Arabah. D/<J>an 7th 1933.

Dear Mother.

The month of Elijah has descended on me in the form of the worst cold I have had for years, Amice & I have caughed^{sic} sneezed & spluttered in company, I spent the day before yesterday in bed, & yesterday I sat out in the sun for a little, & am still feeling sore & headachy though decidedly better.

My last lesson was certainly not a success though earlier in the day my knowledge of written Arabic had been put to a good practical test. At lunch time in the temple Sardic brought me a letter from the schoolmaster that required a written reply – & I had'nt^{sic} any of my books with me. I worried over the letter, recognizing a word here & there, guessing at others & finally I could

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read all of it. It was to convey his salutations & beg my permission to change the day of my next lesson as he was going to Girga the next day as soon as the school was over but if I wished, he could come that day if I would send him word. It was 'nt sic by any means as simple as it sounds in English as it had to be well sprinkled with polite phrases, I wrote a hasty reply, returning salutations & saying I would be pleased if he would come that day etc When I got back to the house for the lesson, I was begin<n>ing to feel this heavy cold coming on & my head felt like a blob of cotton wool. & the things I wrote for dictation were most surprising, the sheikh was most sympathetic & advised me to

wrap my head up well a put wood or my chest. I Took the latter advice but not the former. he wally was most tactful during the lesson, he would see I wasn't at all up to the mark, so instead of looking pained + surprised when I miss interpended (something crong with the spelling Line?) his best efforts he tried to help me over the difficult parts by whispering the letters under his breath after making the noise . Trying to look as if he was not doing it . - was not it nice of him. I had your xmas lette , the one following it both together yesterday, you sun to have heard from a lot of old friends this xmas. Thank you In sording me the little harry . I am

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wrap my head up well & put wool on my chest. I took the latter advice but not the former. he really was most tactful during the lesson, he could see I was'nt^{sic} at all up to the mark, so instead of looking pained & surprised when I missinterperated^{sic} (something wrong with the spelling here?) his best efforts he tried to help me over the difficult parts by whispering the letters under his breath after making the noise. & trying to look as if he was'nt^{sic} doing it. – was'nt^{sic} it nice of him.

I had your Xmas letter & then one following it both to-gether yesterday, you seem to have heard from a lot of old friends this Xmas. Thank you for sending me the little hanky. I am afraid it will not do much to<wards> stemming the flow during the present state of affairs

I will save it for more politi occasions There has been a distinct improvement in the manners of our prolies office, I think somone, (possibly his superior office in Bahana) has told him we are people of quat importance + friends of high officials in bairs & must not be tristed with familially as if we were american Tornists, for when we he comes into the timple now he aprologizes for his presence shopes he wint bothering us. he is rather like a tuesome puppy that one has had to smack, that his on its back with all figs in the air , bigs to be fuguer, one would like to pat it, but on knows it is quite mady to be tresome again of one is in the teast bit ficially -When you are in Walford will you go into a hair dursus & get me Two sluping caps. pink or yellow I like the plain

I will save it for more polite occasions There has been a distinct improvement in the manners of our police officer, I think someone, (possibly his superior officer in Baliana) has told him we are people of great importance & friends of high officials in Cairo & must not be treated with famialari/iri>ty as if we were American tourists, for when ever he comes into the temple now he apologizes for his presence & hopes he is'nt^{sic} bothering us. he is rather like a tiresome puppy that one has had to smack, that lies on its back with all legs in the air & begs to be forgiven, one would like to pat it, but one knows it is quite ready to be tiresome again if one is the least bit friendly –

When you are in Watford will you go into the hairdressers^{sic} & get me two sleeping caps. pink or yellow I like the plain

204 not sort, they are called Lady Jayne I think , cost about if - a 1/6 cach. the ones have show signs of waning + I do not think they will last the season. There is no hung. you could put then in with letters one at a Time Love from us both. Your affectionale dang the

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Love from us both. Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.