

# The Salaa El Dine Birthday Party

Presenting Dr Nagel's  
"Gesamtkunstwerk"  
on the Katharinenhof Premises

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Salaa El Dine with Dr. Hans Nagel

The date was July 24, 2005. On Dr Nagel's Katharinenhof premises, the birthday party for Salaa El Dine was on. The stallion and his breeder presented themselves in top form. It would not have been a problem for Salaa El Dine to blow out twenty candles on his birthday cake, if only he had gotten the chance to do so!

Dr Nagel convinced people as he is known to do - as an excellent geneticist, cultural historian, and horseman, and as an entertainer with that dry humour of those sensible North German people. Not showing his advanced age, he produced three hours of printable history, in German and English, of his "Gesamtkunstwerk", his synthesis of the arts in the field of his straight Egyptian horse breeding operation covering almost seven horse generations. There was, contrary to many other presentations, no bragging about and no dwelling on the successful sales in five continents. Just on the contrary, his aim was to present, humbly and critical of his own learning process, his stock of horses as a didactic model, even if he is convinced of his breeding goal which has always been foremost in his mind when selection was at issue. What he wanted was to encourage those many spectators from Europe and the Middle East, to make them curious, to confirm and motivate them in defining their own breeding goals. He presented his own horses in order to provide a hands-on Logical Framework of Arabian breeding.

His claim: for the breeding of Arabian horses of top quality, it's not enough to merely start going the right way. Reaching the goal, that's the aim.

Desert Heritage has recorded and compiled Dr Nagel's comments, producing an exciting basis for self-critical breeders to work on. Dr Nagel opens up new perspectives on how to produce top quality breeding results in one's own breeding operation, and that far away from the show circuit.

**Dr Nagel:** Normally a horse presentation shows you a picture of a moment in that horse's time. Today you see something untypical, you see a selection of a period of breeding, and so far it's a different concept. You are at your liberty to see that this selection started somewhere, arrived at a certain point, and went on and on and on and many people who are here today are continuing to breed horses on this basis. What you see here is an overview of a period of maybe forty years which makes it possible to see how somebody's breeding operation might develop.

If you have such an idea, it's very important to know where to go. If you start from somewhere and you don't know where to go, why do you start? So you should first think about that. You need an idea and an objective and this is a very personal choice. You have to define your standard. Arabian horses in history were used for so many purposes; they grew up under desert conditions or even here in Europe and a uniform standard doesn't exist. I think today we have one standard, called Show. And for many years many breeders have been selecting their Arabian horses for the show. But that can't be the only criterion. So I invite you to reflect about the standard you like and you are searching for. That means you must breed very consistently, but that takes a lot of time. One horse generation takes about 9-10 years, so please start early if you would like to arrive at your aim in time.

Salaa El Dine is twenty years this year, and this stallion and particularly his sire, Halim Shah, have had a strong influence on Egyptian breeding in Germany. The pedigrees of all the horses presented here show his influence. Halim Shah has produced 11 sons in Germany, 9 of which have been licensed as sires. Selecting them was really difficult then. But quite apart from that, I had a special liking for his type and I wanted to see more of that in my own breeding. But let's go back to the beginnings. I had seen a lot of beautiful horses in Egypt, but I was always very clear on the point that I was looking for horses whose very appearance would advertise their Arabian origin. Later on I understood that a horse also has to have a good shoulder, a good croup, and certainly the type. I found out that the majority of my horses didn't have that, but not only my horses, also Ghazal or Aswan or Hadban didn't have all of that. By that time, however, we were all learning and I was looking around where to find a horse with type, a good shoulder, and a good croup. Finally I found this horse, it was Ansata Halim



NK Lubna  
\*2005, by  
Jamal El Dine  
out of Layla  
(Salaa el Dine)



the youngest  
filly in stud  
at the  
presentation



NK Hind  
\*2004, by  
Jamal El Dine  
out of Halala  
(Salaa  
El Dine)



Hafid Jamil 2005



Dr. Nagel



I start my presentation with 4 mares I like very much and these mares all have in common that their sire is Jamil. I present to you my mare Ken Ranya out of Salaa El Dine, she is a Dahman Shahwan through Bint Bukra. The other two mares, Helala and Nariman, are out of Hanan - that means they are Abbayan Juran line, and the last one, Layla, is out of the Mahiba line, Saklawi Jedran, this line had a big impact and a lot of influence in Germany in the past.



Nasrin \*1998, by Adnana out of Nashua (Salaa El Din/Lotfeia)



NK Hafid Jamil by Ibn Nejdya out of Helala by Salaa El Dine

Shah and I was imagining that Halim Shah could be the horse I had been searching for. So I started to breed with him. If you remember, I lost my stallion Jamil and I was desperately searching for an alternative when my mare Hanan, in foal by Halim Shah, produced for me little Salaa El Dine. Later on Salaa El Dine became a stallion that produced both, mares and stallions, in very good quality, just like his father Halim Shah had done. Salaa El Dine influenced my breeding much more than all the other stallions have ever done. Bukra is my favourite as a genetic basis for mares and I went to Egypt to search for these bloodlines, but I didn't find them anymore because they were all imported to Ansata Stud in the USA to found the famous Bint Bukra line.

