

Arabah.  
April 6<sup>th</sup> [1935]

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Dear Mother.

The news about Beatrice coming back to us is the best I have heard for a long time. I feel very relieved as I was rather troubled about going on to Jerusalem in May as it will of course delay my return about three weeks.

I was even considering returning Imperial Airways but this would mean a lot of bother about luggage & costs considerably more than my passage money & the portion of the journey from Brindisi to Paris is by rail, so the actual time by air is very short. The entire journey takes three days & nights. But if you have Beatrice with you by then, I do not think you will mind so much if I do not return until about June 1. We can then plan to start off for our spring holiday as soon as possible. I think it is Father's turn to choose where to go don't you? as we choose Scotland last year.

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modern domestic improvements & the electric cleaner ought to save her some of the heaviest work.

I do hope her health is good enough for general house work. It will make a difference having some one we know & like so much.

I have been receiving letters from the Oasis today. The Governor & the Marmur ~~for~~ both wrote to thank me for the cigarettes & they hope I will pay a longer visit next winter (evidently the cigarettes were very much appreciated). I also had a charming letter from Monsur Shagly the young Omdah. He says he is so glad to hear of my safe return & both he & his father hope I will pay another visit next winter & spend a long holiday with them. Isn't it nice to feel I shall be so welcome if I go again. My efforts to learn Arabic are well repaid, by the friendliness of all the people & their eagerness to show me hospitality. I find so many Europeans only learn enough Arabic to give directions to their servants they never memorise any form of the verb except the Imperative. do this - make that - & so on, so though they can make known their wants, they cannot converse, and

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are regarded by the natives as unfriendly & impolite, but I have made a point of learning the conventional polite replies to the various greetings & this gives them such immense delight that it does not matter a bit if the conversation afterwards gets rather beyond me. a friendly footing is established & we get on together splendidly

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Love to you & Father & Pat  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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