

Arabah el Madfunah  
Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1937.

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Dear Mother

We had a luncheon party in the temple last Thursday, the Mudir of this province & the Chief of Police were our guests, of course we had a turkey in their honour, we gave them cauliflower with cheese sauce to follow & then treacle tart, & apricot jelly & cream with fruit & coffee to finish, I think they enjoyed everything, the treacle tart was new to them they attacked it with knife & fork in the most business like way & approved of it, we conversed chiefly about the Kings visit, the Mudir speaks very good English but the Chief of Police was not so fluent & had to be helped out occasionally with a little Arabic.

We have had Amice's cousin Jan staying here a few days she enjoyed everything so much we arranged the luncheon party during her visit so that she might have the opportunity of meeting some of the upper class Egyptians

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She was so sorry when the time came for her to return to Cairo, she sails for England in a few days.

Singab's camel has a daughter - Amice & I went to see it when it was three days old. It is simply adorable, it has white legs & grey & white curls on its little hump & head & neck.

It regarded us with the greatest curiosity, & staggered over to us on its absurdly wobbly legs & nuzzled our faces & tried sucking our chins. Mamma burred in the background but did not seem at all alarmed, she is quite used to us now & feels we are to be trusted with her offspring.

To-day, being our holiday, I went down to Singab's house to make a pencil sketch, he came up after breakfast to escort me & carry my things, I found the little house beautifully swept & tidy, I did a little sketch of the interior with the water jar & the corn mill & the quaint mud cupboards & the oven & the little wife sat beside

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the oven & I included her in the picture. Singab was very proud, he had provided some lovely oranges for my entertainment, I enjoyed my stay there very much, I returned about eleven so that he would have time to go to the market to do his weeks shopping, I expect by now all the people in the market have heard how the English lady made a picture in his house, & I shall have numerous requests to make pictures in other houses. We have been having visits from sparrows again, as we are working near where they have their houses, there is one we call the Omdah as he has a fine large house with a courtyard, he is a fine fat sparrow & lords it over the others, he comes & demands crumbs as soon as we settle down to work & then invites all his friends & relations to share the meal!

Will you write out for Nannie how you make the force meat balls that you used to make when we had jugged here, they would be so nice with some of the stews she makes & she loves to

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try something new.

The old guard who owns our doggie friends has been pensioned off as he was long past the age that the government permits a guard to remain in the service, so he has departed to his family house in the village & of course his dogs have gone with them, we miss them very much but he brings them to visit us every Sunday & Thursday, these being the days we have meat for lunch & we can save nice scraps for them, they go mad with excitement when they see us & nearly pull the old man over in their eagerness to greet us.

The new guard is a relation of Ahmed Ibrahim we have known him for years, he has his own dog with him to keep guard, he is a relation of our dog & is named after him, he is a grey dog, the natives use the same word for both grey & green so we always call him green dog he is quite friendly to us, he was very shy at first but is used to us going by every day now. he is

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this month he will go over all the work we have  
done so far, so as not to have so much to  
tackle at the end of the season when the  
weather is hot. we are looking forward to  
his visit.

Lots of love from us both to you  
both. also to Pat  
your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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