

Arabah
Feb 20th 1931-

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Dear Father.

It was nice to have a letter from you, I am so glad to hear about the outing & the silver bowl & the company & everything.

Will you please thank the Andersons for the birthday card, it was very kind of them to remember me.

Yesterday was the big feast day for the end of Ramadan, Sardic came out in all his glory & looked very fine. Of course we made the day a holiday, & as soon as we had finished our breakfast we set off to the village to wish all our friends a Merry Feast. on our way we saw one of Ibrahim's warps being stretched, he'd used two big palm trees & tied the wool between them & was dampening it with flour & water. A little further on we saw a darling thing, it was a baby camel one day old, of course we had to go & cuddle it it could just stand by straddling its legs well out, it had the funniest little hump. the softest curly wool of a light greyish fawn & the quaintest face

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116

2

with big bright eyes. its head was on a level with my shoulder & it rubbed its nose on my neck in vain hopes of a meal, it was so sweet & friendly, Mama camel didn't mind our attentions to ~~her~~ offspring at all, we assisted its uncertain steps to her side & left it enjoying a hearty meal, I hope to pay it another call later on & perhaps take its photo.

Our first official visit was to Ahmud Ibrahim, he & his family made us very welcome & regaled us with coffee & dates, he had a fine lot of turkeys walking about his house & some little turkey chicks. there were pigeons & hens as well, all living with the family.

The next on our way was the Omdah of Beni Monsur, he has a real sort of house, with a big entrance hall & rooms leading off it. we were received in the chief reception room & sat on divans & were served again with coffee. a handsome young man brought it, & Sardic told us that it was an Arab custom for the son of the house to serve coffee instead

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116³

of the servant when guests of distinction called on a feast day. so of course we expressed our appreciation of the charming compliment paid us.

It took us over three hours to visit every-body, in every house we had to eat or drink something so we got rather full before we were through. Our men had made great preparations for our visits. The guest seat was spread with clean mats, (in Sardic's house it was covered with a magenta satin quilt!!) the house place swept, the wife & children in their best frocks & jewellery & even the dates that were offered us had been freshly washed & protected from flies. In old Ahmud's house there were two new lambs to be admired, both black this time, his eldest son is to be married in a day or two (the bride is only 13,) & we were shown some fine baskets (such are some of the young mans' preparations towards housekeeping.

By the time we reached home we were very weary, hot & dusty & feeling a little sick from the extraordinary mixture of strange & sickly things we had eaten, but we had enjoyed it tremendously

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116

There were lots of birthday letters for me by to-days^{sic} mail, but it is too late tonight to answer them. We had so many people waiting to be doctored when we got back from work, that our supper was nearly an hour later than usual & we were both dreadfully tired. There was a boy with a broken head to be dressed, he'd fallen down a well & got an awful gash across his skull, he'd been to hospital but they'd sent him away before it was healed, & of course he got it dirty & the usual trouble began. It's getting all right now, but needs dressing every day. There was a man with a bad gathered thumb, another man with a skin disease, a woman with worms, a baby with the Lord only knows what, another woman with inflamed eyes - & so on.

The other day Old Ahmud said to me, "If Allah will's^{sic}, you must bring your Father with you next year," he takes a great interest in you & often inquires after your health when he knows I have had a letter from home. I must go to bed now. Lots of love to you both your loving daughter Myrtle.

Amice sends her love. + Mamma too she was delighted with your message

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