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Dean Mother

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Arabah el Madfunah. March 18th 1937.

Dear Mother,

The four painting books have arrived safely. many thanks for them, I am sure they will cause great surprise & amusement

Now to continue the account of our adventures. Amice & I were up bright & early & all ready when Hanafey Bey arrived in the government lorry, it was an eight cylinder Ford, it had enormous baloon^{sic} tyres & was a nice grey colour. Amice & I sat in front beside Hanafey & Sardic & the two men who hab/<d> accompanied us the day before sat in the box part at the back along with the water tank & petrol tins & luncheon basket, Hanafey having come fully provided with everything for a twelve hours jaunt. he had left word that if we were not back by 7 o'clock that evening they had better send out a search party. The car bounded along the sandy track to the mountains with the greatest ease. none of Joeyssic puffing & chuggings. we heard afterwards that our host was driving as if he had a load of china aboard, later, when he discovered what really tough females

we were

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he changed his lactics entirely. but I that take in the story. If you look at the little map I have chause you will see the dolled line where we left the main Track , went along a way that Hanafay had made possible for a can by sunding a gang of min ahead to not the langust stones out of the way, I seemed impossible that anything on which could get along, but get along we did, great mountains towning our us on wither side, lighter about three re half homs drive we were right in the centre of the range of the perphony mountains o we got down from the can & cramined the ruins of the settlement the Romans had made there who were in change of the presones who worked in the quarries un saw first I all the nuins of a rescoon where they stored the walin, with prips o conduits to carry it to the houghs when the animals were wantered, then need we visited the ruined Tempte, us do not know to which God it was set up. It was about noon then, so we decided it would be a good place for funct so the basket was honght up. amice of were wonding

he changed his tactics entirely, but of that later in the story. If you look at the little map I have drawn you will see the dotted line where we left the main track & went along a way that Hanafey had made possible for a car by sending a gang of men ahead to roll the largest stones out of the way, it seemed impossible that anything on wheels could get along, but get along we did, great mountains towering over us on either side; a/<A>fter about three & a half hours^{sic} drive we were right in the centre of the range of porphorysic mountains & we got down from the car & examined the ruins of the settlement the Romans had made there who were in charge of the prisoners who worked in the quarries. we saw first of all the ruins of a reservoir where they stored the water, with pipes & conduits to carry it to the troughs where the animals were wartered sic, then next we visited the ruined temple, we do not know to which God it was set up. it was about noon then, so we decided it would be a good place for lunch. so the basket was brought up. Amice & I were wondering

what was expected of us in the cating fine knowing the usual Egyptians idea of a frience. but we Rad a pleasant surprise, Hanafa sand he had hought the sort of food that he found best for acsut capcolitions, I proved to be fist, caught o field conly that morning, head to cal with it, a Tim of pincapph shiers rastat of exocolate in after il was deliverous , I can't tell you how we enjoyed it, we had espected a lot of met greaty food, but I seems Hanafy is as abstractions as we are, he neither smokes or chinks o was very surprised to find we were equally fugual, he thought all Inglish women smoked and has agantites a chank cocklaits or con possible oursion. after tunet us bund a libetion to the gods on the alter, we thought I best to proprilish Them as it was a truly timilying place, our Lost quite entraced into the spirit of it all & sunced most intalained by our ideas & unantes about whything smost patient in answering endless questions about matters geological. The need thing was to see the quanic when the

what was expected of us in the eating line knowing the usual Egyptians idea of a picnic. but we had a pleasant surprise, Hanafey said he had brought the sort of food that he found best for desert expeditions, it proved to be fish, caught & fried early that morning, bread to eat with it, a tin of pineapple slices & a slab of chocolate for after it was delise/<c>ious & I cantsic tell you how we enjoyed it, we had expected a lot of rich greasy food, but it seems Hanafey is as abstemious as we are, he neither smokes or drinks & was very surprised to find we were equally frugal, he thought all English women smoked endless cigarettes & drank cocktails on every possible occasion. after lunch we burnt a libation to the gods on the altar, we thought it best to propitiate them as it was a truly terrifying place, our host quite entered into the spirit of it all & seemed most entertained by our ideas & remarks about everything & most patient in answering endless questions about matters geological.

The next thing was to see the quarries where the

402 Romans cut the states of purple peopley. They had nede a great samp at the food of the mountain for loading the blocks on the stedges o from this ran a slip way, we began to as and, I was nother like the last lap up Snowdon where Pel ol lost the tack a tuck to snamble up the loose state. we went on son, the gradient varying shiftly but mostly as stick as it was prossell to go up enthous nawling on Rands & lines, I cont till you Low glorious the survey was, we looked ove range after rouge of mountains of way have, people rose. · gramilé, nange. greenist black, way stade that stone can take, wh various turns of the track then were sums of little grand houses when the oursers must fave sat when watching the grany men lovering the stones, we had occasional rests, at one Hanafy said, this is one third up. The now you have gone two thirds when it came to these thirds the track still fed up + we said while are the juanics? so he Payto & said well I am afaid there is still another this

