

We reached Jerusalem about noon and soon were very comfortable in the Fast Hotel outside the wall.

Headquarters Jerusalem

Very soon it was the 14th of June, our 7th wedding anniversary. I had noticed that it was the season of ripe cherries. I liked cherry pie and whispered to the Hotel people that I would like a cherry pie on the evening of the 14th. When we came to dinner on the 14th there were two cherry pies by my plate. Mr. Barakat also had ordered one!

The men of our party were invited to a donkey ride around the city outside the wall. It was worth while but my donkey had tender feet and I didn't like it for my driver to poke the poor beast from behind with a sharp stick.

The drive to Bethlehem was fine. No red tape at all, and the carriages were drawn, each one of them, by three beautiful Arabian horses.

Maggie and I went into the Cave of the Nativity and walked the full length of the cave under the small lamps that burned olive oil. We were shown the silver star fastened on the stone floor beneath the manger where it is said Jesus was born. We were shown also the place in the cave where Jerome about the 4th century translated the Bible into Latin which became the Vulgate, the Authorized Version used by Roman Catholics.

Of course we went into the Church which for such a long time had been called the Church of the Nativity. Between Jerusalem and Bethlehem we were shown a small stone house where it is said that Benjamin was born and his mother Rachael died.