

Arabah el Madfunah.
Nov 10th 1936.

Arabah el Madfunah
Nov 10th 1936. 383

Dear Mother.

Your letter with the ^{pictures of} lion cubs enclosed arrived yesterday, we thought they looked very cuddle some.

I had several visitors last week, our nice Sheikh Hassan came & another evening the son of Sheikh Abd el Wahid called, his father died during the summer, he was the guard who used to sing the Koran in the temple & always gave us a charm to bring us back. it is rather a curious thing that he should have died just before our last season as the people will quite believe that it was the power of his charms that made us return every year. His son has grown into a fine young man & also sings the Koran well, he sang some of the verses for our benefit, he has opened a shop in Arabah & tell us he sell everything

Dear Mother.

Your letter with the <pictures of> the lion cubs enclosed arrived yesterday, we thought they looked very cuddle some.

I had several visitors last week, our nice Sheikh Hassan came & another evening the son of Sheikh Abd el Wahid called, his father died during the summer, he was the guard who used to sing the Koran in the temple & always gave us a charm to bring us back. it is rather a curious thing that he should have died just before our last season as the people will quite believe that it was the power of his charms that made us return every year. his son has grown into a fine young man & also sings the Koran well, he sang some of the verses for our benefit, he has opened a shop in Arabah & tell^{sic} us he sell^{sic} everything

2
383

we have promised to visit him during the week & make some purchases to bring good luck to his shop.

We had the inspector of antiquities for this district to lunch yesterday, he is an Egyptian who has studied under D^r Junker, this is his first job & he is very anxious to show his zeal, he had on the most amazing patterned suit we have ever seen there were blue stripes fading to pale blue & then dark grey stripes fading to pale grey, a sort of shadow effect. we had all we could do not to fix too rapt a gaze upon it.

The guard who owns the friendly dog has two new young dogs that he is training as guards, so we have to give them bits of bread also. they know us & do not bark when we pass but they are too snappy to feed by hand we toss them their portion but the gentle red dog always accept his bit

we have promised to visit him during the week & make some purchases^{sic} to bring good luck to his shop.

We had the inspector of antiquities for this district to lunch yesterday, he is an Egyptian who has studied under D^r Junker, this is his first job & he is very anxious to show his zeal, he had on the most amazing patterned suit we have ever seen there were blue stripes fading to pale blue & then dark grey stripes fading to pale grey, a sort of shadow^{sic} effect. we had all we could do not to fix too rapt a gaze upon it.

The guard who owns the friendly dog has two new young dogs that he is training as guards, so we have to give them bits of bread also. they know us & do not bark when we pass but they are too snappy to feed by hand we toss them their portion but the gentle red dog always accept^{sic} his bit

3
383

most daintily, Did I tell you in my last letter that the Blenheim apples cook perfectly here Nannie soaks them in cold water a little while before she pares them & adds a little lemon juice, they go perfectly soft all through but not to a mush; we have had three glorious apple pies with cream.

Sardic was very pleased with his handkerchiefs, I have not yet given Sheikh Jed-el Karim his yet, he will have them next lesson. Ramadan starts the end of this week, they do not know the exact day but the entire moslem world will be watching for the new moon & as soon as it is sighted the month of fasting has begun.

Our dog found something unspeakable in the desert yesterday, Amice & I were standing on a high mound watching the sunset & we saw him carrying something then he sat down & began to eat & a ring of carrion-crows

most daintily, Did I tell you in my last letter that the Blenheim apples cook perfectly here Nannie soaks them in cold water a little while before she pares them & adds a little lemon juice, they go perfectly soft all through but not to a mush; we have had three glorious apple pies with cream.

Sardic was very pleased with his handkerchiefs, I have not yet given Sheikh Jed-el Karim his yet, he will have them next lesson. Ramadan starts the end of this week, they do not know the exact day but the entire moslem world will be watching for the new moon & as soon as it is sighted the month of fasting has begun.

Our dog found something unspeakable in the desert yesterday, Amice & I were standing on a high mound watching the sunset & we saw him carrying something then he sat down & began to eat & a ring of carrion-crows

4
383

gathered round, they hopped quite close to him, we sent one of the men to drive him away from the foulness, & let the crows have their due. He is not hungry as he often takes his food & burries it instead of eating it.

The sewing machine is now in working order again, Amice & I have been using it today to do various repairs,

We went into Baliana one day during the week & purchased large sheets of three ply wood to make wind screens to protect us from draughts when the strong North winds begin to blow. so far it has been much too warm for comfort but the weather may change any day now. our purchases were too large to carry home in Joey so Singab went to fetch them the following day with his camel.

The garden is progressing, the beans are quite tall & the peas are starting & the marrows are making a brave show, there is quite

gathered round, they hopped quite close to him, we sent one of the men to drive him away from the foulness, & let the crows have their due. he is not hungry as he often takes his food & burries^{sic} it instead of eating it.

The sewing machine is now in working order Again. Amice & I have been using it today to do various repairs,

We went into Baliana one day during the week & purchased^{sic} large sheets of three ply wood to make wind screens to protect us from draughts when the strong North winds begin to blow. so far it has been much too warm for comfort but the weather may change any day now. our purchases^{sic} were too large to carry home in Joey so Singab went to fetch them the following day with his camel.

The garden is progressing, the beans are quite tall & the peas are starting & the marrows are making a brave show, there is quite

383⁵

a row of tomato plants along the wall, & we have some morning glories climbing up the Teressina, as well as a showing of beetroots carrots lettuces etc. we even run to a rockery made of curious stones that we bring back with us from our various excursions & rambles. We have not been for any walks yet, it is too hot during day light, & as we have seen snake tracks in the sand we do not care to venture out after sunset, later when the cool winds come the snakes will all hole up for the winter.

This is all my news for this week
lots of love to you both from both of us.
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

a row of tomato plants along the wall, & we have some morning glories climbing up the Teressina^{sic} {Teresina}, as well as a showing of beetroots carrots lettuces etc. we even run to a rockery made of curious stones that we bring back with us from our various excursions & rambles. We have not been for any walks yet, it is too hot during day light, & as we have seen snake tracks in the sand we do not care to venture out after sunset, later when the cool winds come the snakes will all hole up for the winter

This is all my news for this week
lots of love to you both from both of us.
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.