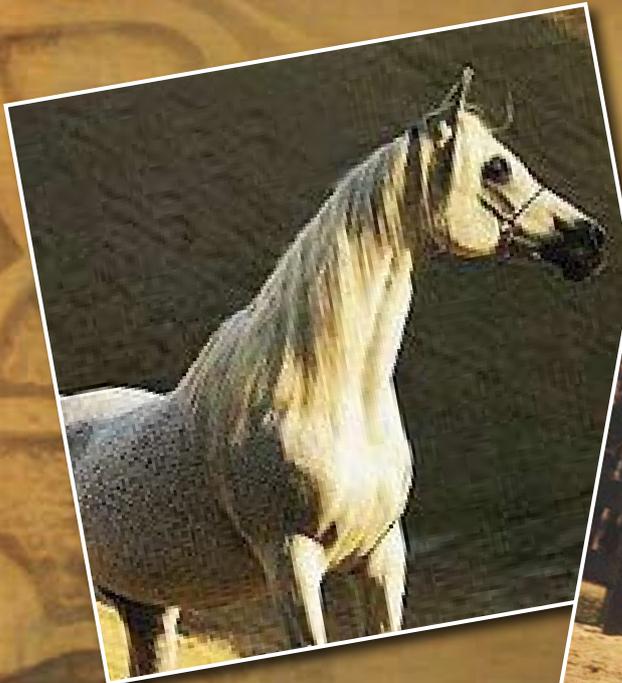


PHARR



AN EGYPTIAN DREAM



Pharrah (Farag x Kamar)
Photo: Johnston



The title shows the Pharrah
granddaughter Imperial Im Phayanah

RAMM

Pharrah

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photos by Johnston, Scott Trees, Rik van Lent, Susanne Bösche, Erwin Escher, Stuart Vesty, Polly Knoll, Gigi Grasso,

Once upon a time in America. A time which is far in the past and won't return. A time in which investors drew the cheque-book and paid millions for Egyptian horses – with a tired smile. The high time of syndicates and exclusive auctions. A time in which Arabian horses were treated and sold as objects d'art – polished, beamed on by spotlights, provided with expertises.

It was in this time that the mare Pharrah (Farg x Tamria) appeared as well at one of the big auctions: at the "Egyptian Event Sale" of the year 1983 – then one of the most pompous events. I remember exactly her appearance, for Pharrah looked so unusually beautiful. She was eleven years old and seemed to have come directly from one of these old paintings by Adam or Vernet. Her long narrow face reminded of her grandsire Morafic, the long slender supple neck as well. The face was dominated by those big round dark eyes which seemed to reflect her Egyptian ancestors. She was full of nobility, light as a feather, her movements were playfully light. Everything at her was in balance, nothing was too long or too short. A mare whose immaculate appearance made the audience grow dumb.

But then the bidding started. Fast and vehement. The buyers literally scrambled for her. Only for seconds a bidder was allowed to be pleased with the supposed knocking down at 120,000 dollars, for it continued with a frantic rate. One approached the 200,000-dollar-line, and the hands of the bidders still went up. 200,000 dollars! The auctioneer had a short breather, then he looked around. There were only few left in the competition. Would it go on? Even I held the breath. Who would get the knocking down, who would fulfill himself this Egyptian dream? An investor who wouldn't care a bit about the well-being of the horse later on or a "real" breeder who would be able to really "use" Pharrah? Now the bidding was at 225,000 dollars, and the auction still went on. Then there was the knocking down and Pharrah changed the owner. "Going, going, gone: 255,000 dollars, sold to Vincent Fortuna!" Applause surged, the blonde Diane Fortuna flew into her husband's arms and everybody was content: Pharrah's seller Barbara Griffith (Imperial Egyptian Stud) because the price was right, the Fortunas because they wanted Pharrah – and solely Pharrah! – and finally Pharrah herself as an "expectant mother" who seemed to like everything but the stress of this auction and at last was allowed to return to her stall!



