

Dear L [REDACTED]

I think I gather from your letter that this is your first visit to this odd, off-shore set of islands. If so, I wonder how you feel, or as one would say in Gringlish " your initial impressions ". (Greek speakers of English love using abstract nouns which sound very odd in everyday spoken language.)

My first visit to Greece in 1960 was unforgettable- it was a kind of three-years-before-marriage honeymoon with my wife. Crete, especially, was like a dream world. I was so head-over-heals in love that even Plateia Omonias seemed a beautiful place, which it blldody well is not!

Is your Mum looking after Ch [REDACTED] right now? I suppose it must feel odd to be away from her as I guess you offer each other massive , mutual support. You will be meeting my lad this morning- he is number three. I hope he does not make you too homesick- when I am away from home I find other people's kids very evocative of my own.

Yours,

Mario.