In order to identify what is a good Arabian horse, I always pay attention to 3 traits:  
 - He must have a good, refined Arabian face,  
 - He must keep his tail beautifully, elevated at every kind of movement,  
 - He must be a very good mover.

In addition, every Arabian horse needs to have a friendly character.

Of course, a breeder will always find a fault in his horses. You can't count on having all the positive traits and criteria assembled in every horse. Something, however, is highly important. A good Arabian horse needs to have a Big Point. Some aspect which makes him stand out, which is charac-



Adnan Dauthers - in front NK Hallah \*1998, out of Asfoura (Ansata Halim Shah/Ameera)



NK Nahla \*2005, by Hafid Jamil out of Nasrin (Adnan/Nashua)



NK Nahla \*2005, by Hafid Jamil out of Ken Ranya (Salaa El Din/Ansata Prime Rose)



Jamal El Dine



Ibn Nejdi

teristic for this particular horse. Medium quality horses without some Big Point have a hard standing nowadays.

When I came to Egypt in the sixties, I was searching for the origin, but I was behaving like in school, looking to the pages of my neighbour copying from left to right to get good notes. I was a beginner and very confused. But I found out that Marbach at this time was choosing the Kamla line, the Bint Bukra Line and the Dahman Shahwan line through Moheba II. I understood and used Ghazal as a sire. He was an excellent mover, he had very good



NK Jamal El Dine \*2001, by Hafid Jamil out of Ken Ranya (Salaa El Din/Ansata Prima Rose)

hindquarters, and he influenced my breeding positively. But not only that, he represented the finest type, all big eyes and elegance.

A stallion who produces good sons is a rare find. If a stallion produces good offspring at all, it's mostly that they are good daughters, but there is hardly a good son among them. Halim Shah on the other hand, as well as his sire Ibn Halima and his sire Nazeer, they were all good stallion producers.

I cannot say who is going to be the great successor of Halim Shah. There is Al Adeed, well known to all of us, there is Ansata Hejazi, and of course there are Maysoon and, last not least, Salaa El Dine. One from out of this circle will be the one who will later on said to have been his true successor.

Mares are for maintaining a breed, stallions are for improving it. If I keep to this saying, then any stallion I ever use needs to have some excellent trait which will improve my breeding. It's not always possible to know that, sometimes you just have to give it a try.

Salaa El Dine had several good sons in his offspring. The one son I especially liked was ADNAN. Adnan was somewhat of a copy of old Ghazal but with the advantage of having a good back.

Then there were Shahheen and Nahaman, two full brothers whose offspring are always easily recognizable.

Adnan, however, stuck out from the lot. He was out of noble Ghazalla, the daughter of Ghazal and Hanan.

What you see here today are his equally excellent daughters. It's easy to see that all of them are somewhat bigger framed than the rest of the horses, they have a very good action of the hindquarters, all of them have - thanks to Halim Shah - this very good back and the good shoulder. What we needed Halim



Shah for at that time was not for getting more beautiful heads, but for getting better hindquarters and shoulders.

From what I said, you can see that breeding as we do it here is a quite narrowly defined scenario. What we have is daughters of Salaa El Dine mated to sons of Salaa El Dine. I never bought a lot of horses, but after we had had Halim Shah, I went on breeding on that basis.

I asked myself how far can we go with this idea. But I think that I can still go on for a while with my gene pool.

Another key role for my stud fell to the mare Hanan whom I imported from Egypt. She is from the breeding of king Farouk and represents the family of Abbayan Om Juran. Her daughters from the matings with the excellent stallions Ghazal, Salaa El Dine and Adnan inherited improved hindquarters and lots of movement.

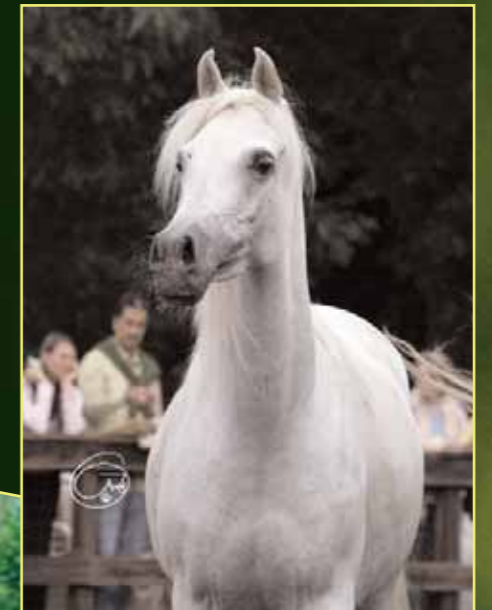
If you look at these horses here, history can come alive with there examples. I always took an interest in the origin of my horses, in their ancestors and the environment and nature around them. The history of Arabian horses had better be of particular interest to us, as their origin is not here in Europe, but they are from a culture area which is exotic to us and has put its stamp on this breed for centuries. The band of mares you see here is quite uniform in appearance. Such a herd makes it much easier to test a stallion for his quality of inheritance.

