

Arabah el Madfuna  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1935.

Dear Mother & Father.

A Happy New Year to you both  
Just received your letter containing the poem  
about the Mudir's luncheon party - sorry - but  
its<sup>sic</sup> not a true account. we eat in the garden. not  
a room & M<sup>rs</sup> Mudir was 'nt<sup>sic</sup> present. I suppose  
these inexactitudes pass as poets<sup>sic</sup> licence.

Fancy your letter (or rather my letter) going via  
New York. no wonder there have been some  
delays. I am timing my letters now to catch  
the P&O which leaves Port Said every Sunday  
& hope they will arrive more regularly.

We have had two lots of visitors, last Saturday  
some friends of Amice's motoring from Luxor  
stayed the night with us & we had a very  
jolly evening, we had the village musicians  
up to give an entertainment. & the men acted  
a little play, it was a nice still night so that

363

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363

2

we could sit outside well bundled up in rugs.  
 the play was as usual a scene in the police court  
 with the judge trying various cases & being  
 constantly interrupted by an afreet that was  
 in the packing case that served as his chair.  
 the guests were very much entertained, they  
 had never seen anything like it before.  
 Today we had two English officers to lunch  
 they had been on a tour to the Red Sea,  
 they had two cars & a native servant, they  
 were very pleasant guests & delighted with  
 our camp. They are now on their way to  
 Cairo via Assiut where they will spend the  
 night.

Last Friday we payed our visits to wish all  
 the people a happy feast, it took all day  
 to go round to the various houses, & in each  
 one we had to accept some form of nourishment  
 what we could not eat then & there we had to  
 take away with us. Sardin had bought a  
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We were very tired when we got home & quite unable to deal with our usual meals. in fact needed "eppy" more than supper.

We had a letter from Dr Junker to say Otto was getting on very well, the doctor expects it will take three months for his foot to mend, but in a little time they hope he can be moved to Dr Junkers where the doctor will visit him.

M<sup>rs</sup> Yenkin, wife of the Secretary to Sir Miles Lampson sent us some good things for Xmas, among them some crackers, we pulled some this evening with Nannie & Sardic & Abdulla they contained fireworks which delighted them very much.

The Marmur's wife & daughter visited the Temple last Sunday & the daughter brought us a box of little feast cakes of her own making. they are delicious, rather like very short short bread & some contain walnuts, wasnt it sweet of her. for my arabic lesson today I have written her

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363

a letter to say how much we enjoyed them,  
& we have both signed it. I hope she will be  
pleased.

I have finished my second painting. & start on  
No 3 tomorrow, a good start for the New Year.  
Please give my love to Mrs Anderson & wish her  
a Happy New Year & many blessings on the  
bungalow. I hope she will have a comfortable  
move.

I am glad you have heard from so many  
old friends this Xmas.

Amice is finding her cap & scarf very useful.  
she wraps the scarf round her middle, crosses  
it behind her back & pins the ends across her  
chest & this keeps out the coldest winds,  
I drape myself in the scarf Sardic spun for  
me

Poor Abdulla had invested his savings in a  
buffalo. Today the beast died giving birth to its  
second calf which was also dead. He is very  
upset about it. Amice & I are contributing a pound  
towards replacing it. Lots of love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

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