Anabah-rl-Madfunah. Mov20に1929.

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Dean Father
It was jolly galling suck a Pong fittu from you. I Ford hearing all about the Garavan in Red peeked out with blue, a vicerversa of the Lady (coloen not mentioned). All the suceiting Things seem to happen when / am away. still / mus/ind quembe. Ii finding life fill of excièments just now,
The lng bundt of papen aniurd quite safely also the envelope. The contents will hilptowands decorating The Xmas This spiundidif, Mannic was so delighted witt the forget ma not sects. she went straicitr away o pulled somctinng up 10 mate som 10 plant them, We have had the cuss omustand. o the lettuces will soon is ready. When I fuss described the ganders to you'i am afraid I very much unduesimaited the sign. the immensity of the desert makes wry thing dee appose very Tiny, now that my ry is havre got used to the proportions I acalige They ane muck langer that I first thought.

Arabah-el-Madfunah.
Nov $20{ }^{\underline{\underline{t h}}} 1929$.
Dear Father

It was jolly getting such a long letter from you. I loved hearing all about the Caravan in Red picked out with blue, or vice versa \& the Lady (colour not mentioned). All the exciting things seem to happen when I am away. still I must'nt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ grumble. I'm finding life full of excitements just now.

The big bundle of paper arrived safely also the envelope. the contents will help towards decorating the Xmas tree splendidly, Nannie was so delighted with the forget me not seeds, she went straight away \& pulled something up to make room to plant them. We have had the cress $\&$ mustard, $\&$ the lettuces will soon be ready. When I first described the gardens to you I am afraid I very much underestimated the size, the immensity of the desert makes everything else appear very tiny, now that my eyes have got used to the proportions I realize they are much larger than I first thought.
I am so glad the faumende water was a nice surprise
I was very much torn in two about it, I died so want
to have the fur of giving you your lnathdan present.
before I lest home, o at the same tome I delint
litre 10 think of the nc being a blank when the day
really came so I compromised fry giving you
The fade first o leaving yandicys with itsthin.
It was luctay the letter aniued in time also.
so fan the mail seems very good. The natives
simply lour my Letias will the leg adduce
They a Prays recognize them o ling then sriaugtl
To me, they fee they can scaly undustano
English uniting.

Today ahmed hough about $1 / 3$ of the white fleece all beautifully spur, it is all as fine rouen as The sample I posted bo you a wack a so ago
the tûtuc scams hashtin than ingest wool but whin woven it makes a brailifill supple cloth which dore not pull an ravel. If Iculd process a pound a so of this shun wool would it be any use to Miss collins. The nod howe sheep here

I am so glad the lavender water was a nice surprise I was very much torn in two about it, I did so want to have the fun of giving you your birthday present before I left home, \& at the same time I did'nt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ like to think of there being a blank when the day really came so I compromised by giving you the jade first and leaving Yardley's with Mother. It was lucky the letter arrived in time also, so far the mail seems very good. The natives simply love my letters with the big address they always recognise them \& bring them straight to me, they feel they can really understand English writing.

Today Ahmad brought about $1 / 3$ of the white fleece all beautifully spun. it is all as fine \& even as the sample I posted to you a week or so ago the texture seems harsher than English wool but when woven it makes a beautiful supple cloth which does not pull or ravel. If I could procure a pound or so of this spun wool would it be any use to Miss Collins. The red brown sheep here

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is a lourly coforn,(litu a bay linse un shade) the wool
us skgttyy coanser in lutunce o/ blicue lissupensive
The black is the coousest achicapest. Ido not yet
know the cost of the spun wool. Sut in Imme lshall
find out all the detaits.
    The mugs thry make in the village are not heavy
    enough for what wr want. Thyy one woven rugs
    not pile nugs, I wrillsec what I can olo un bacio
    I bekcer old Hammadans. Boldtana's ane vay
    scarce now. lam having a hariging made
for the don beiwren the studioo lilnary, the
    weavn is to do the usual native paitun si
    The 3 natinal shades of, wool. Sf will te nice 2
    heavy. I hehare chaught porof the method of
    wroweng is like this. it is nathen like
                    waptrucu⿸⿱⿰㇒一十凵木
basket wok palten but is bralion up veny Tightly
    Mov22in We had a glonious day yestuday.. Miss't's
frends Mas oMiss Fith came, so wr took the aflainoa
o/d I had a pienic up, onc of the waddy's.
    wr. Told the men that we should nequine lwo
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is a lovely colour，（like a bay horse in shade）the wool is slightly course in texture \＆I believe less expensive the black is the ear coarsest \＆cheapest．I do not yet know the cost of the spun wool，but in time I shall find out all the details．

