I’m glad that we had a chance to talk again. I last spoke to your team at the Al Hazm fort, but now my family is visiting here in Salalah. As you can see, it is a great place to be in the summer – about 40 degrees cooler than other parts of Oman!! And now Ramadan is over too.

I’m glad you came with me to Job’s Tomb. You know, my name, “Younis,” is also the name of an Old Testament prophet: Jonah. Anyway, you have heard of Job, of course. He’s the one in the Jewish and Christian scriptures who suffered a lot. Yes, we Muslims honor him too. Remember that we share many of the same prophets with your tradition – we honor Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others.

Yes, I emailed that I had something new to tell you. But I didn’t want to just send out my thoughts into cyberspace, so I’m glad we can talk in person. I started looking back over the emails, and just last week, I got a postcard from him. It made my hair stand up to get something from a dead man! He had mailed it when he was in Zanzibar, and for some reason, it took over a month to get here. That happens in some less-developed countries.

Here it is. He wrote, “I am learning a lot about Chinese activities in Zanzibar. It is eye-opening to say the least.” I wish that he had said more, instead of just writing, “I’ll tell you more when I get home.” He never had much chance to tell me more. He died just 2 weeks later – before we had a chance to get together.

I hope this helps – though I’m not sure how.