

Arabah el Madfunah.  
Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1930.

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Dear Mother

This is my last day of solitary glory & it has proved a very nice one. Professor Newberry came to the temple today. He is one of the leading lights in Egyptology. He is a most charming man, rather like Dr. Dugon. He came up on my scaffold (which is called "gunterer" in Arabic) & looked at my drawing & said lots of nice things about it. He has the reputation of being a severe critic so I was very bucked. He said I must have a remarkably steady hand as my line work was perfect. He had a lot of Egyptian students with him & he asked if they might see some of the work as he is training them to be archeologists. So I climbed down & went to where we keep the drawings in a large tin lined box. I had to send one of the guards to fetch Sardic from the engine room as he had the keys. I was quite surprised to find myself giving instructions in Arabic without any hesitation. I usually say the sentences over to myself a dozen times before I dare

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attempt them aloud. Sardic handed me the finished drawings as I wanted them & I explained the work & methods to the students, The Chief of Police & the Inspector & all the guards were there so I had a good audience. The explanations were in English of course. Miss Calverley will be very sorry to have missed Prof Newberry's visit, but I know she will be delighted to hear what he said about both our drawings.

She will arrive tomorrow morning by the night train from Cairo. I shall be awfully glad to see her, it is a little bit lonely working all alone, but I have really managed very well on my own. Nannie is such a dear & all the servants are simply splendid. Fancy that friend of Agnes Broome's saying she could not endure the natives. I expect she was remarkably prim & narrow minded: these people do not show their best side to everyone - but once gain their liking & their respect, there is nothing they will not do for you. Unfortunately tourists only see the very worst type of native - those who have been spoilt by too much contact with all sorts of Europeans

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To know the people you must live with them, take an interest in all their affairs, be sympathetic & friendly but not familiar. They are very proud themselves & they respect pride in others. It is a great mistake to be too free & easy. In the village near the temple <sup>some years ago</sup> two English women were stoned because the people considered their behavior improper. Our servants have a great contempt for tourists. One day I was leaving my drawing things loose on my scaffold as usual to go & have lunch, & Mahmud came up & began to collect them all & put them away. I told him I should need them after lunch. He said "They shall be here when the Excellent Lady requires them, but it is not good to have them now because Cook's people are coming & they are not nice." I was very amused, & certainly I agree with him. Some of Cook's people are not nice. Specially the Americans & the Jews. Their manners & their clothes pass description, but one does see a number of very nice people also. but they usually come in small parties.

I do not seem to have very much news for you in this letter which is quite a change. I am

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I do not seem to have much news for you in this letter which is quite a change. I am

usually scribbling away for dear life to get all my experiences described in a limited time.

I am glad you had such a nice time in town with Pat & I hope your needlework goes well.

We have not applied for a permit to dig yet. Some how there does not seem any time, & now M<sup>r</sup> Beazley has left we have more work than we reckoned for. I dont expect I shall be home before May unless the hot weather sets in very early.

I had a woman with a bitten arm to attend to yesterday. a savage dog had siezed her just below the elbow. fortunately she had the sense to come here at once. Nannie heated some water & we bathed it well with hot lysol & I painted all the tooth marks with iodine & bandaged it up. I hope it will be all right.

A day or two ago there was a great fuss in the temple & one of the men came to tell me Ahmad Abu Bekken, one of the guards had cut his hand on some glass. as luck would have it I had my tin of homocia in my pocket as I had a little sore on my lip from my cold. so I got some rags that

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I keep handy & hurried off expecting to see something very nasty & gorey. I found the unfortunate guard half drowned, as I had said "put his hand in clean water until I come" they had poured about 2 jug fulls over his hand arm & gallabia & were preparing to empty a third over him, the cut proved to be nothing more serious than a rather deep gash on the second finger, (it had bled rather a lot) so I put a generous dab of homocea on a clean bit of rag & tied it up for him.

You should have heard the blessings that were called down on me, they extended to my whole family so you & Father ought to benefit.

Lots of love to you both, as well as the afore mentioned blessings

Your affectionate  
daughter Myrtle.

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