Anabakil Madfunat Jans: 1937.391

Dean Mother

as the mail after this may be late for your birthday I am wishing you Hany Happy Relinas of the Day in this feller We had a very enjoyable wining last Sunday our old find the wandering minshil came so we had a performance after supper. he had with him his son in law o live nephews The son in law played a second fiddle of the eldest nepters a lad of about 18 played The chum of the younger one had no instrument but song beautifully. at first our old friend song us the Trachtonal songs of aba Zaid, he related how abou Zaid had disquised himself & by some trick had got the Sullan to promise to give him a sword a Lorse o his daughter, but the daughter protested + suggested as a way out of the difficulty that abou Zaid be requested to hing fuit from a certain gorden in the mountains that had been abandoned because lions had taken up

Arabah el Madfunah Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1937.

Dear Mother

As the mail after this may be late for your birthday I am wishing you Many Happy Returns of the Day in this letter

We had a very enjoyable evening last Sunday our old friend the wandering minstrel came so we had a performance after supper. he had with him his son in law & two nephews the son in law played a second fiddle & the eldest nephew a lad of about 18 played the drum & the younger one had no instrument but sang beautifully. At first our old friend sang us the traditional songs of Abu Zaid, he related how Abu Zaid had disguised himself & by some trick had got the Sultan to promise to give him a sword, a horse & his daughter, but the daughter protested & suggested as a way out of the difficulty that Abu Zaid be requested to bring fruit from a certain garden in the mountains that had been abandoned because lions had taken up

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their abode there Abre Laid went & stew the Tions & came back carrying a cut which he officed to the Sullan saying have is the fuil from the garden. so the Sullan was obliged to give him his dang the. This were many subsequent adventures and we found it a little difficult to follow werything but we gathered that abu Taid was chivalaous mongh to offer the lady her liberty to return to he father if she wished There was a his introat white the parformers were officed refushments, Then the old man uchanged his fiddle for the drum of the two boys some a duel in our praise with mumous topical allusions, it was all in vuse & had a joby chous in which they all joined, I riminded me a little of the sie chantys, there were roars of applause from the nation andience, it went something like this. " Very great are the ladies, there are none like Them in The land, sang one boy

their abode there, Abu Zaid went, & slew the lions & came back carrying a lion> cub which he offered to the Sultan saying here is the fruit from the garden. so the Sultan was obliged to give him his daughter.

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we found it a little difficult to follow everything
but we gathered that Abu Zaid was chivaler/<r>
enough to offer the lady her liberty to return
to her father if she wished

There was a brief interval while the performers were offered refreshments, then the old man exchanged his fiddle for the drum & the two boys sang a duet in our praise with m/<n>umerous topical al/<ll>visions, it was all in verse & had a jolly chorus in which they all joined, it reminded me a little of the sea chantys, there were roars of applause from the native audience, it went something like this. "Very great are the ladies, there are none like them in the land," sang one boy

they are more important than the Prime Hiniste no man dan aspine To them song the other boy - so on. We cannot think how They managed it. They never falliced + shyme 1 rythm were prefect. We had on the table a Tiny Xmas Tice with little candles on it That had been sent to us & we noticed how they gased at it, so to phase them amice lighted the little coundles o turned the lamp very low, of women they had never such a thing before , were delighted, other old man said. We will make a song to the till So one boy sang. Do you sie The worderful his of my bother. I the other answered 1321 il indeed of has 8 lighted condition. I then the first song, from when came this her of my holle of the second replied I know not may In for bains of alexandrice Then the first rebuted him saying of those of little intellegence such a hic as this must come from a forcign land." and they keept this up all the Time

"they are more important than the Prime Minister no man dare aspire to them" sang the other boy & so on. We cannot think how they managed it. they never faltered & rhyme & rythm<sup>sic</sup> were perfect. We had on the table a tiny Xmas tree with little candles on it that had been sent to us & we noticed how they gazed at it, so to please them Amice lighted the little candles & turned the lamp very low, of course they had never seen such a thing before & were delighted, & the old man said. "We will make a song to the tree" so one boy sang. Do you see the wonderful tree oh my brother. & the other answered "I see it indeed & it has 8 lighted candles." & then the first sang, From whence came this tree oh my brother & the second replied I know not. may be from Cairo or Alexandria then the first rebuked him saying Oh thou of little intelligence such a tree as this must come from a foreign land." And they kept this up all the time

the candles were burning they sang it to the Tune of their privious song & the wonderful thing was that it was all in pufel vase. the end of each line shymed of was all done on the spin of the moment. you con imagine how delighted we were. We had some crackers over from Imas so we produced them & Told them to pull one, you should have seen the constitutation when it went off other the cagnows to pull the rist to hear the exceling bang , the thicking hunt for the contents, the Trinkels that whe disclosed whe regarded as great Treasures, it was the most successful wining we have won Lad The pufamus spent the night with our men + I imagine the collision must continued long after we had gone to bed. We one very glad to find that the pole office who we had nicknamed the camel fly is a reformed character , has ward to pister us

the candles were burning They sang it to the tune of their previous song & the wonderful thing was that it was all in perfect verse, the end of each line rhymed & it was all done on the spur of the moment. you can imagine how delighted we were. We had some crackers over from Xmas so we produced them & told them to pull one, you should have seen the consternation when it went off & then the eagerness to pull the rest to hear the exciting bang & the thrilling hunt for the contents, the trinkets that were disclosed were regarded as great treasures, it was the most successful evening we have ever had

The performers spent the night with our men & I imagine the entertainment continued long after we had gone to bed.

We are very glad to find that the police officer who we had nicknamed the camel fly is a reformed character & has ceased to pester us

so that we can be pleasurely politie without being afaid of endless invitations to Tex The King is coming to see the Timph on the 14 of this month + there are great preparations being made the Juca will be with him + the too Princessos, so we will have to be in attendance all the wad from Bahane is being decorated with pylons a obelishs a flags all sols of things. he will have lunch in the Temple odepart about 4 o'clock so it will be an all day affair. If you can find my minualogy book will you send it out to me it is a dull hown book + may be on my studio shelves a among the odd books in the library, but do not houth if you cannot find it casily Thank you very much for the calendars we have one in each room, also the sand paper in have quite crough now to last us all the scason To night (12th night) is the copies Christmas Eve so we are going to the sovice in the boplic chance as this may be our last opportunity

so that we can be pleasently<sup>sic</sup> polite without being afraid of endless invitations to tea

The King is coming to see the temple on the 14 of this month & there are great preparations being made, the Queen will be with him & the two Princesses, so we will have to be in attendance, All the road from Baliana is being decorated with pylons & obelisks & flags & all sorts of things. he will have lunch in the temple & depart about 4 o'clock so it will be an all day affair.

If you can find my mineralogy book will you send it out to me, it is a dull brown book & may be on my studio shelves in among the odd bo<o>ks in the library, but do not trouble if you cannot find it easily

Thank you very much for the calendars we have one in each room, also the sand paper we have quite enough now to last us all the season To night (12<sup>th</sup> night) is the coptic<sup>sic</sup> Christmas Eve so we are going to the service in the Coptic church as this may be our last opportunity

1 sepect it will be very much the same as other years but it seems a shame to miss it.
I hope you have a very new time on your Birthday, amee of send you both tots of four your affectionals daughter.

Myrithe.

I expect it will be very much the same as other years but it seems a shame to miss it.

I hope you have a very nice time on your Birthday, Amice & I send you both lots of love

Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.