The rugs they make in the village are not heavy enough for what we want．They are woven rugs not pile rugs，I will see what I can do in Cairo I believe old Hammadans \＆Bokkara＇s are very scarce now．I am having a hanging made for the door between the studio \＆library，the weaver is to do the usual native pattern in the 3 natural shades of wool．it will be nice \＆ heavy \＆I believe draught proof the method of weaving is like this［ $\mathbb{\mathbb { R }}$ ］it is rather like
（warp threads $\uparrow \uparrow$ ）
basket work pattern but is beaten up very tightly

## Nov 22 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$

We had a glorious day yesterday．．Miss C＇s friends $\mathrm{M}^{\text {rs }} \&$ Miss Firth came，so we took the afternoon off \＆had a picnic up one of the waddy＇s ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ we told the men that we should require two

To cavy the lea a the gun. (ur now n go far in the desut without a weapon because of wotures o wild cats) but thy all cams. five men a these donkeys, ur prefued to walk, so the donas tiolited along with us just as dogs would. The walked about $11 / 2$ miles along shitty undulating sand then we came to the glorious pink cliffs. The waddy is a nolimal hock in these cliffs forming a long wending Frail that finally' lads to the top. The entrance to the waddy is like this
Imagine blues sky. pints clefts shading 5 mauve in the distance a golden
sand sprinkled with sion dust.
The topsof these cliffs ane whit alabasia o the wend Hows the while dust onto the sand dhifis'. (the dots sase us) we wound own way up rip watt we came to a poet where a great lank of sand led up to the very Top. The snvants
to carry the tea \& the gun. (we never go far in the desert without a weapon because of wolves \& wild cats) but they all came, five men \& three donkeys, we preferred to walk, so the donks trotted along with us just as dogs would. We walked about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles along slightly undulating sand \& then we came to the glorious pink cliffs. the waddy ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ is a natural break in these cliffs forming a long winding trail that finally leads to the top. the entrance to the waddy ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ is like this $\downarrow$ Imagine blue sky, pink [ $\overline{\mathbb{R}}]$
cliffs shading to mauve in the distance \& golden sand sprinkled with silver dust.
The tops of these cliffs are white alabaster \& the wind blows the white dust onto the sand drifts. (the dots [ $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ ] are us) we wound our way up \& up until we came to a part where a great bank of sand led up to the very top. the servants

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donks,o Mns fult, s M^Bcagtyy, semaunced there
whitc the forn of us attumpicd the cimint.
    it was somctining like this }->\mathrm{ ( I hour chaw us 
It was litue a sand
glacim. ws had to
go on all foms o hupt
'slipping back, but
after a vioiont stingg!
    wn qoot to the rop
    It was worth it. the
vicw was sumply
ummensc, sange
aflu}\mathrm{ range of 
with groal sand diits betwron. These hills ark
croumed witt socks of alabastu +oslop anc all
sifure a gold.
He did nok take so fong coming douse. Wr
choose a slill streper stopi it was sumply
Tenyjuing to approach the codge ts semend %-
fall rigtt awsay the angtc was the angle of
ust for sand. about this I think
    wr sut of Jlopped r slid}dow
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dons, \& $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{rs}}$ Firth, \& $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Beazley, remained there while the four of us attempted the climb.
it was something like this $\rightarrow$ (I have drawn us much too large for correct proportion)
It was like a sand glacier. we had to go on all fours \& kept [ ] slipping back, but after a violent struggle we got to the top It was worth it, the view was simply immense, range after range of hills with great sand drifts between. These hills are crowned with rocks of alabaster \& on top are all silver \& gold.

