

Arabah el Madfunah
In the temple
Feb 24th 1933.

Dear Father.

Last Tuesday we had a musical evening. some strolling players came to the village & Ahmud Ibrahim brought them to play to us. there were two long lean rascals with native fiddles (like the one I brough[t] home,) & a small boy with a drum, they squatted down & played & sang the Songs of Abu Zayd - these are ancient traditional songs & the fiddle is always used to accompany them & is never played for any other songs or tunes at all. Abu Zayd is one of the old Arabian heroes & had numerous adventures. the songs about him run into several hundred, & one

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of them lasted the whole evening
so the fiddle is not a neglected
instrument although its use is so
restricted.

They made a most cheerful
noise & got an amazing amount
of sound out of their instruments
the notes are very full & rich & never
squeaky & shrill like European
instruments, the small boy just
marked the rhythm by tapping the
drum with a peculiar little flick
of the fingers.

Of course a large audience
crowded round outside (pen run out
& no ink here) & a few favoured ones were
allowed inside, they squatted on the
ground & listened with rapt attention
swaying themselves to the rhythm, & when
a verse came to a thrilling climax made

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murmurs^{sic} of applause & rocked with laughter at a witty phrase.

During an interval in the entertainment Sardi handed round cups of tea & there was such a sound of sipping Altogether it was a very entertaining evening & I wished you had been here to hear the music. Amice has jotted down one or two of the tunes.

The next morning the performers came to be photographed, I took four different views of them grouped together & hope they will be good.

Tell Mother her letter & Pats^{sic} arrived on my birthday. I had a very nice day. Amice made me a birthday wreath out of the garden & gave me a book, it is the one that follows "Judith Paris" that D^r Gardiner gave me last year. Little Un gave

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 me a local product. an amazing little
 figure cut out of limestone by one of
 the village craftsmen.

At lunch we had Xmas Pudding
 & all stuffed ourselves.

Thank you for writing to the Income Tax
 people, I had sent them the cheque
 as soon as I received the first demand.
 but of course it takes some time to
 reach them -

Tell Mother I am very pleased
 with the caps & shall wear them all
 in due course. keeping the fancy one
 for swell occasions.

The cards are splendid, thanks
 so much.

Tell Pat I will write the next
 letter to her.

Love to you all
 Your affectionate
 daughter Myrtle

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