

Arabah el Madfunah
Dec 20/2th 1930.

Dear Mother.

Thanks so much for the calendars,
we are now all well set up in every room.

I have had several letters & Christmas cards. D^r Gardiner wrote us a very nice letter, Prof. & M^{rs} Breasted sent us each a Christmas card from America, Major & M^{rs} Calverley sent me a card, & to-day I had a letter from M^{rs} Brunton & a lovely surprise in the form of a book from Pat, will you tell her I am ever so pleased with it, & will write to thank her in a few days. I may not have another opportunity for letter writing until after Xmas, as we are having Miss Byles, the librarian from Chicago house to spend the holiday with us, she arrives to-morrow.

It is very good of Father to get me another pen, a second one is sure to be useful

Sardic has got a new donkey, a young lady, we each had a ride on her yesterday

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she trots along splendidly, it is quite difficult to get her to stop. Her name is Azzize which means "Dearest". She is snow white & has as a gaily embroidered saddle cloth

The day before yesterday we went to another Zar. This was rather different to the previous ones we had seen. It was the final ceremony. The witch doctor had found out that the possessing spirit desired a red sheep, a silver girdle & gold ear rings. These had been provided, & the offering of these formed the concluding ceremony. There was the usual low round table, piled with bread & dates, a tall candle in the centre, the women circled round & round this tossing & twisting their bodies to the rhythm of the drums, one carried a bowl which held the jewellery, & another led the red sheep. It was a huge animal & the possessed woman rode upon its back.

We did not stay very long, we wished

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 to avoid the climax, when the poor sheep was slaughtered,
 so we do not know how it all ended, probably
 they all had a huge feast & then slept soundly.

Ahmud Ibrahim, the chief guard of
 this district has presented us with a fine turkey
 for our Xmas dinner, ^(the turkey) he is now gobbling
 in our little farm yard & lording it over the
 chickens, I am afraid his reign will be a short
 one.

There does not seem to be very much
 news to tell you this time, next letter I hope
 to tell you about our Xmas, thought it
 will be a much quieter one than last year
 we have had no time for preparations.

Amice joins me in love to you

both

Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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