

Arabah -
Feb 23^d 1934

Arabah. 271

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Dear Mother.

Your second letter of birthday greetings arrived on the very day. Wasn't it lucky.

I had a lovely birthday. Nanny put a pot of sweet peas by my plate at breakfast. Amice gave me a silk scarf & Little Un a snake skin & a note book

After breakfast all the men came in to wish me a Happy Feast & I gave them each a slice of a cake that Nanny had made. Young Ahmed presented me with an amazing bird made out of pith & feathers. I have taken a photograph of it to show you as I am afraid it is too fragile to bring home

During the morning's work

Dear Mother.

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During the morning's work

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~~268~~

we had a great surprise. Sardic
came in to tell us that another ^{silk} weaver
from Akhmim had come to visit us
& show us his work. so we had
him in. He had patterns of the
most marvelous work, we fell
heavily & gave orders recklessly -
there was a wonderful white satin
with a persian design of pine cones
& flowers woven in in all gay colours
we are having 7 meters made of
it & that will make us each a
gorgeous dinner jacket, he showed
us the stiff thick satins that they
use for Omdah's robes, & all sorts
of fancy weaves, Amice is having
some curtain stiff woven & I am
also having a cushion cover in patterned
cotton. We very much want to go
over & see our satin on the loom

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I have given him an addressed
post card to send to us telling
when the satin is nearly ready
so that we can go over & look at
the way it is done.

I had a reply to the letter I wrote
to the other weaver to-day.

This is how he starts his letter.

"After presenting dutifully the greetings
suitable to your exalted dignity" --

-- & ends. "I hope you will be
pleased so that I will deserve a gift
present from your honours --"

note the subtlety of the wording.

"so that I deserve" not "so that I receive"

It is to be hoped we shall not have
any more hopeful visitors or we
shall be ruined, their wares simply
demoralize us. One can resist
tempting silks in shops, but when

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 they are produced by the enthusiastic
 oriental weaver himself one is
 helpless - ~~no~~ no one else is
 likely to have anything like it
 in England. even the Oultons
 who have lived for years less
 than an hours journey from
 Akhmim had no idea such
 silks could be bought there, &
 if I hadnt asked Sheikh Sarbit
 to show us round I dont suppose
 we should have known either.
 Evidently our visit with him became
 the talk of the town.
 How nice of Mr Pinton to give us
 a piece of damask. I am sending
 the mummy linen, no need to
 put it under glass. it will stand
 a little handling. (I have dipped
 it in strong lysol).
 Lots of love to you both.
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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