Romans cut the slabs of purple porphorysic. they had made a great ramp at the foot of the mountain for loading the blocks on the sledges & from this ran a slip way, we began to ascend, it was rather like the last lap up Snowdon where Pat & I lost the track & tried to scramble up the loose shale. we went on & on, the gradient varying slightly but mostly as steep as it was possible to go up without crawling on hands & knees, I cant^{sic} tell you how glorious the scenery was, we looked over range after range of mountains of every hue, purple. rose--granite, orange. greenish black, every shade that stone can take, at various turns of the track there were ruins of little guard houses where the overseers must have sat when watching the quarry men lowering the stones, we had occasional rests, at one Hanafey said, "this is one third up." then, "now you have gone two thirds" when it came to three thirds the track still led up & we said where are the quarries? so he laughed & said "well I am afraid there is still another third

To go if you really want to see them! we asked why In divided the distance into four thirds, I he said it was because most people who quite content with one of parkaps two thirds is he had'ne capicled us to surince mon than a little way up. of course we went on, we were quite detirmined To need those quanics after that. The sin was very hot of the ascert stiff o we noticed that Honefay was looking at us with a very would refrussion when un sat down to nest for a minute, so we asked what was Tron bling him, he said " 115 your faces, you are both the colour of beet worts, " how we laughed. in told him that most fair skinned people wend very sed after white exection, he said he had new- sur any one go as red as we did + was wordning if in war going to have apoptery! " a he was considering how he could carry us both down again - we assured him his pears for us were quite groundless, we went or ton, al about five thirds we noty did need the grang. Hanafay told us it was about a mile up.

to go if you really want to see them:" we asked why he divided the distance into four thirds, & he said it was because most people were quite content with one, or perhaps two thirds & he had'nt^{sic} expected us to survive more than a little way up. of course we went on, we were quite determined to reach those quarries after that, the sun was very hot & the ascent stiff & we noticed that Hanafey was looking at us with a worried expression when we sat down to rest for a minute, so we asked what was troubling him, he said "Itssic your faces, you are both the colour of beetroots," how we laughed, & told him that most fair skinned people went very red after extra exertion, he said he had never seen any one go as red as we did & was wondering if we were going to have apoplexy!!! & he was considering how he could carry us both down again – we assured him his fears for us were quite groundless, we went on & on, & at about five fifth/<third> thirds we really did reach the quarry. Hanafey told us it was about a mile up.

In also said In presonally wasn't going any higher but from that point we would snambh about & cramine what we liked, amin of women had to snanth up a bit higher but I was quite glad of a good rest, the view was grand, we would see the Red See our so miles away. I have got some really splinand photos of the views from the manies. we had a good look at the various gram faces & the chappings & found one of the grande rollers that they used for moving the great blocks or to the slip way, I must have been a sight To su then coming down the mountain. Ou our descrit was more rapid than than on ascent, I when we needed the can again we all sal & cal the lovely guicey oranges that our host Lad provided to refust is after our creations. Or our return journey then was a spenally June view of the choland mountains in the evening light from the Top of a spen of the pheap kong mountain, I have marked the place II on the

enclosed map. Hanafy stopped the can for us

he also said he personally was'nt^{sic} going any higher but from that point we could scramble about & examine what we liked, Amice of course had to scramble up a bit higher but I was quite glad of a good rest, the view was grand. we could see the Red Sea over 50 miles away. I have got some really splendid photos of the views from the quarries. we had a good look at the various quarry faces & the chippings & found one of the granite rollers that they used for moving the great blocks on to the slip way, it must have been a sight to see them coming down the mountain.

Our own di/<e>scent was more rapid than than sic our ascent, & when we reached the car again we all sat & eat the lovely juicey oranges that our host had provided to refresh us after our exertions.

On our return journey there was a specially fine view of the distant mountains in the evening light from the top of a spur of the phorphory^{sic} mountain. I have marked the place II on the enclosed map. Hanafey stopped the car for us

402 to admire it, we asked him how long it look him to get back to Hungada from the h said it was about 60 Kilonichis + husually ded it in about as how, but as he had ladies with Lin he was allowing longutime so as to award bumping them, we looked at the time. I was about 5 15 + we said of he would forget we were ladies & world drive at his usual face it would just give us lime to make a sketch. by this time he had notized that we ched not bother about our presonal comfact when we were interested in anything, so he agreed to our request, but we noted a wicked twinkte in his eye & guessed we were in for an excelling hown. onlive hopped + sal down on each side of the can I dalited ingorousty for will six o'clock, then we got in again a started of. I was som ide the road was like this is parts , we were travelling of about 50 miles as Lon most of the Time, the can lept, bounded, &

to admire it, we asked him how long it took him to get back to Hurgada from there, he said it was about 60 kilometres & he usually did it in about an hour, but as he had ladies with him he was allowing longer time so as to avoid bumping them, we looked at the time. it was about 5.15 & we said if he would forget we were ladies & would drive at his usual pace it would just give us time to make a sketch. by this time he had realized that we did not bother about our personal comfort when we were interested in anything, so he agreed to our request, but we noticed a wicked twinkle in his eye & guessed we were in for an exciting hour. out we hopped & sat down on each side of the car & dabbled vigorously fruntil six o'clock, then we got in again & started off. it was some ride the road was like this in parts [R]

& we were travelling at about 50 miles an hour most of the time. the car lept^{sic} & bounded, &

we certainly had our full share of bumping but it was gorgeous & we arrived at the Marine station with ten minutes to spare. we had had the time of our lives, & our host had proved an ideal companion. both Amice & I decided he is quite the nicest Egyptian we have ever met.

I must tell you the rest in my next letter, we spent this Tuesday at Sohag so there was very little time left for letters.

> Lots of love to you both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.