

Feb 8th 1929.Vicha el Kubra
Markaz Menûf

Dear Mother.

This morning I was awakened by the voice from the minaret, the morning is too beautiful to stay asleep, so I am out on the courtyard writing & watching the sunrise,

I will try to tell you the beginning of our adventures here. We arrived the day before yesterday, we were met by Gerzawy & one of his soldiers on horse back. his relation Mahomed Effendi was there also with the car & many others. The station master invited us to coffee & then we went first to the house of Mahomed Effendi & later to Vicha, then to Mahomed Effendi's again for supper. before supper we all went for a walk around the estate. Gerzawy shot two pigeons (for eating) with two bullets. the Omdah also took aim but his birds escaped. we were conducted over the farm. saw the buffaloes in their stables being milked, the camels, goats & donkeys. We had a very wonderful supper, I am afraid I can not describe all the dishes. we

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sat at a table in a large hall, & had knives & forks in the european manner. we had about 5 servants to wait on us & 3 lovely big dogs waiting for bones. We drove home in the car by star light,

Yesterday we were invited to inspect the schools, we went in to the various class rooms, heard the boys recite the Koran. Then we had to partake of coffee, crystallised fruit, Turkish delight etc

Then all the boys & masters were lined up & formed into a group & I had to take their photos. I was presented with a bunch of flowers. while we were having refreshment an Arab singer entertained us with native songs unaccompanied, he had a beautiful rich voice.

In the afternoon we went to tea with the only European in the district. a Greek who ^{owns} the corn mill we saw the native women bringing the corn in baskets on their heads & taking it away after it was ground. in the garden we saw some huge things like cucumbers growing & on enquiring were told they were loofah's

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 we could see the sponge like interior.
 we stayed on to ^{supper} tea & were pressed to spend
 the night also, but we excused ourselves, &
 made our adieus about 9.30. a man carried
 a lantern to guide us, & outside the house
 an armed guard was waiting 10 in all.
 Suzawy explained that it was not for safety
 but because his rank demands it.
 He has arranged our room most beautifully.
 in fact he has turned out of his own on our
 account because it is the larger. The birds
 fly in & out of the windows, his servant caught
 one this morning & I held it in my hand for
 a few minutes. All night a guard is on duty
 on the roof of this house & another outside our
 street door.
 From our window we can look inside the mosque
 & see the people at prayer. This morning the man
 who recites the prayers, came into our room &
 asked Suzawy to ask me if there was one God
 or two. I said only one, & the man went away very

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I must tell you an amusing incident on our arrival, of course all the important villagers came to meet us & they followed us up into our room & stood round watching while we unpacked, finally Gerzawy had to shoo them out so that I could change my dress.

The boy has just been in to tell me the gaffir goes to the post at 5 o'clock. I understood what he told me ^{in Arabic} & he is waiting to take the letter.

Love to you both
Myrtle.

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