284 Anabah. A Madfunat. Dean Motha I am back in camp again, sI think I had best continue the story of my adventures from where 1 left off in last Petter. The second day I spint sizing the desat on the Sohag side of the river , out there are Two very ancient boplic Monastrus, one called the While Monastany , the other the Red. as they are some distance apart the journay Took me all day. The While M. was the fust , it stands on a hoad stult of discit midway believes the chills a the culturation, it is like a walled fortuss + contains a chunch + a number of dwellings The Montes were delighted to have a visitor + showed me congthing, including the books, a Coptie + anabic + the vistments + pectures, there was some very fine stone work & canved Traceny, I went up on the roof , was able to look down into the church for the windows of one of the domes , get quick a deflerent view of the interior -I was regaled with the customary coffee, & departed

Arabah.. el Madfunah. [probably 13 April 1934]

Dear Mother.

I am back in camp again, & I think I had best continue the story of my adventures from where I left off in last letter.

The second day I spent seeing the desert on the Sohag side of the river. out there are two very ancient Coptic Monastries^{sic}, one called the White Monastary^{sic} & the other the Red. as they are some distance apart the journey took me all day. The White M. was the first & it stands on a broad stretch of desert midway between the cliffs & the cultivation, it is like a walled fortress & contains a church & a number of dwellings. The Monks were delighted to have a visitor & showed me everything, including the books, in Coptic & Arabic & the vestments & pictures, there was some very fine stone work & carved tracery, I went up on the roof & was able to look down into the church from the windows of one of the domes & get quite a different view of the interior – I was regaled with the customary coffee, & departed

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284 after having a slight donation for the church. I had my lunch under a clump of date palms & proceeded on to the Red Monastry. This slowd on the edge of the culturation , was surrounded by the usual mud lick village houses. + was Therefore much less impussive than the white 1%. inside it was similar though smalla It took me the ust of the day to return To Sohag in good time for a change & bath before dinne + to send Sanchi to do some shopping for the next comsion which was to take three days. I was up , off soon after dawn. The donhus that were to convery Sondie & the Ombastic were waiting on the other side of the river, my intention was To inde north following the Nik as for as the Sibel Haradi. This is when a great cliff sticks out + the non flows along its base here is a rough plan but I capach you have found the place on the map. JGEBEL Muntematin disert. culturation

after leaving a slight donation for the church. I had my lunch under a clump of date palms & proceeded on to the Red Monastry^{sic}. this stood on the edge of the cultivation & was surrounded by the usual mud brick villages houses. & was therefore much less impressive that the White M. inside, it was similar though smaller. It took me the rest of the day to return to Sohag in good time for a change & bath before dinner & to send Sardic to do some shopping for the next excursion which was to take three days. I was up & off soon after dawn. the donkeys that were to convey Sardic & the Ombashi were waiting on the other side of the river, my intention was to ride north following the Nile as far as the Gebel Haradi^{sic} {Haridi}. this is when a great cliff sticks out & the river flows along its base here is a rough plan but I expect you have found the place on the map.

[😤]

GEBEL HARIDI	desert.
NILE	cultivation

3 284 it was a distance of about 30 miles, I passed through lots of villages , in one of them was an out-port of the barnel Patrol + we slopped to say how do you do to the office + more who were friends of the Onbastic. I told them where I was going , the office said he would Tell the disub patrol To work out for I had lunch under some Trees in one of me. the villages, after the meal the women of the village came + Talked To me + were very anious about me as timopions are very rare over there. Then I continued my journay, it was late aftimoon by the time I wasted the Sebel Hand I was very trantiful, as immense rock of weathered timestone, more a mountain than a rock. we shinted the base until we came to Baled Handi a little onat village built into the chill face. have I was Told there was a famous skichts Tomb up a wady. so we dismounted . + followed one of the villagues who offned his surces as a quide up a wild rock strewn wady, it was a long climb, but the scenery was magnificent + at last

it was a distance of about 30 miles, I passed through lots of villages & in one of them was an out-post of the Camel Patrol & we stopped to say "how do you do" to the officer & men who were friends of the Ombashi, I told them where I was going & the officer said he would tell the desert patrol to look out for me. I had lunch under some trees in one of the villages, after the meal the women of the village came & talked to me & were very curious about me as Europeons^{sic} are very rare over there. then I continued my journey, it was late afternoon by the time I reached the Gebel Haridi it was very beautiful, an immense rock of weathered limestone, more <like> a mountain than a rock. we skirted the base until we came to Beled Haridi a little Arab village built into the cliff face. here I was told there was a famous sheikhs^{sic} tomb up a wady, so we dismounted. & followed one of the villagers who offered his services as a guide up a wild rock strewn wady, it was a long climb, but the scenery was magnificent & at last

