

Arabah.
March 3rd 1931

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Dear Mother.

I had such a glorious adventure on Sunday. I went for a long camel ride into the desert. I started soon after 8 o'clock. Mahommed-Abdu-Rachman, Sardic, & Ahmud-Abdu-Sellam came as escort. I went in a N.W direction following the line of cliffs bordering the high desert. About 3 hours ride out I came to a fascinating wady, so dismounted & went up it on foot with Sardic & Ahmud. I took some snapshots, then Sardic suggested I might like to climb up & go down another wady on the other side that we had noticed on our way. I thought it a good idea. It was a hard scramble. Ahmud had a very long stout stick, & he'd go up the difficult places & reach the stick down to me & pull me up. I was very hot & breathless when I reached the top so was glad to rest awhile & enjoy the view. It was lovely. I could look right across the Nile valley to the pink hills on the other side. Then came the getting down. This wasn't at all an easy matter we had


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To zigzag along ledges to try & find a way down.
 It was like this — some of the drops were very
 alarming, fortunately I had a long strap with me
 I made a loop & gave Sardic one end to hold while
 I lowered myself down to Ahmud who stood below,
 so if I did slip the strap would prevent me falling
 all went well, & we reached the level without any
 accidents, there were glorious sand dunes in the
 mouth of the other wady. & Mahommed brought the
 camel there & we had lunch, the men forming
 a nice chatty party while I had mine in dignified
 state alone. After lunch I decided to return
 via the cultivation & pay a long promised call on
 Abdu Jouat, the guide who took us to Kharga.
 As we were leaving the desert we saw paw pads
 in the sand, & then I saw what I took to be a jackal
 under a rock, it looked rather strange & when
 we got nearer Sardic said it was a mad dog.
 He had his beloved gun with him so he shot it
 & killed it. He didn't seem to be afraid of any
 evil consequences as it wasn't near our habitation

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* It hadnt touched us, or our belongings.

When we arrived at the village where our old guide lives there was a great commotion, a white woman is a very rare sight there; we were taken to a very nice house, & Abdu Jouet was so delighted to see me, a special carpet that had come from Mecca was spread on the divan for me to sit on, & while the coffee was being prepared ~~to~~ all the village notables were presented to me. I hope I said all the correct polite things, it was quite a strain on my Arabic, I was invited to stay to dinner & spend the night there, but I managed to escape after 2 cups of coffee & an orange, a very large company escorted me through the village & there was a terrific leave taking before I finally departed.

I shall have to tell you the rest of my adventures in my next letter, its bed time & I'm off for another long ride tomorrow

Lots of love

your affectionate daughter
Myrtle

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