

Arabah
April 13th 1932

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Dear Mother

We have not yet had the answer, from Cooks about boats yet, so I cannot tell you exactly when to expect me, but it will probably be during the first week in May

I have had my first lesson by post corrected by Sheikh Sarbit, it seems quite practical, he understood what I wanted & my letter to him was evidently quite intelligible & I was very pleased to find I was able to read the letter he wrote in return. Here is the translation of it for you to read —

"Honoured & respected Miss Broome

Greetings to you & to the honoured lady Miss Calverley & to the Mother of David (Nanny). May Allah grant that you are in excellent health. I arrived in safety. Allah be praised, & I was very pleased with your letter, & I hope you will be every time better than the other, & that you will arrive safely in your home & find your relations

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in health & prosperity - & in conclusion accept
my salutations.

Sarbit Abdullah Tayia.

Salutations to Sardic

Don't you think it is thrilling receiving these
sort of letters & trying to write suitable replies,
my Eastern correspondence this summer is
going to be great fun. I am so glad I stuck
at it & worked every spare moment, Amice is
rather sorry she didn't persevere more, she wants
me to give her lessons on the voyage home if we
come together but I quite expect she will have
lots of other things she will want to do

Our well has been giving trouble
we had to have the pipe man in to see to it.
he has replaced three lengths of pipe, I drove
Sardic in to Baliana to get the required pipes
& special tools for the job, & we thought all
was well - with the well - but today they found
a special washer needed replacing, so I had

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To drive Sardic in again, it was a scramble as Amice needed him for photographic work. She must get them done today in order to get enlargements made before we depart, so I had to take Sardic to Bahane to get these washers while she was in the dark room & get him back before a certain time when the sunlight was in a suitable place for the next exposure. In some parts of the temple the light is only right for about half an hour during the day, & then all hands are needed for the mirrors & reflectors, & Sardic is the only one with enough knowledge of the work to give directions, & also he is the only one who could be relied upon to get the proper washers for the pump - So it was some race into Baliana Joey tore along with mad leaps & bounces at 40 miles an hour where ever there was a clear bit of road & hooted & blared at the mere sight of a camel or donkey miles ahead, luckily it was about mid-day when all who could were

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Taking their mid-day meal or having a nap.
Of course European motorists would say 40 miles
an hour is mere crawling - but let them try
it on a narrow mud bank with a 15ft drop
to a canal on either side & scatter the track
with a few goats, camels, donkeys geese etc
& I think they'd find all the thrills they wanted at
that speed - I was there & back again within
the hour & before Amice had finished in the
dark room - but I must say I am not anxious
to do it again in a hurry -

Love to you both.

Your affectionate daughter

Myrtle

Tell Father that I have got him a lovely
chisel. it looks more suitable for a stone
mason than a carpenter. it is called
a - "mongar" which means a beak.
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