PAGE 3

284 the wady broadened out into a little amphatheahe , have we found the Shakk's Tomb with its while washed dome, I removed my shows I went inside, the walls & the dome inside whe all decorated with crude paintings + the floor was covered with rush mats , the actual coffee of the sheeket was council with a fine cotton cover , had knobs at cach comme + a sort of nection like a fied up bundle at the head. by Touching this one got a lot of blessing after this, I was Taken up a still streper way to some anacut store quanics, these went a long way back into the slift & for the enhance one could look right across the width of Egypt to the Junge of the Wisten Desut, I clambuck down in much lies Time than it Took me to snamble up. + by the it was manly sex oclock so I consulted Sandhe + the Ombashi about a sur Table camping place for the night, I suggested some where up the wady. the Gabashi had a talk with the shrink of the village whom he knew I he lold me that there were a great many scorpions

the wady broadened out into a little amphitheatre & here we found the Sheikh's tomb with its white washed dome, I removed my shoes & went inside, the walls & the dome inside were all decorated with crude paintings & the floor was covered with rush mats & the actual coffin of the sheikh was covered with a fine cotton cover & had knobs at each corner & a sort of erection like a tied up bundle at the head, by touching this one got a lot of blessing –

after this, I was taken up a still steeper way to some ancient stone quarries. these went a long way back into the cliff & from the entrance one could look right across the width of Egypt to the fringe of the Western Desert, I clambered down in much less time than it took me to scramble up. & by then it was nearly six oclock^{sic} so I consulted Sardic & the Ombashi about a suitable camping place for the night, I suggested some where up the wady. the Ombashi had a talk with the sheikh of the village whom he knew & he told me that there were a great many scorpions

284 + snakes among the rocks there, , the sheek's said if I pufared to sheep in the open they would him the divans from the village meeting room outside for us a we would be quite safe steeping on them. I he would be honouned if I would conside his house my house ite. I acapted the former suggestion, & a divan was placed on the raised voorda of the meeting house for me, & these others at the fool of the steps for my body guard. Of course I had to accept the Shack's hospetality-, have suppor with him. I phaded faligue as my secure for not cating all the food that was set before me & made an excellent meal from a fine plomp pigeon roasted & stuffed with savory rice, all the proph were brankfelly behaved , although an Emopus in then midst was a unique expense Jos then they did not crowd round + stars. It was quite dusk by the Time suppor was finished + I was conducted to my divan + my host , his Jucado wished me a blissed night & retired. I commensed my puponations by removing all

& snakes among the rocks there, & the sheikh said if I preferred to sleep in the open they would bring the divans from the village meeting room outside for us & we would be quite safe sleeping on them. & he would be honoured if I would consider his house my house etc. I accepted the former suggestion. & a divan was placed on the raised veranda of the meeting house for me, & three others at the foot of the steps for my body guard.

Of course I had to accept the Sheikhs^{sic} hospitality & have supper with him. I pleaded fatigue as my excuse for not eating all the food that was set before me & made an excellent meal from a fine plump pigeon roasted & stuffed with savory rice, a/<A>II thepeople were beautifully behaved & although an^{sic}Europeon^{sic} in their midst was a unique experiencefor them they did not crowd round & stare.

It was quite dusk by the time supper was finished & I was conducted to my divan & my host & his friends wished me a blessed night & retired. I commensed^{sic} my preparations by removing all

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cushions, covings from the divan , making up my bid on it with my own blankets + cushion. but wer so I had visitors - they entanly had a very blussed night, as for my own. The less said about it the better but I consolid my self with the reflection that if one will wanda so for from avilgation one must cepect to encounter some discomforts, 1 culainly I was having a thirting experience miles away in an onab village with a body guard of a Sondanie soldine , Two bidawin suvants striping a free yonds away from me , the shaddowy village with the outline of the high cliff showing change against the night shy. Hut morning I was up with the dawn. I had hahfed will the skicke, again a pigeon. The others sal round a dish of sice & meat for which they helped themselves with then right hands + pieces of head. I also had to cat with my fingues but I can manage this quite nicely now, of course on always washes before + after meats. I thanked my host for his hospitality , was once again on my way

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cushions & coverings from the divan & making up my bed on it with my own blankets & cushion. but even so I had visitors – they certainly had a very blessed night. as for my own. the less said about it the better but I consoled my self with the reflection that if one will wander so far from civilization one must expect to encounter some discomforts, & certainly I was having a thrilling experience miles away in an arab^{sic} village with a body guard of a Soudanise soldier & two bedawin servants sleeping a few yards away from me & the shaddowy village with the outline of the high cliff showing clearly against the night sky.

Next morning I was up with the dawn. I had breakfast with the Sheikh, again a pigeon. the others sat round a dish of rice & meat from which they helped themselves with their right hands & pieces of bread. I also had to eat with my fingers but I can manage this quite nicely now, of course one always washes before & after meals. I thanked my host for his hospitality & was once again on my way

7 284 by 6.30. I intended to return along the edge of the clifts by the disut Track, spending another night on the way, as the distance is for greater than along the Nitz. I must leave the account of the next Two days advertures until anothe Pettre as I have no more time now. Love To you both . your affectionale daughter. Mystle.

by 6.30. I intended to return along the edge of the cliffs by the desert track, spending another night on the way, as the distance is far greater than along the Nile. I must leave the account of the next two days^{sic} adventures until another letter as I have no more time now.

Love to you both. your affectionate daughter Myrtle.