Arabah el Madfunah In the temple

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 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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Anabal et Madfinel
In the Temple
-Teb 24. 1933.

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a verse came to a thulling climax made

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 squeeky<sup>sic</sup> & shrill like European instruments, the small boy just marked the rythm<sup>sic</sup> 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 rythm<sup>sic</sup>, & when a verse came to a thrilling climax made

munmas of applause & nothed with laughter at a with phrase During an interval in the contentainment Sandie Landed round cufs of the & Luc was such a sound of sipping allogather A was a very onto laining wining o bashed you had been here to hear the music. Amice has jutted down one or two of the Tunes. The new morning the performers came to be photographed. I won form definent views of them grow prod together & Lope they will be good-Tell Hothin hu letter & Pats arrived or my buthday. I had a very nice day. amice made me a buthday weath out of the garden I gave me a book, it is the on that follows Judeth Paris that D'Sardina gave one last year. Letth us gave

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murmers<sup>sic</sup> of applause & rocked with laughter at a witty phrase.

During an interval in the entertainment Sardic 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<sup>sic</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Gardiner gave me last year. Little Un gave

me a local product an amazing little Jique cut out of timestone by on of the village crafts men. Ar lund in Lad Xmas Pudding o all stuffed our se lows -Thank you for writing to the Income tax prople, I had sent them the cheque las soon as I received the fust demand. but of warse it takes some time to nail Him\_ lett Mother lan very pleased with the caps a shall wear then all in due course. Recping the fancy one In swell occasions. the conds are splinded thanks Tell Pat I will write the next letter to him a service of the Lour to you all pripare You affectionate dangelin Mynths

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