

Arabah.
Jan 31st 1933.

Dear Mother.

Here is sūk day at last. This week has been such a scramble what with people turning up unexpectedly & guests arriving & the architect coming to make the plan of the temple & having to be shown where to find everything & as I do not know just where Amice has put the various instruments needed & it is awful the time that is wasted hunting for things. I do not yet know when Amice will be coming back, she hoped the middle of this week, but in her last letter she said the doctor was taking another X ray photograph as her nose was 'nt^{sic} quite cleared. I hope to hear the result to-day.

This morning I have been paying out

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 large sums of money as the regular
 servants like Sardic, Nannie & Abdullah
 & the water man & old Ahmed receive
 their wages at the end of the month.
 (the dog also gets his wages monthly)

Our Soudani guard has been changed.
 I have just bidden farewell to the
 departing three & welcomed the new
 arrivals

I enjoyed the ^{end of} Ramadan visits
 very much, I do not know how many
 cups of coffee I did not drink, my
 conversational efforts were strained to
 the utmost being alone, & Sardic was
 not able to accompany me into houses
 where there were women not of his
 family.

I had a lovely time at Ahmed Ibrahim's.
 His son is getting married, the ceremony
 is being postponed until Amice's return

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I was shown all the bridegrooms fine clothes for the event & the new bed & gay covers, also the chest for the brides things & the decorated water jars.

The bride is (as usual) his cousin. & is a very pretty girl. Her name is Ameda. All the rest of the family are having new clothes. & I was shown everything & of course expressed my admiration.

I have finished my first painting & have started the next. The last few days I was on the floor, painting the lowest part of the picture. & of course there were a lot of tourists who came round & looked on & asked questions. Some of them could not believe that my painting was not in relief.

I cut the enclosed picture of a bed out of a paper something came wrapped in. I thought Father might like to

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see it.

Did I tell you I made pens out
of the turkey's feathers. Sandie & the
Schoolmaster were delighted with them
they had never seen them before
although the Arabic word for a nib
is the same as the word for feather.
I can't remember if I told you or not.
The Schoolmaster is away on holiday
until next Saturday. it is fortunate,
as I have no time at all to study
just now.

Love to you & Father

& Pat.

Your affectionate

daughter

Myrtle.

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