

(THEE DESPERADO x BELLE STAAR)

A LEGEND IN HER OWN TIME

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photos by Gregor Aymar, Carmin, Randi Clark, Irina Filsinger, Elisa Grassi, Gigi Grasso, Ferdinand Huemer, Darryl Larson, Thomas Mayer, Shlomi Nissim, April Visel, Rik van Lent, Shira Yeger

The Vision HG holds court in the sheltered corner box stall closest to where visitors gather at Israel's famous Ariela Arabians. A pure black in color, with a soft, alluring beauty and an extremely refined and chiseled face, she seems almost too perfect to be real. Deep, liquid eyes reflect such ancient wisdom that one feels privileged to stand within her gaze. She is a legend and she reigns supreme both at home and in the bearts of horse lovers worldwide. She is a vision – the one and only The Vision.

As one might expect, The Vision rules at Ariela. Her regal bearing and body language clearly communicates this to horses and humans alike, and she seems to sense that the visitors who come from all over the world are making a special pilgrimage especially to see her. Although somewhat aloof with these visitors, she is a 'sucker' for mint candies and will warm up considerably if they are offered.

The Vision is not only an exquisitely beautiful mare, she is also considered by breed authorities to be one of the most valuable Arabian broodmares of her time. Bred in America by Marilyn Geurin of Hot Springs, Arizona, The Vision was chosen as an immature yearling to join the select straight Egyptian Ariela herd at the 1995 US Egyptian Event to fulfill a special request of owner Eitan Wertheimer – to find a beautiful mare or filly of black color to join the farm's breeding program.

Farm manager Chen Kedar recalls, "Eitan had this idea that we needed a black mare in our program. Over a two year period I spent a lot of time traveling throughout America looking at black mares, without much luck. Egyptian breeders in the U.S. knew that we were looking, and at the Egyptian Event trainer Steve Dady showed The Vision to Uri Ariely and me. She was the first filly that met all our requirements and we bought her immediately."

A Look at The Vision's Pedigree

A Saqlawi Jedrania in strain, The Vision is a member of the influential Zafaarana family, tracing in tail-female to the famous mare Radia. Her pedigree shows that she is a very

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THEE DESPERADO *THE VISION HG Black Saglawi Jedrania mare Foaled 17 February 1994 Breeder: Marilyn Geurin, Az, USA BELLE STAAR	THE MINSTRIL	RUMINAJA ALI	SHAIKH AL BADI BINT MAGIDAA
		BAHILA	IBN GALAL I BAKRIA
	AK AMIRI ASMAAR	THE EGYPTIAN PRINCE	MORAFIC BINT MONA
		ASMAAR	ZAGHLOUL NAGHLIAH
	THE MINSTRIL	RUMINAJA ALI	SHAIKH AL BADI BINT MAGIDAA
		BAHILA	IBN GALAL I BAKRIA
	ALIA-AENOR	THE EGYPTIAN PRINCE	MORAFIC BINT MONA
		HASNAA ALBADEIA	KAYED EL AMEERA

C The Vision is not only important to Ariela Arabians but to the entire breed. She is a symbol of the finest quality in Arabian horse flesh but a true symbol of peace, as well. Her offspring travel the globe with honor while sharing their amazing attributes with so many different breeding programs – always in a positive way. The Vision is one of the very finest mares in the history of our beloved breed. >>

Jeff Wallace



ABELLE STAAR

well-bred individual, the thoughtful work of a skilled and knowledgeable breeder who built upon the fine work of other serious breeders.

The Vision's sire and dam share the same sire and a grandsire, which makes them three-quarter siblings in blood. She is a double granddaughter of one of the world's most popular sires, the U.S. Top Ten stallion The Minstril (Ruminaja Ali x Bahila), sire of champion get around the world, and until his death in 2010 a leading representative of the Nazeer sire line through Morafic.

The Minstril stamped his get to an extraordinary degree with his elegance, refinement, smoothness, balance, excellent pigmentation, and often enough, with his rich mahogany bay color. The Minstril's dam, the black Bahila, was bred in Europe and later exported to the US. She represents a combination of Egyptian bloodlines bred in Germany and at the Hungarian State Stud at Babolna during the decades of the sixties and seventies. Her sire, Ibn Galal I was bred at Babolna and is by the important foundation sire Ibn Galal/ Magdi, and out of the Alaa el Din daughter Hanadi. Her dam Bakria was a rich bay, bred in Germany and sired by the black Anter son Gharib out of Baheia. The blood behind Bahila is a strong source of the excellent pigmentation and athleticism found in this family and it should be noted that her sire and dam are both of the very valuable Hadban Enzahi strain, the strain carried by some of the breed's most influential sires.

The Vision's sire is The Minstril's most famous son, the extremely valuable Thee Desperado, another rich bay, who outdid his own sire to become the undisputed leading sire of straight Egyptian get worldwide until his demise in 2013. Particularly in America, the influence of Thee Desperado on straight Egyptian breeding over the past two decades has been nothing short of phenomenal. This influence also quickly spread worldwide - in 2009 alone both the World Champion Stallion and Reserve World Champion Stallion titles in Paris, were awarded to straight Egyptian progeny of Thee Desperado. Thee Desperado's dam, AK Amiri Asmaar, is a direct daughter of the influential broodmare sire, The Egyptian Prince. In turn, her dam, Asmaar, is a rare Zaghloul daughter out of the Ibn Hafiza daughter Nagliah and as such a valuable source of outcross blood to balance the strong linebreeding to Nazeer.