It is not fair to give a stallion a lot of unknown mares without checking whether they are from a good dam tail line.

After the dam tail lines, let's now consider stallion lines. Good stallions are the basic potential of any stud - if you fail to introduce good stallions again and again, the offspring will deteriorate into mediocrity.

Federico Tesio, the Italian Thoroughbred breeder, is the author of a wonderful book in which he describes how race-horses in the third generation lose their racing qualities if the breeders failed to use the stallions needed to re-introduce racing potential.

I'd like to present to you Jamal El Dine, a grandchild from the Salaa El Dine Dynasty, here saddled and ridden. We all know that discussion: to ride, or not to ride, or maybe ride anyway? The answer is quite easy. Any horse can be ridden if he is normal in his head. No matter whether he's a pony, a Friesian, or an Arabian...



Asma \*2000, by Adnan out of Asfoura (Ansata halim Shah/Ameera)



Nadirah



Salaa El Din Granddaughters  
(NK Nabeelah, Nasrin, Asma and NK Ashmahan)



NK Asmahan \*2000, by Shaheen out of Helala  
(Salaa El Din/A.Gloriana) & Nasrin \*1998, by Adnan  
out of Nashua (Salaa El Din/Lotfeia)

Hafid Jamil, where did he come from? He tails back along a long line of stallions including Salaa El Dine, Nejd, Ibn Nejd... and I have to say that I have rarely seen a horse, in Egypt or anywhere else, who gets anywhere near him in exotic looks. He is hard to categorize, though. I'd say that he consists of two horses, a front horse and a rear horse, and the rear horse is not as good as the front horse. The front horse, however, is so beautiful it happens that you forget about the rear horse. This stallion would never have gotten a license, but I stuck to him despite his steep-angled hind limbs. And to keep matters straight, these steep-angled hindquarters have their origin in the line of Hadban Enzahi and Aswan, and all of you know how excellent these stallions proved themselves to be. Today, I own this horse together with Mr Hassanain Al Nakeeb, who shares my view on breeding strategies. Among breeders, there is saying on inheritance: The front part is from the stallion and the hind part is from the mare. That idea fits most well with me, as my mares have their nice backsides from Halim Shah and they got those nice front parts from Hafid Jamil. Have a look at his daughters here to check on whether that's correct or not. For me, Hafid Jamil serves as an example of the fact that experiments are not always tolerated by the general public. In

former times, people would come and be really enthusiastic about those beautiful Arabian horses. That's different today. Visitors have changed from people wanting to admire to people trying to find flaws.

As to my own narrow concept of breeding, I would sometimes be afraid of negative inbreeding effects, but up to now, just the contrary effect has established. Who's there to dispute that strict selection might promote even better results?

It's no problem if the stallions are smaller than the mares. I prefer the stallions to deliver type, not size. If you read up your history, you find this confirmed. Those highly influential stallions for the last seventy years: Nazeer, and then Skowronek for the Polish lines, and Amurath for the Russian lines—all three of these influential sires did not reach 148 cm. That idea that a stallion needs to be a big guy to get something going, that's macho thinking and absolutely wrong. In breeding, the smaller and more refined stallions have always been those who were far more influential. The size of the foal is determined by the dam, not the sire.

Thank you all for coming! I hope taking the long road to here has been worth the effort for you. (Hans Nagel).

"Never before have I seen a breeding programme which will so regularly produce such refined horses. You can easily recognize those NK horses (Nagel/Katharinenhof) from among any herd. They have a lot of pigment, proud bearing, elevated tails and those wonderful big and dark eyes..."

(Nina Hartmann, in [www.straightegyptian.com](http://www.straightegyptian.com))

Among the visitors there was Omar Sakr, an Egyptian breeder who said: „There are three studs responsible for building up Arabian breeding world-wide. These are Judith Forbis in the US, Dr Nagel in Europe, and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani in the Middle East."

He might be quite right. If we take a close look at the pedigrees of our horses, we can see that most of us take our directions from that global cultural heritage of breeding.



NK Nabeelah \*1995, by Nahaman out Nashua  
(Salaa El Din/Lotfeia)



NK Halla \*1998, by Adnan out of Asfoura  
(Ansata Halim Shah/Ameera)

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