

Happy New Year - Kau-el Kebir - 4

Dear Mother & Father.

I am staying here on my way to Cairo. The officer here sent his servant & an armed guard to meet me at the station, & bring me here, he is going to see me safely on my way to Cairo To-morrow, I am staying in a real Arabic house, learning how to eat in the Arabic way but I cannot use my fingers as deftly as they can. I wish you could see this little desert outpost & I am sure you would like to meet my host. you will remember I told you about El Gerzawy who was so kind to us when we were in camp near here. he is the officer in

Happy New Year. [1st January 1928]

Kau-el Kebir.

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[Almost certainly this is the mislaid letter Broome refers to in letter 11, page 2 recto.]

charge, & is looking after me
 & making me very much
 at home. I have told him
 that I hope he will visit us if
 ever he comes to England.
 When I get to Cairo I shall go to
 books to make arrangements
 about my return. They are
 reserving a berth for me on
 a boat returning from Japan
 which reaches Port Said Jan 10th
 & reaches London in 13 days
 calling at Naples, Marseilles
 & Gibraltar^{sic}. I am so sorry
 to leave Egypt. I have had
 more experiences during these
 two months than ever before
 and I am glad I did not come
 by one of the regular tours, for
 then I should never have had

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12. 2
 the chance of meeting & knowing
 the people & learning some-
 thing of their life & ways.
 I have bought father an
 Arabic fiddle, it is not a
 thing that one can get in
 shops, for each man makes
 his own. Mr Meade at the
 Thebes Hotel Luxor. hearing your
 interest in instruments, offered
 to try & get me one & sent a
 native servant round the
 cafés & he was fortunate in
 finding a strolling player who
 was willing to sell his instrument
 of course it is a very primitive
 thing, only one string, but
 the sound is very sweet & clear
 I can just get it in my trunk
 so I hope to get it home safely.

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My Cairo address is Cecil House
 Sharia Naser-el-Din No 2
 but by the time you receive
 this it will be too late to send
 a letter to reach me, I will
 enquire at Cooks about letters
 to the boat.

As I write the birds are flying
 in and out of the room, they
 nest in the beams in the
 ceiling & are very tame.

I will write you a longer
 letter when I get to Cairo, there
 is an unfinished one in my
 trunk that has gone on in advance
 I intended to finish it here, & post
 it, as I thought you might like to
 receive a letter from such a very
 romantic place. but I find I have
 not got it in my case here so have
 started another.

Please give all my friends New Year
 greetings. Your loving daughter Myrtle.

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