We did not take so long coming down. We choose ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ a still steeper slope. it was simply terryfying ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ to approach the edge it seemed to fall right away the angle was the angle of rest for sand, about this I think [ $\overline{\mathbb{K}}$ ] we sort of flopped \& slid down

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all yelling witt the joy, it, Then we reached
the lavel we found TGa ncady. oun men
had madc a camp jinc. ) boiked the Kcttle
busk came on before wr had quetc finisted
O the camp finc wits the shadwravforms of om
Chabs o the dorkeys all youped, among the
sand chifts madc an unfongcitable pictunc
(like the one of Mr Bruntons only a litth mou
uglt foos the aftnglow of the sunsct.).
    We came home by star light, y weint we just glad
of hot faths retcangundics when we got is.
    To-day we had anotinn treitiment. Mrss fa/ were
scienning to pusces on om}\mathrm{ bonks watt 
Ahmud,r Ahmud-abdu-Scllam. wr huand om
dog barking violeathy. (he waschained) o when
w}\mathrm{ came is sigil of the house or saw 
    wolf lite cucatunc sunning sound in a stíange
    sort of way. it chdint secm like a dog.2
    yct the coloun was too ligtt for a wolf, (om
    thnee men whe off liter a shet. gallakec's
    tucted up all shouteng at once. The animal
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all yelling with the joy of it. When we reached the level we found tea ready, our men had made a camp fire \& boiled the kettle. Dusk came on before we had quite finished \& the camp fire with the shaddowy forms of our Arabs \& the donkeys all grouped <together> among the sand drifts made an unforgettable picture (like the one of $\mathrm{M}^{\text {rs }}$ Bruntons ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ only a little more light from the afterglow of the sunset.)

We came home by starlight, \& wer'nt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ we just glad of hot baths \& clean undies when we got in.

Today we had another excitement. Miss C \& I were returning to lunch on our donks with Sardic Ahmud, \& Ahmud-Abdu-Sellam, we heard our dog barking violently, (he was chained) \& when we came in sight of the house we saw a wolf like creature running round in a strange sort of way, it didn't seem like a dog. \& yet the colour was too light for a wolf, our three men were off like a shot, gallabea's tucked up all shouting at once. The animal
made off, sill running es circus on to po. They all pol out of sigil own the ret sand bills. then wo hand iwo Prangs. we lift on dorks of the house or scrambled ate the hunt, ur found sandic had shot the cucatune it proved 10 or a mad dog. it was very quant $\gamma$ is mouth was all dieting offomin It was a bautifnlly clcas shot though the head. o a very luctay thing Too. These half and dogs dies do go rabid + cause a lot of rabbi.
(aneihn reason for canying a gus)
When we got track to the house we looked om dog own well $1 s^{-}$mate sure he had nob been bitten but he was all right, oe hour $10^{\circ}$
koch him chained as they arc poisoning a lis of dogs in the village on ciecount of
naris. (Ir is a cue country inspire of all its Getty)
Same day latin. Just hicand some riling rows.
Because the mad dog had been sound on dwelling $r$ because one of us caused its soul to br torn from its body all who saw it an
made off, still running in circles or to \& fro. They all got out of sight over the next sand hills, then we heard two bangs. we left our dons at the house \& scrambled after the hunt, we found Sardic had shot the creature it proved to be a mad dog. it was very quant ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ \{gaunt \& its mouth was all dribbling \& foaming It was a beautifully clean shot through the head, \& a very lucky thing too, these half wild dogs often do go rabid \& cause a lot of trouble. (another reason for carrying a gun)

When we got back to the house we looked our dog over well to make sure he had not been bitten but he was all right, we have to keep him chained as they are poisoning a lot of dogs in the village on account of rabis ${ }^{\text {sic }}$. (It is a cruel country in spite of all its beauty)

## Same day later.

Just heard some exciting news.
Because the mad dog has $/<\mathrm{d}>$ been round our dwelling \& because one of us caused its soul to be torn from its body all who saw it are
in danger of being inturd in by the corlspinit (unsuct a case om suvants arc one of us, we proirde them with the means of leering therefore Thy on c lite blood relations) In order lo avert this chadful thing the priest is coning tomorrow To sad prayus oven us, th ane all 15 rat head that he has blessed. corn own own dos will the included is this ceremony, also the donkeys wo wens riding.
This vexing the Orndat called, Miss $b$ was slaying on latin undine temple so 1 had $10^{-}$ scereive him, I am afraid my wnonschion was limited but Manic filled is the gaps.

I have hand that Tinicest delight is sun grape juice surcioned with hon ny oforled aborlcdustil if fecornes a Thick qlutinctas mass.
in danger of being entered in by the evil spirit (in such a case our servants are one of us, we provide them with the means of living therefore they are like blood relations) In order to avert this dreadful thing the priest is coming tomorrow to read prayers over us, \& we are all to eat bread that he has blessed, even our own dog will be included in this ceremony, also the donkeys we were riding.

