

Arabah.  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dear Mother.

Our nice Checho Slavonian<sup>sic</sup> has finished his work here & returned to Cairo, he was a delightful guest to have in camp with us. he will be working for D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner in England in September & I have asked him to come & visit us some time.

Amice & I will be on our own again soon, as Little Un is leaving shortly. he has been getting very nervy & jumpy lately & seemed so queer that when the last Cooks boat came to Baliana Amice went & fetched the Doctor who was on board to come & see him. The D<sup>r</sup> examined him & said "physically he was quite fit, but mentally he was in rather a bad way. he said the isolation here, & the concentration necessary

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for the work was too much for his nerves & he strongly advised Amice to send him off as soon as possible. Of course we are dreadfully sorry about it, as we both like him & he does excellent work, it seems the same thing has happened before in previous jobs. He says himself he knows he cannot carry on with the work, & is very anxious to finish what he has in hand & then go to England for a complete change.

I have had a most lyrical letter from Sheikh Sarbit. He had very short notice of his removal & came in to say good-bye to me in the temple the day before he left, so that I had no opportunity to give him the salary that was due to him. There was about 12/- owing since last pay-day & I thought the occasion called for a little present

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as he had been Teaching me for three years, so I put two pound notes in an envelope & wrote a letter asking him to accept the gift with my congratulations etc all in my very best classical Arabic hand writing. He is generally very reserved & uneffusive but I suppose the unexpected generosity proved too much for him & he wrote a wonderful letter of thanks that might have come out of the Arabian Nights, it was a masterpiece of clear phrase making, in three words he expressed a sentiment that would fill three lines in clumsy English.

I will do my best to translate part of it but it sounds feeble after the Arabic.

"Greetings & the Peace of Allah be upon you. Greatly increases my longing to see your Excellency. I reached my village safely for which Allah be praised & found my

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wife & my relations well & they all send  
Greetings to your Excellency May Allah  
grant you health & happiness, My Gratitude  
to you is as a thousand gratitudes, even  
so am I regretting at being separated  
from you. And in conclusion I send  
you fragrant greetings & sincere regards --  
What do you think of that? Ask Pat  
if her professor could beat it in French.  
There was of course the conventional  
greetings to Sardic etc & he commended  
me to the care of Sheikh Jed-el Karim  
& hoped to hear of my progress etc.

The enthusiasm of Sheikh Jed-el Karim  
is boundless, I made a few remarks  
about derived conjugations last lesson  
& met with an immediate response.  
I am going to be swamped & drowned  
in verbs, he is going to occupy his  
spare time in writing out examples,

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 he spread out both arms to show me the  
 length of paper he would have to use.

I am feeling a little alarmed, he is  
 evidently not used to having a pupil  
 express curiosity in these matters.

How I wish you could be here at lesson  
 time, you would be so amused

I really must close now  
 lots of love to you both & to Pat  
 Your affectionate daughter  
 Myrtle.

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