

Arabah.
 <January>/Dec 17th 1934

Dear Mother.

This letter may be rather late in arriving as there is no post to-day on account of it being the big feast after Ramadan. We have been doing the rounds of visits all day. Amice & I started off soon after eight o'clock^{sic}, Little Un did not come with us, as he is not at all interested in the people, & gets nervy & irritated with the ceremonial coffee drinking etc that one has to repeat at every house, We thoroughly enjoyed it, although we could have dispensed with some of the refreshment, this year, at my suggestion we included Sheikh Jed el Karim in the visiting list, as I felt it would not be polite to pass him by since he has been coming here to give me lessons this year

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he was very thrilled with the honour
as it was the first time Europeans had
been in his house, he presented
his bride to us, (he was married
this autumn) also an elder lady who
is the wife of his uncle & is living in
his house as companion for the young
wife, this lady was enraptured with
the visit, & when Sheikh Jed-el Karim
brought the tray with the coffee
she insisted on taking it out of his
hands to have the honour of serving
us, they had quite a tussle over
it. finally he let her have the tray
but himself presented us with a cup
each from it, which was a very neat
way out of the difficulty.
Sheikh Sarbit is of course in his own
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wish him, & his wife, & his relations a
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We enjoyed the visit to our
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of his small daughters danced to us
while her elder sister played the drum
ja her. it was a very pretty performance,
I was presented with a doll that they
had made specially for me.

The visit to the Omdah was of course
very stately & ceremonial. (he does have
good coffee.)

We returned home about 12.30, & started
out after lunch again, we didn't eat
any lunch, having been scavenging, as
ditth Un called it, the whole morning,
but we were glad of a wash & a bit of
a rest, then we started out again at
2.30 & finished our last visit a little
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 I have written most of the stories you
 suggested. I didn't do Alfred & the cakes
 as it places the King in a rather
 undignified position & it would be
 difficult for an Arab to understand
 the circumstances, I am adapting some
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 of writing the Story of George Washington.
 Lots of love to you both
 also to Pat.

Your affectionate

daughter

Myrtle.

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