

Arabah.
March 14th [1933]

Dear Mother.

I am sure you will be glad to hear that our raven has recovered completely & flown away. but he comes back & flies round the house occasionally on the look out for scraps. which of course we put out for him. we are so pleased about it. we regard him as one of our successes. we think he must have been partially poisoned & that caused temporary paralyses^{sic} – any way there is nothing the matter with him now.

We had an upset on Sunday. Mahomed Abdu Rahman got badly bitten by his camel. I told you Miss Gardiner^{sic} {Gardner} the geologist was here. she wanted to

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 examine certain waddys^{sic} near here
 for traces of ancient flora. & as it takes
 so long going & coming. decided to
 sleep out. so Mahomed's camel was
 loaded with the camping equipment
 & food, camera's^{sic} etc. & Miss Gardiner^{sic}
 rode on the lady camel that Amice
 usually has. we usually hire these
 two for our own jaunts. Mahomed
 was to stay out all night with another
 man. & the lady camel & her owner
 were to return when Miss Gardiner^{sic} had
 arrived at the place she wished to
 investigate & return for her the following
 day. It seems that the camel got
 angry when the lady camel departed
 & wanted to follow her & Mahomed beat
 him to make him kneel to be unloaded
 & the camel turned on him & bit him
 in the upper arm right through to

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the bone. Miss Gardiner^{sic} tied him up as best she could & they got him on the camel & the other man brought him back to us. he was pretty bad by then so we put him in the car with Semman to support him & drove to the hospital as quickly as we could. Dr Ryad attended to him at once & gave him injections & said it ought to be alright^{sic} provided the camel is healthy. we reported the matter to the police & they fetched the camel & are keeping it under observation for 15 days & then if it shows no trace of hydrophobia it will probably be sold. as a camel is never safe with a man once it has bitten him though it may work quite well for some one else. they are very revengeful of course if it has hydrophobia it will

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be shot & Mahomed will be sent to Cairo
 to the Pasteur Institute for special treatment
 but this is highly improbable.
 it seems this camel is just at the age
 when male camels get fierce. & this
 is the mating month. we had
 suggested that it might be better to
 employ camels of the same sex. but
 the men had laughed at the idea
 so we thought they knew their own
 business best. & we had used these
 two together several times. but we
 had never separated them until
 they reached their respective homes.
 probably, if the lady camel had
 stayed all the time there would
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 a baby at home & of course could not
 be away from it too long.
 Amice & I drove into Baliana today

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I had a very good lesson last time, the schoolmaster choose a piece for dictation that had a number of words I knew. I had written the story of Osiris & Isis in Arabic which interested him very much, as it is all about Abydos, & took so long revising & correcting it, that it got dark & I had to send for a lamp & I expect he had a bad time with the afreets on his return alone across the desert. I also gave him a surprise by coming

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me as much as to say. what else
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Love to you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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