This evening the Omdah called, Miss C was staying on later in the temple so I had to receive him, I am afraid my conversation was limited but Nannie filled in the gaps.

I have heard that Turkish delight is pure grape juice sweetened with honey $\&$ boiled $\&$ boiled until it becomes a thick glutinous mass.

## Nov 24.

We had the ceremony to proline us from the wert spirit that possessed the madag. I will try tonembles the rilual. Gust the priest was provided with a mat a stout, on the stook the placed y loaves of head (lite epancakes) $+y$ dates + a Tiny cup $\delta$ oil. beside the stook was a water jas. Then, when we had all gathued sound soon owns dog was hought in $10^{-}$ the circle. He began to read from a book. There was a curtain holy man who had been bitten by a mad dog. I he was seczed by a gnat fear. but he prayed to god for delirncse other wit was aurited, th was this brayer the priest readout. Then he Took a sTick "struck rack of us lightly on the head saying." Depart of fear." Then there small boys who came with hin walked sound us 7 Times one way + y limes the other chanting some ritual. They stopped before the priest t the
said to the fist boy. "I that do you want my son, the boy rephed "OL Mastu I naos defionence from wile," Then the prise wok the y ers loaves 4 consecrated them witt the holy oil. s the offered the

Nov 24.

We had the ceremony to protect us from the evil spirit that possessed the $<\mathrm{mad}>$ dog. I will try to rem $<\mathrm{em}>$ der the ritual. First the priest was provided with a mat $\&$ a stool, on the stool he placed 7 loaves of bread (like pancakes) \& 7 dates $\&$ a tiny cup of oil, beside the stool was a water jar. then, when we had all gathered round \& our own dog was brought into the circle, he began to read from a book.

There was a certain holy man who had been bitten by a mad dog, \& he was siezed ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ by a great fear, but he prayed to God for deliverance \& the evil was averted, it was this prayer the priest read out. then he took a stick \& struck each of us lightly on the head saying, "Depart oh fear." Then three small boys who came with him walked round us 7 times one way $\& 7$ times the other chanting some ritual. They stopped before the priest $\&$ he said to the first boy. What do you want my son, \& the boy replied "Oh Master I crave deliverance from evil," then the priest took the 7 loves loaves \& consecrated them with the holy oil, \& he offered the

bread to the boy，who barked，\＆bit savagely at it，\＆ then spat out the mouthful．Then he did the same with the dates．The evil spirit was supposed to pass into the food which，being blessed had the power to destroy it．Each of the three boys repeated the ceremony．Then the priest poured oil into the water jar \＆sprinkled everyone in turn while the 3 boys ran round barking \＆snapping at each of us in turn．This was to entice the evil spirits to come out of us so that the holy water might destroy them．

It was a most impressive ceremony \＆it was really delightful to see how anxious our servants were that our dog should get the full benefit of it． Sardic sat hugging him，\＆implored the priest to hit him well with the stick，\＆half drench him with holy water．They have great faith in its effectiveness．

We gave the priest coffee，$\&$ his 3 boys sweet biscuits， we also（Miss C \＆I）gave him PT10（2／－）each for charity．\＆a fine red silk handkerchief to wrap
the holy took is. Miss $b$ has made notes, was
ane going to writ it up concfull, house as far
as we know such a thing has nave been
published in any works on modun Eqyplian
magic. Wee should now hour heard of th if
At hadint beacon for the mad dog beng. lulled
outside ore house by one fo un savants.
Will you krp this account handy. in case / want
to nejee 15 it when l come home.
Tell Mother I will answer ha Ictus as soon as
I have storied this on its jouncy. I was very
pleased with all the snaps oribtons she sent,
also the pencil proticelins ansived safer, rare
being used.
Lour To you bort
Som affechönak- dangtict
Myrtle.
the holy book in. Miss C has made notes, \& we are going to write it up carefully because as far as we know such a thing has never been published in any works on Modern Egyptian magic. We should never have heard of it if it had'nt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ been for the mad dog being killed outside our house by one of our servants.

Will you keep this account handy. in case I want to refer to it when I come home.

Tell Mother I will answer her letters as soon as I have started this on its journey. I was very pleased with all the scraps \& ribbons she sent, also the pencil protectors arrived safely \& are being used.

Love to you both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

