter from you, and nothing arrives but I hope that in a not too far future I will hear from you.

So what should I tell you about our situation?

As you already know, my business was liquidated due to the 30.000 kronen in outstanding bills and the permission to continue my business was taken away. I was only allowed to do inkasso from week to week. In the beginning of May it was all finished. The wholesale business was supervised by a person with compassion and he allowed me one month, and possibly a little longer 25DM monthly so I should have something for a living. And for a while he kept his promise. But is it not like they say: too little for living too much to die for?

But it must last and with the rationing it might be enough for one person, so I am satisfied, also because I don't have Salomon to care for. He himself is in Tetschnen/Detcin on labour allotted to non-Germans. (forced labour, my remark) That he today does, he has done for a year, and he is independent and as what we once felt for each other is long gone and he would not share anything with me anymore even now when I am in need, so I am quite alone. When I heard about his problems I did send him 5 DM, but he is really in hot water, but I cannot do anything more to help him even I wanted to, as I am myself in need.

My dearest, I will absolutely not prey on you, but if it was possible, could you continue to send me the 5 dollar a month as you have done? If you can do that G-d will certainly reward you.

The other relatives in the Protectorate have to carry on with their lives as best they can, and have done that already for a year. I write often to them and follow how they get on. Kamilla and Alois (my grandfather died shortly after this letter was written) and also Mase (max) are employed with Karl. but now they fear that the lack of raw material and coal will cause the closure of the factory. Karl is trying to find a way to leave the country. What his parents will do, I cannot imagine. Dear Leni has terrible problems, and dear Leo who took part in the war on the Polish side, has left his wife and children behind with her parents, and continues alone. After that they haven't had any news about him. (he perished) Oskar is with the Brandeis's and works in the woods. Franzsky, Elsa and Martel try to get through as best they can and wait and fear what the future might bring. Oh, If one only knew!! (thank G-d they didn't) This life is not a life, but we must trust in G-d and that He will bring us through it all and bring help.

I have the good of having dear Herman with me in the house, so I am not alone and we help each other and in that way we manage. He should go to work as all Jews under 65, but it is terrible difficult for him with his wife and a blind daughter who is 34 years old. The support is about 60 mark/monthly, the money come from The Reichverband der Juden in Berlin which has an office in Sudetenland (Bohemia) Because I am a foreigner, I get nothing. Herman has also a son who was deported to Poland and he hope he is alive. One daughter is married in Hungary. One is in Praha.

I heard that dear Olga have emigrated to America with her husband and son who is  $\frac{3}{4}$  year old. I am amazed how fast they got their visa. They got their affidavit from a brother of their late father and will certainly find a way to make their living. He is a healthy, strong person, and handsome

It is a great grievance for me how also our dear ones (at least the young ones) are treated. I read in the newspaper that in the Protectorate the Jewish scientists are closed out from their professions and must find manual work before april the 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the beginning to the end for us all. It is terrible, and I am glad I am already old. I tell you that within 10 years there will be no Jews left in Sudeten (well we are around and kicking in Teplice!!!) One part has died and some have emigrated>But to where?

Here in Teplice are still about 350 Jews of 6000. and we get fewer and fewer. You can image this for yourself. -but now to something else: how are you doing, my dearest?. is dear Molly well? and what about the little Bubi? And do you earn enough from your business?

How is dear Dorothy getting along? And Max and Georg? And with you my dearest brother? I am convinced that your thoughts are with us as often as ours are with you all. how glad we have been for all your earlier letters, and hope to have another one.

How are our relatives in America doing? Here is all of us except Uncle Mund (Olga's father) alive. Tante Emal is also in Prag with Hugo and both are healthy in body and spirit. Hugo sits with his needle and try to make a living. At least he has for food. and even his houses are in Teplice and Karlsbad, he has a little from them. And now I will close in the hope that you will be a little more eager to answer and not to forget us, and with many 1000 greetings and kisses from your Anna who will always love you.

Here is Salomon's address: J. Salomon b. H. Rudolf Wolf Teschen-ost sclesien  
Schossterstrasse 21-39

Also love to you all from Johanna Lowy