

Jerusalem
~ 166 BCE ~

Dear _____ ,

Thank you so much for your last letter. The future sounds really exciting. Buses, cars, computers, telephones - I do not know how you manage to understand it all! Fridges would be really useful here, in **אָרץ יִשְׂרָאֵל** - it does get vey hot. Freezers, too, **wow!** I do not think I can wait 2171 years for my first ice cream!

Please explain to me how cars work; how are the horses attached to the steering wheel? I am also trying to imagine a computer. Is it a huge piece of wood with many board games carved into it? You seem to play so many games on your computer, it must be something like that.

Things are getting worse, here. Would you believe that Antiochus has banned **תּוֹרָה**? I don't know. That was keeping me going; how can I manage without **תּוֹרָה**? He has also banned **כַּלֵּי חַיִּים**, so now we will not be able to follow the calendar properly or remember the **תּוֹרָה**.

You will not believe this - they have now forbidden **בְּרִית אֱלֹהִים**, too!

Oh! Oh! It is all too much! We live in such difficult times. All these Greeks care about is their idols, their sport, their theatres, art, music and poetry. We have **גֵּוֹ** and the **תּוֹרָה**, but it is becoming harder to live as a Jew every day.

_____, I need your help. Please advise me. How can I remain strong when I am forbidden to learn **תּוֹרָה** or practise **אֲצִוּוֹת**? We do, of course, keep as many **אֲצִוּוֹת** as possible in secret, but it is becoming more dangerous all the time. I really need some ideas from you.

Must go - soldiers outside!

Looking forward to hearing from you (perhaps you can send me an email next time?)

Your great friend,

Alexander

