Anabal. 1251 March 16th

Dean Mother

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Arabah. March 16<u>th</u> [1931]

Dear Mother

My last adventure was to visit the tomb of Sheikh Ali, This Sheikh was a very holy man & a member of the sect of snake charmers, as are all his de<s>cendants, they have a large walled enclosure by the Tomb where the snakes live, If a woman wishes her son to be immune from snake bite she takes him to the Sheikh in charge of the place (who is great grandson of the original Sheikh Ali) & he places a big snake round the boys^{sic} neck, & writes him a charm, & after that no snake will ever harm him. Also, if a snake is found in any persons^{sic} house he comes sends for the Sheikh, who comes & takes the snake away, he calls to it & the snake will follow him.

Having heard all these wonders I said I would like to visit Sheikh Ali, if it were possible Sardic said Oh yes, it could be arranged.

So I had the camel & started early in the morning with Sardic on his donkey, Ahmud on a borrowed donkey & Mahommed & Semman on foot.

1252 This time our way led through the given, we went along manow foot paths through the corn which was should n high, there were fields of beans + clove also, is the clove the steep , the goals will the lambs o kads, the cows, hefetocs, camels, donkays also with offspring whice that fored to grage. Thue were com geen & gosterps. (not Testhered.) It was so factly to see the various happy familys with usually a small boy or gul ra dog To query " It took about 2'h hours good going them. To reach the little village where the torat is, the village has some vay fine procon houses, you will see them in one of the snap shots. The Tomb stands in a sort of court yand. where There is a special place for fearing camels + dontays.

Our anival caused quite a committee, the people one used to many & various programs but a white woman was a novelty. The sheek? was very polite & said I might go into the tont of I wished, so I removed my boots. (the sip

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This time our way led through the green, we went along narrow foot paths through the corn which was shoulder high, there were fields of beans & clover also, in the clover the sheep & the goats with the lambs & kids, the cows, buffaloes, camels, donkeys. also with offspring were teathered^{sic} to graze. there were even geese & goslings. (not teathered^{sic}.) It was so pretty to see the various happy familys^{sic} with usually a small boy or girl & a dog to guard them. It took about 21/2 hours^{sic} good going to reach the little village where the tomb is, the village has some very fine pigeon houses, you will see them in one of the snapshots. The Tomb stands in a sort of court yard. where there is a special place for leaving camels & donkeys.

Our arrival caused quite a commotion. the people are used to many & various pilgrims but a white woman was a novelty. The Sheikh was very polite & said I might go into the tomb if I wished, so I removed my boots. (the zip

fastinnes caused great astonishment + went in. The Tomi- was gaily decorated inside with painted plasta wells, the floor was just sand other actual bunial was enclosed in an elaborate server of open wood work, all the Mostern's pissed this shun, (Somman rubbed his face hard against it in the hopes of gelling cetie blessing) merch welked round. When I came out again the Shakk invited me to rest or a divon white coffic was prepared. I he wrote me a special cham to protect me for snekes. In which I gave him 10 P.T. Unfortunately I could'at see The snakes as the old man who had charge of Them was in Singa that day & had lakes the key " with him. The shake was very sony about it. I he said he would himself hing a lig make to anabal for me to see next Finday. I said I did not wish hom to go to so much trouble. bet he said, I have promised it. solam bound To come .

I had two caps of very nice coffee

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fasteners caused great astonishment) & went in. The Tomb was gaily decorated inside with painted plaster walls. the floor was just sand & the actual burial was enclosed in an elaborate screen of open wood work, All the Moslems kissed this screen, (Semman rubbed his face hard against it in the hopes of getting extra blessing) I merely walked round. When I came out again the Sheikh invited me to rest on a divan while coffee was prepared. & he wrote me a special charm to protect me from snakes. for which I gave him 10 P.T. Unfortunately I could'nt^{sic} see the snakes as the old man who had charge of them was in Girga that day & had taken the key with him. The Sheikh was very sorry about it. & he said he would himself bring a big snake to Arabah for me to see next Friday. I said I did not wish him to go to so much trouble. but he said, I have promised it – so I am bound to come.

