Anabah April 14" 132 Dear Nother. I expect you will be wondowng very much what got me up at 3:45 in the morning -You will remember my descuption of the great religious gathering we went to last year it was held in The cometery where there are scored very holy shaks Tombs just before the programs start on Then journay to Macca. They spind the night in chanting the Koran & various fanatical relegions puformances. This at dawn they endulge in other acutements in the way of camel racing donky racing + displays of horsomanship, as we had sur the night affair last year, we decided to go in the conty maning this Time. Ad half past three our camets anived, I woke To kin then bubbling I gengling outside my window. we had headfast of four o'clock by lamp light, & then set off in the ghostly light that comes before dawn. we had & miles 10 go across the desut, I we did it in

Arabah April 14^{<u>th</u>} [1931]

Dear Mother.

I expect you will be wondering very much what got me up at 3.45 in the morning –

You will remember my description of the great religeous^{sic} gathering we went to last year. it was held in the cemeta/<er>y where there are several very holy sheiks' tombs just before the pilgrims start on their journey to Mecca. They spend the night in chanting the Kor-an & various fanatical relegious^{sic} performances. then at dawn they e/<i>ndulge in other excitements in the way of camel racing, donkey racing & displays of horsemanship, as we had seen the night affair last year, we decided to go in the early morning this time.

At half past three our camels arrived, I woke to hear them bubbling & gurgling outside my window. we had breakfast at four o'clock by lamp light, & then set off in the ghostly light that comes before dawn. we had 8 miles to go ar/<c>ross the desert, & we did it in PAGE 1

2 132 an how of quarter. which considering we had a large escat on fost was mitty good. as we down in Beni Hamail we were joined by many others, on camets, donkays & afoot all making for the same destination, some were splincholy attrice shaks mounted on splindid hotting camels, some bundles of rags trudging along. or crowded five Together on the baggage camel of a fortunate find + the in fiturens hotting along on their donkups . It was a mother crew. When we arrived at Bine Hamael the

When we around at Bine Harmael the ishole cometery & edyoining descet were one cloud of dust. & such a pondemonium. There were camels galloping madly, unged by, wild are & ombies of their riders, isto in surnal cases were standing on their backs. a camel in full gallof has the most trueffic action of any animal I have con seen, it is a monoil how any man can reman on were scated, let alone standing. They do not seen to have any

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an hour & a quarter. which considering we had a large escort on foot was pretty good.

As we drew near Beni Hamael we were joined by many others, on camels, donkeys & afoot all making for the same destination, some were splendidly attired sheiks mounted on splendid trotting camels, some bundles of rags trudging along. or crowded five together on the baggage camel of a fortunate friend & the in betweens trotting along on their donkeys. it was a motley crew.

When we arrived at Beni Hamael the whole cemeta/<e>ry & adjoining desert were one cloud of dust. & such a pandemonium. there were camels galloping madly, urged by <the> wild cries & antics of their riders, who in several cases were <u>standing</u> on their backs. a camel in full gallop has the most terriffic^{sic} action of any animal I have ever seen, it is a marvel how any man can remain on even seated, let alone standing. they do not seem to have any PAGE 2

132 organised races. They do not start Together, but just rush about, cach man when a how he pleases. We joined the ontoshus, a were soon wedged in a long Time of camels & their ridges lining the course. The people were very counteres & every where made way so that we would have a good vice. We watched the various displays of camel reding for some Time other went to see the Roses. The fust prosp in saw were changing madely at the hick well of one of the Tombs. They would nush towards it full gettop. hunging the horse to a sudder stop a comple of yards away, I was monoclous horson on ship. The horses whe fromse pine Anabs. They had gazions seddles, many work out platis of pune gold. . they had then our music, wild shill pipes, like the squatting of stallions played to the sythmic haling of chums. This spicial music is noon played aught for the horses , + they love it . They prance & Toss there manes concincon still a moment while it is

orgi/<a>nised races. they do not start together, but just rush about. each man when & how he pleases. We joined the onlookers, & were soon wedged in a long line of camels & their riders lining the course. the people were very courteous & everywhere made way so thad/<t>

We watched the various displays of camel riding for some time & then went to see the horses.

The first group we saw were charging madly at the brick wall of one of the tombs. they would rush towards it full gallop. bringing the horse to a sudden stop a couple of yards away, it was marvelous^{sic} horsemanship. The horses were of course pure Arabs. they had gorgeous saddles, many covered with plates of pure gold. & they had their own music, wild shrill pipes, like the squealling^{sic} of stallions played to the rythmic^{sic} beating of drums. this special music is never played except for the horses. & they love it. they prance & toss their manes & are never still a moment while it is

132 being played, but when it stops they stand as quict as anything. I is The most conlegious rythm one can imagine, cour the camels gol affected by it. amicis carnel was a lady & cordently very musical, she swayed her head for side To side , took fust a stip to the night a then a stip to the left in partice time to the music - it was funny so little disconcerting for amice as the camel next In was doing the same thing & occasionally they bumped - how nothing would slip the while the music played. It was frictly to watch the Lorses dancing. their movements guided by the long lances then indus canied, they encled a praneed a reared + Racet, sall the time the men playing the paper & in dums dance in sont with them. you can't magine any Thing more inted & banharic He stayed watching for about two hours & then having seen all the sights we Started on our runn. we were back at work in the Tempte by 10 o'clock, but tigh of work carly

being played. but when it stops they stand as quiet as anything. it is the most contagious rythm^{sic} one can imagine, even the camels got affected by it. Amice's camel was a lady & evidently very musical, she swayed her head from side to side & took first a step to the right & then a step to the left in perfect time to the music – it was funny & a little disconcerting for Amice as the camel next her was doing the same thing & occasionally they bumped – however nothing would stop her while the music played.

It was pretty to watch the horses dancing, their movements guided by the long lances their riders carried, they circled & pranced & reared & knelt, & all the time the men playing the pipes & the drums danced in & out with them – you cant^{sic} imagine anything more wild & barbaric

We stayed watching for about two hours & then having seen all the sights we started on our return. we were back at work in the temple by 10 o'clock, but left off work early

5 132 in the afternoon as we were so Tucd with our carly using a long ride. I was too way to com week my usual letter so just sent a hasty note. Our apedition was a wonderful aprience but it had a slightly unpleasant aftimate as we have cach got masty throats, probably the result of the dust. with a crowd like that their were probably Wis of gorms . If you'd only seen some of the garments worn by the very holy men, I was only The duit that kipt the threads Togethe howover we are gargling + unammoning & Taking way sort of cure so hope The trouble will defait as quickly as it came vols of love from us both your affection de daug Lli Mynthe .

in the afternoon as we were so tired with our early rising & long ride. I was too weary to even write my usual letter so just sent a hasty note.

Our expedition was a wonderful experience but it had a slightly unpleasant aftermath as we have each got nasty throats, probably the result of the dust. with a crowd like that there were probably lots of germs. if you'd only seen some of the garments worn by the very holy men, it was only the dirt that kept the threads together.

howover^{sic} we are gargling & cinammoning & taking every sort of cure so hope the trouble will depart as quickly as it came.

> Lots of love from us both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.