

24 February 1981

Dearest Cousin Ester,

Your letter reached me at a very sorrowful time. My closest friend, with whom I had a wonderful friendship for 25 years, died very suddenly of a heart attack a few days ago. I am full of grief, for no one can ever take her place. She was only 54 years old, beautiful and talented, and her death was tragic. It is only a year since I lost another dear friend, who was murdered. The man who killed him has just been declared innocent by reason of insanity.

Now, my dear cousin, I am truly very sorry to disappoint you and Meshe, but it is not possible for me show him all the sights in New York. His lack of English is a very great barrier. I don't see how he can come here without any knowledge of the language and by himself. The thing for him to do is to book a tour with other Israeli travellers, who would have a tour guide who would take the whole group to all places of interest and be able to talk Yiddish or Hebrew and explain everything. I was not able to talk very easily with Meshe because my Yiddish is not very good. That is why Ruth and I came to Israel as part of a tour group, with a wonderful guide who was able to speak to us in English but who knew Hebrew and Yiddish and was able to make all our arrangements. I would strongly advise Meshe to ask about such a tour to New York. If he comes under such an arrangement, I would of course look forward to spending several evenings with him. I hope that he will understand and not feel too disappointed.

The best time to visit New York would be spring (May or June) or fall (September or October), thus avoiding very hot or very cold weather.

My nieces and their families are well, and we all send you very best regards and good wishes. I am enclosing a small check for the Passover holidays.

With love and devotion,

Your cousin,