

## Nov $16^{\text {th }} 1929$. Arabah-el Madfunah.

Dear Mother.
I have been wrestling hard with Arabic to-day. to start with $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Beazley wanted me to tell Sardic to buy him 2 boxes of cigarettes, 20 stamps \& put correct stamps on two letters for England \& take the necessary money out of 20 PT . I did my best \& thanks to Sardic's intelligence it came out all correctly. Then as I was collecting my things together to return home Sheikh Abdu Wahid came to pay me a call, I managed to get through the polite greetings \& reply to enquiries after my health \& then I was stumped. I find I almost have to start learning all over again as the language is quite different to Cairo Arabic all q's are g's \& lots of the words are very different or have different shades of meaning.
$M^{\mathrm{r}}$ Beazley has had several lessons in Arabic. but he will not attempt to speak it, Capt Calverley knows about as much as I do, he gets on very well, when Arabic fails he shouts directions in English \& waves his arms about \& makes an awful commotion. but they seem to understand
what he wants somehow.
Today on our nelunn 10 the Temple afr funct the Capt I had a wild donkey race. with all own escert sunning yelling at own heels, it was fun. These letter donks gallop full lilt down the sand hills - we have to balance on their backs some how. of course they take then time efimbing up the nest rise, then away they go again when they are oven the top
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Every day is pufect yet very day is different. sometimes the outlines are cor cut a sparkling. anotha Time the distance is veiled is an opal
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colouns why horn, o the desert sand varies in ham from the palest suggestions of manure to dep range.
what he wants somehow.

To-day on our return to the temple after lunch the Capt \& I had a wild donkey race, with all our escort running yelling at our heels, it was fun. these little donks gallop full tilt down the sand hills \& we have to balance on their backs somehow. of course they take their time climbing up the next rise, then away they go again when they are over the top

After a while one accepts this wonderful climate as a matter of course. every day the sky ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ are deep blue, sometimes flecked with little fleecy clouds, always the sun is shining, \& now the fresh north wind blowing over the hot sand makes the atmosphere wonderfully invigorating ${ }^{\text {sic }}$.

Every day is perfect yet every day is different. Sometimes the outlines are clear cut \& sparkling, another time the distance is veiled in an opal haze, the pink limestone cliffs change their colours every hour, \& the desert sand varies in hue from the palest suggestion of mauve to deep orange.

On sun way home midday. we passed a gentleman Taking a hot sand bath. all one could sic was a mound of sand with a how head slicking out at one and o two how feet the sties and, it seems To be the nalioc cure fo all aches o pains, own old namnic belicers un if firmly, when she gets a Twinge of rheumatics off she goes with a sum. shade to protect hen hicad owearmg an ancient chasing gown $+q c^{t s}$ the old wats canine to dig her in. We ac all thentung of dorining bathing, disses one hot day rall having sand baths The is something cory cornduful about the Fed of hot sand on ones Jest, if we do it I shall try To get a snapshot.
Nov it M Mar struggles with Arabic. I had Io have my high scaffold Taken down. pout ulvilt in the same place 1 the then pact sci up in another chapel. Thus was half an hour pandemonium but finally all was done as I wanted oI settled down to work again. Then Saudis canc with a Teleq-an + form to is filled in by the addressee

On our way home midday. we passed a gentleman taking a hot sand bath. all one could see was a mound of sand with a brown head sticking out at one end $\&$ two brown feet the other end. it seems to be the native cure for all aches \& pains, our old nannie believes in it firmly, when she gets a twinge of rheumatics off she goes with a sunshade to protect her head \& wearing an ancient dressing gown \& gets the old water carrier to dig her in. We are all thinking of donning bathing dresses one hot day \& all having sand baths there is something very wonderful about the feel of hot sand on ones ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ flesh, If we do it I shall try to get a snapshot.

## $\operatorname{Nov} 17^{\underline{\text { th }}}$

More struggles with Arabic. I had to have my high scaffold taken down. part rebuilt in the same place \& the other part set up in another chapel. there was half an hours pandemonium but finally all was done as I wanted \& I settled down to work again. Then Sardic came with a telegram \& form to be filled in by the addressee
it was addussed to Gaturify, I enquired whence the Capt was. The man sand the was at the house, sol instiucked the messenger To deleon it to hum I hoped that would in the and of it. But of dean no, in about an houns Time' the answri was thought To me by the small house boy. Hold Sondic to have the messing u take it to the Tikgraph office "moles away). Sondic sard it was not possible because the uriinng was not on the proper paper. lasted when k the proper forms were. "the Toed ma they were in the cupboard of, the stor 100 m that / had the ky of. ban you imagine the difficile, - Thad To make this all out, with Sandic. The hows boy the messing all Talking at me at ora. when I did undustand I had the dorky fought sound at once. quelloped to the hour. If The forms, waste the answer resent the max off with it. This Telegram was from fiends o) Miss Gafonioys she find asked them To used us on their way from fuxa. The were was $16^{\circ}$ ask of Tuesolay would be convenient. She will be
it was addressed to Calverley. I enquired where the Capt was, the man said he was at the house, so I instructed the messenger to deliver it to him I hoped that would be the end of it. but oh dear no, in about an hours ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ time the answer was brought to me by the small house boy. I told Sardic to have the messenger take it to the telegraph office ( 11 miles away). Sardic said it was not possible because the writing was not on the proper paper. I asked where the proper forms were, \& he told me they were in the cupboard of the store room that I had the key off $/\langle f\rangle$, Can you imagine the difficulty I had to make this all out, with Sardic. the house boy \& the messenger all talking at me at once. when I did understand I had the donkey brought round at once. galloped to the house. got the forms. wrote the answer \& sent the man off with it. This telegram was from friends of Miss Calverley's she had asked them to visit us on their way from Luxor. the wire was to ask if Tuesday would be convenient. she will be
here Tionday morning so we seat the ansere To say we would be delifficed to see them Nov 18:2 Miss Galunty has stunned dol am very glad To hand the duccuraship back to hie, its no joke keeping a aloud of natives busy with suck a Pimiliad vocabulary. own Two mon were not a bit of hip They toxic an unholy roy in my difficulitics. The now batch of photos have come from Kodak.
I am enclosing them with this, some of them are sally beautiful. I may use them sometime for steithics so kop them cancfully as the negations mat dutroiaic (cantspellil.)' in this chimait. I may not have much Time for welling the not $f_{\text {us }}$ days as there will be iwo ques /s To, entalám un my spank time, so / will seal this up now rout it in our postbox. The mail comes in to morrow - Sondra goes to mech the postman with own out going post owllects the incoming one Lour to you bork a 10 Pat
o kind massages to Mra Mas bhieds
You affichō̃ale-dangtios
Myits.
here Monday morning so we sent the answer to say we would be delighted to see them

## Nov $18{ }^{\text {th }}$

Miss Calverley has returned \& I am very glad to hand the directorship back to her. its ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ no joke keeping a crowd of natives busy with such a limited vocabulary. our two men were not a bit of help they took an unholy joy in my difficulties.

The new batch of photos have come from Kodak. I am enclosing them with this, some of them are really beautiful. I may use them sometime for sketches so keep them carefully as the negatives may deteoriate ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ (cant ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ spell it.) in this climate.

I may not have much time for writing the next few days as there will be two guests to <help> entertain in my spare time, so I will seal this up now \& put it in our post box. the mail comes in tomorrow \& Bardic goes to meet the postman with our out going post \& collects the incoming one

Love to you both \& to Pat
\& kind messages to $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}} \& \mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{rs}}$ Child
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