Some more offspring of Imperial Phanadah:
 Imperial Pharouk (by Imperial Al Kamar)
 sire of champions in the Middle East
 Imperial Pharasha (by Imperial Al Kamar)
 successful broodmare at Imperial Egyptian Stud
 Imperial Pharaj (by Imperial Imdal)
 champion stallion in Italy



<i>Pharrah</i>	Farak	Morafic	Nazeer	Mansour x Bint Samiha
			Mabrouka	Sid Abouhom x Moniet el Nefous
		Bint Kateefa	Sid Abouhom	El Deree x Layla
			Kateefa	Shahloul x Bint Rissala
	Tamria	Tuhotmos	El Sareei	Shahloul x Zareefa
			Moniet El Nefous	Shahloul x Wanisa
		Kamar	Nazeer	Mansour x Bint Samiha
			Komeira	Nabras x Layla



Imperial Phanadah
 Photo: Scott Trees



Imperial Im Pharida & Imperial Phanadah in Qatar
 Photo: Rik van Lent



Amira Al Shaqab
Photo: Erwin Escher

"Where does this Pharrab come from," some asked themselves after the auction, and especially: Why was such a beauty sold at all? Was there perhaps a blemish, a hidden fault one had missed? Let's start with Pharrab's origin. She was born on the 3rd January 1972 at the Hungarian state stud Babolna. Her sire was the Egyptian import and head stallion for many years, Farag (Morafic x Bint Kateefa). A dry and very noble stallion, an image of his famous sire – just without Morafic's extreme profile. The dam originates as well from Egypt; it was the grey mare Tamria (Tubotmos x Kamar), a sister of Ibn Morafics dam Kharamana (Anter x Kamar).

As a five-year-old Pharrab was sold into the USA and in 1978 she found her home at the Imperial Egyptian Stud. There she gave birth to five foals in a row. The first was the best and (up to this day!) the most influential: Imperial Phanadah (by Ibn Moniet El Nefous). A chestnut who was defeated by her dam in a direct "beauty contest" but who turned out to be a real Dam of distinction. Especially when she was bred to Imperial's pasha – the incomparably typey and ardent Ansata Imperial (Ansata Ibn Sudan x Ansata Delilah) – daughters were born who surpassed each other in expression and beauty. These three mares were the "glamour ladies" Imperial Phanilah, Imperial Im Pharida and Imperial Im Phayanab (the mare in the title).

Wheter it be in Qatar, Jordan, Israel, France or in the United States – everywhere these mares stood in the winners circle. The most successful of them all was the fleabitten grey Imperial Phanilah. In Europe she made herself immortal with winning the World Championships in Paris. After her victory pass, when the applause surged, she neighed and pranced: a monument of Arabian beauty a sculptor couldn't have figured more accomplished!

Today Imperial Phanilah lives at the "Al Shaqab Stud" of Qatar's Crown Prince where she was accompanied for some time by the late Imperial Im Pharida. Especially Imperial Phanilah went on to become a prepotent broodmare; her first daughter Amira Al Shaqab (by Al Aadeed Al Shab) is a multiple National Champion Mare of Qatar.

Imperial Im Phayanab, full sister of Imperial Phanilah and Imperial Im Pharida, resides at Uri Ariely's studfarm in Israel. Her son Shabir (by the German stallion Salaa El Dine) returned to the USA and served as an outcross stallion at Arabians Ltd. Today he is owned by Jamal Egyptian Arabian Stud of Robert Stephenson and is standing at his farm in Michigan. Shabir is without any doubt one of the most typey stallions in the US today. One of his sons already won the Egyptian Event by storm and was named Junior Champion Colt.

But even at the Imperial Egyptian Stud one doesn't manage without any blood of Pharrab's today. Barbara Griffith esteems the young Imperial Orrapha (Orasban x Imperial Im Pharida – full sister to Imperial Phanilah) as one of her best producing mares. Her two-year-old son Imperial Kamsbah (by Imperial Al Kamar) delights every Arabian horse lover. When he romps over the green hills of Imperial and his mane and tail flutter in the wind you realise that the Arabian horse is indeed a "flyer without wings": He seems to touch the ground only because of his kindness...