I had two cups of very nice coffee

+ thanked the shake very much & sand good byc + mounted my camel +set off again. Sandie lines the gondence who worked in the gonder of a very big colate mean there & had ananged for me to have my funct there as it would be cost opleasant under the mange Trus, Janay having linch in an mange grove a having ones desirt picked first for The Thus, the good in insisted or making me coffic, & I bought & PT of manges + Took them home in my saddle bags. My cance othe donhays had a lovely Time graging on fish clover. On my return younday lossiled Sondie's sester in · law, she & ha family whe home in one of the little show shelling that they into during The works mosths when working in The fields, There was a great juss & To-do . & more coffice . I began to Jeel like the day after Ramadan. When Igd stumped for conversation I showed them how my boots worked . that was a very popular move:

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& thanked the Sheikh very much & said good-bye & mounted my camel & set off again.

Sardic knew the gardener who worked in the garden of a very big estate near there & had arranged for me to have my lunch there as it would be cool & pleasant under the orange trees, Fancy having lunch in an orange grove & having ones^{sic} desert^{sic} picked fresh from the trees. the gardener insisted on making me coffee, & I bought 8 PT of oranges & took them home in my saddle bags. My camel & the donkeys had a lovely time grazing on fresh clover.

On my return journey I visited Sardic's sister in law, she & her family were living in one of the little straw shelters that they inhabit during the winter months when working in the fields, There was a great fuss & to-do – & more coffee. I began to feel like the day after Ramadan. When I got stumped for conversation I showed them how my boots worked – that was a very popular move. PAGE 4

125 It was evening when I got back. I was not I Tincor. but I had enjoyed it tremendously. The need two days I was busy in The Tempte & the following day Amice returned. I fogot to till you that I had such a job to get the min to accept a little present from me for all the cetie work they d' done on my account. I lota sondic I wanted him to get himself a new pan of shores it had to get Narmic To help me mote him, the money for them. Old Ahmund flatty refused to The anything while I lidd him if he would'al Take it for hom self, then he was to take it as a puscil for his little girl. I used the same sort of deplomacy with Mahommed. On Fuday The Shakt came with a big what he had it wapped up in a sharst . he put it down + it reared + put it's hood up. I realised it was in a strange place + it shittened up to its master as though suking protection. The picked it up + 1100h a photo of him holding it against

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It was <late> evening when I got back. & was'nt^{sic} I tired. but I had enjoyed it tremendously.

The next two days I was busy in the temple & the following day Amice returned.

I forgot to tell you that I had such a job to get the men to accept a little present from me for all the extra work the'yd^{sic} done on my accound/<t>. I told Sardic I wanted him to get himself a new pair of shoes. I had to get Nannie to help me make him <take> the money for them. Old Ahmud flatly refused to take anything until I told him if he would'nt^{sic} take it for himself, then he was to take it as a present for his little girl. I used the same sort of diplomacy with Mahommed.

On Friday the Sheikh came with a big cobra, he had it wrapped up in a shawl. he put it down & it reared & put its hood up. it realised it was in a strange place & it slithered up to its master as though seeking protection. he picked it up & I took a photo of him holding it against PAGE 5

125 6 him, I then another photo of it on the ground with it's hood up. I hope they will be successful. The Sheeke refused to Take anything for his trouble in coming over. It is very hol now, own go in The shade, the flies are troublesome loo, I have found a good plan is to put some of the mosqueto shift Tathe golime in about 3 ponts can-de cologne & keep debbing it on my forchead, it keeps then away estory to the smill Pasts, but needs constant norworr. We heard a few days ago that Hugh Las a new baby boy. This is number 5. Amice says she hopes its the last. Today I have bought lathe another sort of shipps & also a pan for myself. Then an like Sondic wears. They one not so funny as the others & I copiet he will be able to really wan these they one a cheaged orange This is all the news for now . Jobs floor to cvery body Your affictionale daughter Mystle .

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him, & then another photo of it on the ground with its hood up. I hope they will be successful. The Sheikh refused to take anything for his trouble in coming over.

It is very hot now, over 90 in the shade, the flies are troublesome too, I have found a good plan is to put some of the mosquito stuff Father got me in about 3 parts eau-de-cologne & keep dabbing it on my forehead, it keeps them away as long as the smell lasts, but needs constant renewing.

We heard a few days ago that Hugh has a new baby boy. this is number 5. Amice says she hopes its^{sic} the last.

To-day I have bought Father another sort of slipper & also a pair for myself. these are like Sardic wears. they are not so funny as the others & I expect he will be able to really wear them/<se>. They are a cheerful orange.

> This is all the news for now. Lots of love to everybody Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.