

Arabah el Madfunah
Ramadan 3rd

<Feb 2 1930>

Dear Mother.

We are having such a job to arrange the work now, with the men sleepy & muddle headed with fasting. I shall be glad when Miss C takes charge again I can manage my work & my men easily enough, but I have to see that Capt. C's men get their proper time off, he think Ramadan awful rot, & its^{sic} the men's own silly fault if they are exhausted & he does'nt^{sic} bother a bit to keep to the regular time for changing them. & of course that sort of attitude is what leads to trouble out here. Miss C is most particular to see the men have suitable time for all religious observances^{sic} & of course I take the same care when I am in charge. consequently we are "Friends of the Faithful" & not ~~De~~ "Christian dogs". or dirty Infidels.

We are having guests again tomorrow a g/<G>eneral Wilson & his wife are coming from Cairo by the train that gets here in the evening Miss C will be here by the morning train. Another friend of hers is also coming from Luxor & will

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arrive midday on one of the American Express Boats. Nannie is busy making preparations she loves having guests when they are nice people. (but doesn't she hate some.) Nannie doesn't do anything by half.

I am sending a photo that was taken during a luncheon party in the temple. our guests were Herr Lanard, (a photographer from Cairo) & his wife. Herr Lanard fixed the camera & showed Abdullah what to do, & when he had taken his seat at the table again he told the boy to press the bulb. I think you will recognise me on the left, behind me is Mr Beazley & Herr Lanard. ~~on~~ on the right in front is Frau Lanard, Capt C. & Miss C. I hope you admire our table cloth.

Two days ago. D^r Capart came to the temple he's head of the Belgian Museum. (do you remember I made him a cast of Akhenaten's daughter.) I had to show him all our drawings etc. He tells me we may expect a visit from the Queen of the Belgians in March. won't it be fun. Miss C & I are practicing our curtseys. it's not very easy in breeches. we think a manly bow would be more dignified.

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Ramadan 4th (Feb 3rd).

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The expected guests arrived last night, today being souk day we all went for a picnic in our favourite wady & introduced them to sand slope sport. we are getting experts & enjoy it more & more

We are now inquiring into the possibilities of making the trip to the Oases. 120 miles across desert. our chief problem is of course water & we have to find out if we can hire camels who are trained to drink once in three days or so. ordinary village camels who are used to being watered every day are no use for this trip. Sardic is ^{bringing} the men who make the journey to carry the green dates. to see us tomorrow & from them we shall find out what can be done. the inspector of police has offered to lend us the proper riding saddles. the ones we used on the Nag Hammadi trip were only pack saddles & not suitable for a long trek. we are getting so thrilled at the idea. I do hope nothing will occur to prevent us. but of course we shall not attempt it unless we are quite sure we can obtain everything

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suitable. Wont^{sic} it be an experience if we do pull it off. I don't think Capt C will come. He doesn't enjoy camel riding it makes him feel sea sick. & he thinks we are perfectly mad to think of such a trip. He teases us about it tremendously.

I was glad to see Miss C back & hand over the accounts etc, the part I didn't like was arranging the mens work in Ramadan. I'd tell them to go for their 4 hours rest as arranged. & then find Capt C had told them to look after his belongings while he went off goodness knows where. He's no idea of time, & one simply cannot leave valuable lenses & other Society property about without some one to see it isn't pinched.

It's nearly dinner time & I must go in & be polite. Lots of love to you both & to Pat
 your affectionate
 Myrtle.

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