

Arabah el Madfunah  
[probably 29 January 1932]

Arabah el Madfunah<sup>2</sup>  
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Dear Mother

The duck & the camel were a great surprise. ever so many thanks for sending them. I opened the parcel in the temple & of course had to blow them up straight away, Sardic was very excited, he usually is very polite & never notices anything until we show them to him. but the duck was too much for him. he had to come & have a look at it, & he asked if I would let him play a joke on old Ahmud, he put the duck down in a corner, & told Ahmud to come & help him catch the duck that had flown into the temple, old A. came running in. Sardic pointed & said "there it is," & the old man went to pick it up, he is very short sighted, & only realized there was something funny about it when he bent over. & then he was so scared he jumped back in alarm, he wouldn't touch it even when Sardic picked it up.

Our plans for the Red Sea trip are rather changed. the Oultons hope to join us

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& in that case we can do it by car. They have a Ford, & with the two cars it would be safe to attempt it, the desert track is supposed to be passable for light cars, but we would hardly care to attempt it with one car, as if anything went wrong one would be in rather a tight fix. It will be awfully jolly having the Oultons join us, though we are sorry to abandon our original plan - but as I told you before - there may be many an alteration or it may not even happen. in any case we could not go before March when Linda Holey has returned to Vienna

We have had Professor Newberry here for two days. He is a dear, he came laden with sweets, he had been to the big sweet shop in Cairo & had a box made up of something out of all the bottles of boiled sweets, there was a selection. wasn't it kind of him

The night scented stock is simply wonderful. Nannie brings in some every evening to perfume the dining room, I think it smells even

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more powerful here in the desert than at home.

Poor Sardic had a great misfortune last Tuesday. His fine new gamoose (who provides our milk) broke her teather<sup>sic</sup> & got into the clover field & eat so much that she got colic & died.

It was a dreadful loss for Sardic for he had had to borrow money early in the season to buy her. so Amice gave him £3. & I gave him £1. & today he went to a market in the neighbourhood & bought a fine new one & is very pleased with it.

Bed time now.

All members of the camp join in sending love to you both.

Lots of love from  
your affectionate  
daughter

Myrtle.

P.S. Did you get the P.C. with the sketch of the Soudani encampment?

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