

Arabah el Madfunah
Baliana.
Dec 15th 1930.

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Dear Mother & Father,

This is to wish you both a very Happy Xmas, I have got you a cushion cover as a present this year, but I think it would be wisest to bring it with me instead of posting.

I had not quite understood what Sardic told me about the English wool, he was able to use most of it after all, but could not spin it as fine as he wished to because the heat had made it so brittle. Yesterday Ibrahim the weaver brought the scarf that has been made for me out of the coloured wool, it is such a pretty thing but what is so extraordinary is that they have used the colours in such a way that they look utterly different to any of Miss Collin's colour schemes, it is truly Eastern & so simple that it seems perfectly obvious. Poor Sardic is very distressed because the threads

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are not as fine & even as he wanted them to look but I can quite appreciate his difficulty, the scarf is still stiff & harsh with the flour that they use to strengthen the warp, but when Ahmud has twisted the fringe & Bachrety has washed it, it will be ready for use. I expect we shall display it as a wall hanging in our big room.

Joey now has a splendid mud brick garage with a straw roof. The old stable was cleaned out & the door enlarged & re roofed, it is now being whitewashed, & all our servants look rather pie bald as to complexion as a result, you cannot imagine anything more rakeish than Sardic with a white splash over one eye & another on his nose.

We have not got a cook at present Nannie is preparing our meals ~~at p~~ but later on, when it gets hot we shall have a man from Cairo, The cook we had last year is rather too expensive for our small camp this year & as he is much too dignified

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the food when it has been prepared we hav'nt
enough for him to do, Nannie is doing
splendidly, & the boy is very helpfull so we
shall carry on as we are while it keeps cool.

Please wish every body a Happy
Xmas for me.

I do hope Mother is better & being
careful of herself.

Much love to you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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