

Arabah el Madfunah.
March 29th 1931^{sic} {1932}.

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March 29th 1931. 184

Dear Mother.

The season is nearly over & yet I do not seem to have been here very long, the time does fly so, I suppose it is because I am always so occupied. I am half way through my last painting, & Amice is about the same with hers. Then we have the beastly cieling^{sic} drawing to assemble & a few odd jobs to do.

Sardic is much better, he came back Sunday, the doctor & his wife came to tea with us, the doctor had seen the letter I had written Sardic & he complimented me on my Arabic hand writing.

I have my last lesson to-morrow Sheik^{sic} Sarbit is going to write something out by hand for me to read, so far I have only read from print, I have been writing some of our English proverbs in Arabic for him to correct I wonder what he will think of. "Satan finds some mischief for idle hands to do." The Arabic version of that is. "The head of the lazy one (or idle one)"

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184

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don't you think.

I expect. "People in glass houses should not throw stones" will puzzle him considerably; & I have no doubt "When the cats away the mice will play" will meet with his full approval, It is great fun writing these in Arabic, because one cannot just translate word for word, but must try to find phrases & words in Arabic that will convey the same idea, & some times I have to write them two different ways & find out from him which is the best. I think he finds it highly entertaining

Your last letter of March 18th contained a lot of news, I am glad you are getting books from the library again. I hav'nt^{sic} read a single book since I started learning to read Arabic, Amice has tried hard to tempt me, but I knew what would happen once I got my nose into one I have just looked through Punch & the Observer I am afraid I shall not be so firm when I get home & there is no Sheikh Sarbit to be faced each

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184

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 but I do hate being stupid & repeating the same
 mistakes over again, I have such a rotten
 memory for the sounds, I expect it is because
 I have no ear for music, if Amice hears
 a word two or three times she remembers it
 but I have to work hard to drive it into my
 head. I am hoping that the writing will help
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I seem to have nothing in
 the news line to tell you in this letter

Love to you all from us both.

Your affectionate

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