STAN SNIPPETS OF LOVE & ESCAPE FROM ISRAEL

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Dear Mom, 1965 June EIN HOD ISRAEL

I deeply love Sanda, and we will marry once the paperwork is done. Without her, I would be lost. This is my decision, and I take full responsibility. I have already bought the wedding gold band. The ceremony will take place here in Ein Hod. To me Israel has in the end become the Promised Land. This for me is a rare blessing. I have utmost faith in my choice.

In a simple ceremony we were married on Sunday.

Sanda is certainly a wonderful housekeeper.
Many, many thanks Mom for taking care to seeing that my sculptures were exhibited at the botanical gardens.

Ein Hod is granting us land for a home. I'll need $8,000, which I'll borrow from friends. I seek no favours; I will work hard and live with dignity.

My work here is coming along well. The weather is somewhat colder but the summer's heat does drain one of a lot of energy. I do miss our Canadian fall of all the seasons although those beautiful sunny balm days we get here in mid-winter is a great pleasure. Everything here is going well. Sanda is busy now preparing for her show which will open on October 2nd, also the day of her birthday. We are both well – working hard and producing.

Ein Hod October 6 1965

My dearest Mom

If you can or have been reading between the lines of my most recent letters you will have felt a growing pain of dissatisfaction and even despair. Mom, things have not at all been working out with Sanda. I have felt choked and have since three months ago done little work. She has tried to dominate me as a man and tried to become a rival of me as an artist. The result of all this has been an utter standstill. I just cannot go on living with her, otherwise I will become a walking dead. Furthermore, due to a recent internal operation her chances of ever bearing children are almost impossible.

Ein Hod October 12 1965

Dear Mom

My heart and soul are a little more at rest now and I can speak in a more rational way. There is a story behind what really happened. Sanda was last year engaged to an artist here in Ein Hod. I told Sanda before marriage that the past should be left in the past but over the last few months this previous romance apparently was not really over. Twice I found him in the house and Sanda argued that he was just like a brother. Other incidents came up until I couldn't see any peace for my soul. I did not want to get tied up in a triangular affair. So I decided to break the marriage as I was starting to eat my nerves...

Mom, I had no alternative. I am at this moment at an extreme low point and pray to God to lift my spirits. I married to have a clean, peaceful and fruitful life only to have more deception... I'm in a real pickle and hope that some light can come into my life.

Ein Hod October 27 1965

Dearest Mom

I'm quite downhearted now. Just returned from the Rabbinical Court. At first Sanda didn't want to make any demands. Now egged on by her family they want to hold me up for 5,000 dollars but I told them I just don't have this money...
I'm stuck at this moment. I'll keep you posted in detail as everything happens.

When I eventually set foot on Canadian soil believe me I'll give it one good kiss.
Never ever will I set foot here again.

TSS Olympia at sea October 30 1965

Dear Mom

I'm at the port with a ticket on the Greek boat Olympia, set to arrive in Halifax on November 10th at 9:00 am. Sanda is corrupt and dangerous, but thankfully, I saw through her in time.

The boat leaves at noon. If her lawyers fail to get a restraining order, I sail—otherwise, they'll take my passport, and I'll be stuck. My lawyers told me to "get out fast," so here I am, watching the minutes tick by. These months have taught me a lot. Freedom is just four hours away, and I value it more than ever... Please help me God in these next few hours of need...

I'm now very much at sea now. Tonight we will dock at the port of Piraeus for 24 hours, then we stop off at Messina, Naples and Lisbon. The food on board is excellent. Before leaving Ein Hod I hadn't slept for three days as all my preparations had to be secret.

Mom, I feel great, free and just thankful to God that I got out of Israel in the nick of time. As for a divorce I can hop down to Mexico — it is no problem.