

THE SAYED
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EL HASHIMI

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Lowell Thomas Esq.,
Hammersley Hill,
Pawling,
New York.

19th June, 1953.

Dear Mr. Lowell Thomas,

Many thanks for your letter of the 4th April, which I received on my return to this country.

I am most interested to hear that Lowell Thomas Jr. is travelling through the Middle East, and although he is no doubt far ahead of me by now, I still hope that he may reach Afghanistan where he will meet my father and others.

Of course I know of the Sheik Brothers though I have not been in contact with them. Do ask Mr. Abdul Ghafur Sheik to drop in and see me any time he is passing through London.

My present plans are as follows: I have obtained the wholehearted support of the International Institute of Anthropology for my proposed expedition following the route of Alexander the Great to India. I intend to explore the unknown regions of the Hindu Kush Mountains, which as you know is the home of the reputed descendants of Alexander's deputies in Central Asia. I have met with a very great deal of enthusiastic endorsement in every academic circle Europe which I have approached, and I ask your advice as to the best way in which to approach American circles for material as well as moral support in this venture. I will send you fuller details as soon as I have completed the memorandum on which I am now working.

Suffice to say for the moment, that here we have an unexplored territory which is the home of an intact culture, unaffected by outside influences for the past two thousand years; and here the entire people may be seen and investigated under ideal conditions.

I intend to take a colour film, write a book and give lectures on my return.

Can you arrange for some help for me in the matter of transport - I shall need three Jeeps - Cinematographic apparatus and distribution? Or advise in the field of some financial support from manufacturers advertising and other sources.

Yours sincerely,

Idries Shah.