

Arabah El Madfunah  
<April 30, 1930>

Dear Mother.

Today the letter with the other hanky arrived. I have given the silk ones away & they caused great delight but I am keeping the ~~cotton~~ linen ones myself as the people here do not know the different qualities in cotton & linen. it is all cheap stuff to them & as a hanky that the children wear on their heads the size of a large duster costs 1½ piastres (about 3<sup>d</sup>) they would think a tiny one that was 'nt<sup>sic</sup> silk of no value what ever - so as they are rather nice & I am always getting short I am adding them to my stock. Of course the people here never blow their noses on hankys<sup>sic</sup>. they tie them round their heads.

Two days ago I wrote to Cooks to ask if they could book me a passage on the N.Y.K boat Atsuta Maru due Port Said 14<sup>th</sup> & arriving England 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> I hope I can get a berth on this boat. as this line issues fares at summer rates this month I shall travel First Class. all the other lines do not start reduced Fares until June. If I cannot get accommodation on this boat. I have asked Cooks to try for the City of Calcutta P. Said. 16<sup>th</sup> or the City of York. P. Said 18<sup>th</sup> these are Ellerman's City & Hall Line. failing these my next choise/<c>e is a British India leaving P.S on the 17<sup>th</sup> & a P&O on the 18<sup>th</sup> so I ought to be able to

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get a berth on one of them.

I am feeling now that I want to come home. I am getting a little tired. & it has been a long time away has'nt it. but it has been a wonderful time & I have loved every moment of it.

We heard from Capt B. Today. he took the opportunity to see a bit of France on his way back. so his arrival in England was somewhat delayed. he says he hopes to visit you before leaving for Canada.

We now have a wee girl to attend to each day. a dog has bitten her cheek. such a nasty gash by the ear. she is so brave about it, we give her a sweet after the dressing because she is so good. All the hands, fingers etc are going along well.

To-day I took a snap of Sardinian spinning & Ahmud twisting the fringes of the rug to complete the rug making series of pictures. The things I am bringing are not at all gay. just natural colours. but they are unique & unobtainable else where.

News is scant just now. some days ago we had a taste of the West Wind. it is scorching hot. the harder it blows the hotter it becomes. of course it is because it has to travel thousands of miles across the Sahara & Libyan Deserts which are burning hot at this time of the year. Fortunately we only had it for one day.

Lots of love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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