

Arabah el Madfunah-
Feb 6th 1920

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Dear Mother

Your letter describing your visit to Isona to see the B.S. play arrived today. I am so glad Father enjoyed it as well as Pat & you.

We are in the midst of our preparations for our visit to Kharga. Last night the camel men came. They can provide us with 7 desert going camels & require 3 days to condition them for the journey. They do look a band of glorious ruffians fit for some of the 40 thieves, but they are really perfectly respectable & well intentioned individuals. They are wild with delight at the prospect of being engaged for such a trip. Today Ahmed Ibrahim our nice guard & our very good friend, brought the date merchant (who goes into Kharga every date season) to the Temple for us to talk to him. His name is Hassan & he has agreed to act as guide. The inspector of Police has promised to lend us proper saddles belonging to the police force, also special skins for carrying our water supply. needless to say we do not intend to wash on the journey. we are taking a tiny tent to retire into to change our clothes. as for sleeping

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 flea bags & sleep on the sand like the camels & the
 men. we shall not be able to retire any distance for
 fear of wolves & hyenas. Miss C will have James. (the revolver)
 & of course Sardic & the other men will carry rifles.
 I cant believe it is really true it sounds like some
 of the tales we read. Of course something may turn
 up at the last moment to stop us. the police may get
 the wind up & prevent our starting. The Marmur is
 very troubled about us. he says, we shall die of tiredness,
 our backs will be broken in two. & there is nothing to see
 but sand & rocks. (needless to say he has never been)
 why dont we have a nice comfortable motor car & go to
 a place where there is pretty scenery, educated people
 & good shops for our holiday. we laugh & tell him
 it is because we are English and all the English
 are mad. & he shruggs his shoulders & says "Inshaalla"
 (as God wills).

Feb 7th in haste before going to bed. Heard today that
 we cannot have police saddles because the village where
 there was the big fight recently, is giving trouble again.
 & the police may have to go out in force. so we are
 having Mohamed & his camel with pack saddle up

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I am afraid I may have to miss two mails after this as the first chance of posting will be Monday week - so dont be alarmed if you dont get your usual letters. no P.O. in the Libyan Desert that I know of.

In great haste
 love to you both
 your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle

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