So why did Barbara Griffith separate from Pharrab at that time? "It wasn't an easy decision," she admits. "But I owned three of her daughters who where able to continue her line." No "hidden faults" then? "No, absolutely not! Ask



Imperial Phanilah in Qatar
Photo: Susanne Bösche



Shahir
Photo: Stuart Vesty



Royal Jalliel
Photo: Polly Knoll



Imperial Kamshah

Royal Khalifa
Photo: Van Lent



Production Record:

- '76 AK Komeira (by Ibn Galal), chestnut mare - champion producer
- '77 Hal Phalcon (by Ibn Galal-14), grey stallion
- '79 Imperial Phanadah (by Ibn Moniet El Nefous), chestnut mare - champion producer
- '80 Imperial Napharr (by Moniet El Nafis), chestnut stallion
- '81 Imperial Na Pharo (by Moniet El Nafis), grey stallion - champion
- '82 Imperial Pharalima (by Ansata Ibn Halima), grey mare
- '83 Imperial Imphudala (by Ansata Imperial), chestnut mare
- '84 Royal Jalliel (by Ansata Imperial), grey stallion - champion
- '85 Royal Bint Pharrh (by Ansata Imperial), chestnut mare - champion producer
- '86 Royal Mikhiel (by Nabel), grey stallion - champion & sire of champions
- '87 Royal Pharriel (by Nabel), chestnut mare
- '89 Royal Farrah (by El Halimaar), grey filly - deceased as a yearling



Diane and Vincent Fortuna wheter they have ever regretted the buying!" A question which is superflous. Even today – eight years after Pharrab's death – there is no other horse for Diane. "To me Pharrab was the ideal of an Egyptian mare – beautiful and gentle, noble and sublime and the best broodmare you could find!"

Two Pharrab sons were born at Fortuna's stud. The first was Royal Jalliel, an Ansata Imperial son born in 1984. A gentle stallion whose character was obviously dominated by the calmness of his dam. From birth on he was a real "beau" – perfectly balanced, perfectly graceful. Completely his mother's son. His head was shorter than Paharrah's, there his sire came through.

The half brother Royal Mikhiel (by Nabel) , two years younger, resembled more his sire as well. Full of power, stronger and more masculine than his brother, more ardent and more spirited than him. Although both stallions were successful in the show ring, Royal Mikhiel surpassed his older brother with his self-confident appearance and his longer lines.

At the Egyptian Event in 1991 "Mike" celebrated his greatest triumph: He was the Reserve Supreme Champion Stallion! His name by the way isn't Arabic, although it might sound like that for our ears. Diane Fortuna explains, "Mikhiel is a combination of the name of my son Michael – because he was born on the same day – and of Nabel, the name of Mikhiel's famous sire!"

Until a few years ago both stallions were standing in Canada (at Montebello) and covered every year a considerable number of mares. After the decline of this farm Royal Jalliel was sold to Marilyn Hay in Minnesota. As always, the younger one made a bigger stir: he was exported to Jordan by the Royal Jafaar Stud. There he can prove his qualitis as a sire. This at least the older brother has done already: some of his sons and daughters were able to win in the show ring. The delicate mare Imperial Jaliisa (Royal Jalliel x Glorieta Maargesa) for example was the 1993 Reserve Junior Champion Filly of Qatar's National Show. And in the same year she won the junior title at the "Middle East Championships".

In 1990, there was a heavy blow for destiny sent a cruel conflagration. The farm of the Fortunas and some of their horses fell victims of the flames. The stud is located in Santa Barbara, very idyllically in a valley amidst woods. This valley became a fatal trap for sixteen horses. Diane and Vincent Fortuna saw the fire approaching their farm and tried to place as many horses as possible on the only truck and to save themselves and a part of the horses. It was a race against time. Literally in the last second they escaped from



Royal Mikhiel
Photo: Gigi Grasso

the fire storm which destroyed large parts of Santa Barbara. Left behind – with fifteen other horses – was Pharrab's youngest and last daughter Royal Farrab (by El Halimaar). What could have become of her...

Today the Fortunas breed only with the chestnut Pharrab daughter Royal Phariel (by Nabel), her daughters and one son, the grey Royal Phariel (Royal Jalliel x Royal Phariel). He resembles Pharrab very much and one should keep him in mind. He certainly still needs time to mature but then one should have a look at him again!

The mare Royal Bint Pharrab (by Ansata Imperial) was sold to Washington by the Fortunas two years ago. She as well is represented in the Arabian area by outstanding offspring. Her daughter Royal Kahlifa (by El Halimaar) is one of the favourites of Sheikh Nawaf Bin-Nasser Al Thani of Qatar. Her spirited son Harp (by Imperial Madbeen) – Arabic for war – was the National Junior Champion Colt there in 1993.

Pharrab died in 1991. Her beauty could and can hardly be described. She was like a dream, the vision of timeless elegance. Maybe one must have experienced her, touch her soft muzzle, heard her snort, seen her look out of expressive eyes. Only then you knew that sometimes dreams do come true... □