Anabak of Madfunat

العرانا المدؤونا

Dear Mother.

I am once more Lady fall I survey with a body quand of thru coal black soldiers all my very own. amice has gone with Linda Holy to Chicago House at Luxor to use their dark room und enlarging lanton the so as to make some entongements from the plates that Linda has been taking, they will be away about 4 days & in The meantime I am carrying on on my own. I had to drive jour all the way for the station at Baliana by myself (weept for Sandie in the back seat ) + shall have to go in to meet them again or Thursday to meet them. I think Sandie had doubts as To my capabilities as drive over this bad bit of desut, for when we had successfully mounted a specially difficult sand hill he uttaced a heart felt. Praise be to allah! I mally felt I ought to be congratulated instead of allal:

Arabah el Madfunah [mid-December 1931 or perhaps 20 December 1931 (= letter misplaced, should be between 157 and 158)]

[ ₹ ]

Dear Mother.

I am once more "Lady of all I survey" with a bodyguard of three coal black soldiers all my very own. Amice has gone with Linda Holey to Chicago House at Luxor to use their dark room with enlarging lantern etc so as to make some enlargements from the plates that Linda has been taking, they will be away about 4 days & in the meantime I am carrying on on my own.

I had to drive Joey all the way from the station at Baliana by myself (except for Sardic in the back seat) & shall have to go in to meet them again on Thursday to meet them. I think Sardic had doubts as to my capabilities as driver over this bad bit of desert, for when we had succef/<ss>fully mounted a specially difficult sand hill he uttered a heart-felt "Praise be to Allah!" I really felt I ought to be congratulated instead of Allah!

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anabic lissons are still going strong, the poor shoot master often wears a very worried took, lan afrand we ask such very unreasonable questions such as. what would it mean of that sign was not there? or why do the letters some limes bu down flar & sometimes stand on their heads or why has it a long Tail here & no Tail at all there he poins forth rapid & quite unundustandable Turnical refolies, until he realizes we can't understand a word ofit. I then just shougs his shouldes & waves his Lands & says. "but either way it is just the same " or cloc " such a thing is not possible " Hannic, who can follow both sides of the conversation is convulsed with muth o has to be rebuted for unsumby giggling in font of the school master as of course our dignity has to be presented what con happens. still in spile of their difficulties we are getting on. yesterday I wrote amice a letter entirely in maki (inth Hannic's help). Sandie was overcome with admination at the address on the envelope when I gave it to him for

Arabic lessons are still going strong, the poor schoolmaster often wears a worried look, I am afraid we ask such very unreasonable questions such as. "what would it mean if that sign was not there? or why do the letters sometimes lie down flat & sometimes stand on their heads" or why has it a long tail here & no tail at all there" he pours forth rapid & quite ununderstandable technical replies, until he realizes we cant<sup>sic</sup> understand a word of it. & then just shrugs his shoulders & waves his hands & says. "but either way it is just the same" or else "such a thing is not possible" Nannie, who can follow both sides of the conversation is convulsed with mirth & has to be rebuked for unseemly giggling in front of the schoolmaster as of course our dignity has to be preserved what ever happens. still in spite of these difficulties we are getting on. yesterday I wrote Amice a letter entirely in Arabic (with Nannie's help). Sardic was overcome with admiration at the address on the envelope when I gave it to him for

## **BROOME LETTER 155**

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the post. he examines all the letters now to see where they are going, & is very upset if we hav'nt<sup>sic</sup> written anything in Arabic he has asked me to write him a letter when I return to England.