The Vision closely resembles her dam, the very beautiful and highly-regarded bay mare Belle Staar, also a daughter of The Minstril, and especially remembered for her exceptional refinement and extreme face. Like AK Amiri Asmaar, Belle Staar's dam Alia-Aenor, was a direct daughter of The Egyptian Prince. The Egyptian Prince was a Morafic son out of Bint Mona, Morafic's own full sister in blood, so this strong linebreeding brings forward the influence of the great Saqlawi Jedrania mare and 'queen mother' of modern Egyptian breeding, Moniet el Nefous, the granddam of both Morafic and Bint Mona. The Vision's maternal granddam, Hasnaa Albadeia, was sired by still another Morafic son, the influential Kayed (x Kaydahom), who served as head sire at the Al Badeia Stud in Egypt for many years. Hasnaa Albadeia was imported to the US in 1979 and was the last foal of her dam, El Ameera [sometimes spelled El Amira], a Nazeer daughter out of the extremely influential Saqlawi Jedrania mare Zaafarana, perhaps best known as the dam of the highly influential U.S. imports Talal and Ansata Bint Zaafarana by Nazeer, and the notable sire Amrullah by Sid Abouhom. Zaafarana was sired by Balance and out of the important Ibn Rabdan daughter Samira, out of the valuable Bint Radia.

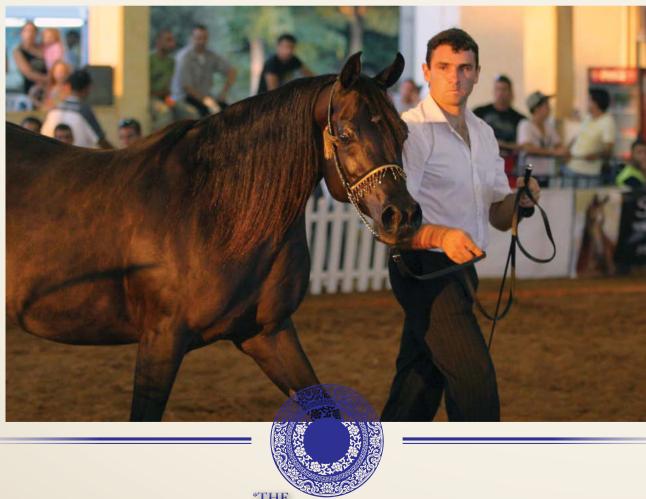
It is small wonder that when one thinks of The Vision, one thinks first of extraordinary type and exquisite beauty, for these traits are considered the strongest and most consistent traits of the Saqlawi strain. Her pedigree is very rich in Saqlawi blood and The Vision herself is a remarkable example of this strain.

The Vision's Show Career

Prior to and alongside her broodmare career, The Vision had a limited show career, and was handled in the ring mostly by Frank Sponle. In 1996 she won the title of Middle East Reserve Junior Champion Filly in Amman, Jordan and the titles of National Champion Filly, National Champion Mare, and Most Classic Head winner in Israel. In 1998 and 1999 she returned to the show ring to twice win the title of Israeli National Champion mare, and in 2007, at age thirteen, she was shown one last time, winning the Senior Mare Champion title at Israel's Egyptian Event.

Around this same time Vision faced several serious health challenges and underwent colic surgery on four separate occasions. Eventually 85% of her large intestine had to be removed. "The veterinarians didn't give her much of a chance and we were not left with much hope," Chen recalls, "but her great heart and formidable will triumphed over tremendous odds and she ultimately prevailed. Since her recovery from her fourth surgery Vision has thrived. We have her on a strict schedule and regimen that never wavers. She is fed five small meals a day at very specific times, she spends two hours a day at pasture, and she walks for twenty minutes on the walker twice every day."

The Vision's electrifying presence in the show ring was always deeply felt and appreciated whenever she was exhibited;



all eyes were always upon her, and her exceptional quality and exotic type mesmerized audience and judges alike. She undoubtedly could have done well in European shows, but once she established herself as a broodmare, it was decided that she was simply too valuable to send off the farm. Those fortunate enough to have watched her in the show ring have never, ever forgotten her.

In an interview published in Tutto Arabi some years back, Arabian judge and current ECAHO chairman Jaroslav Lacina of the Czech Republic was asked to recall one of his fondest judging memories. He replied, "I remember particularly when I was judging in Israel at the Egyptian Event, there was an outstanding black mare in the senior female class. She had unbelievably big dark eyes, wonderful head, harmonic neck, very good body, fantastic movement and huge charisma. I had never seen her before, and I was just wondering whether it was HER or not...Yes! It was! The Vision herself."

The Vision's First Foal - Al Maraam

During those same years that The Vision was maturing from filly to mare at Ariela, the farm leased the famous international sire and dynasty-maker Imperial Imdal (Ansata Imperial x Dalia) for three years. The Vision was duly covered by Imdal just two months before he left Israel and her first foal arrived in 1998 – a very eye-catching and charismatic bay colt sired aptly named Al Maraam. In Arabic his name translates to 'the passion'.

As a yearling Maraam burst upon the European show scene with Frank Sponle to win the All Nationals Cup Reserve Junior Colt Championship, 2nd Place at the European Championships, and Top Five at the World Championships in Paris. In 2001 he won First Place at the prestigious Towerlands Show in the UK and a First Place at the European Championships, and in 2006 he was named Israeli Reserve National Champion Stallion.

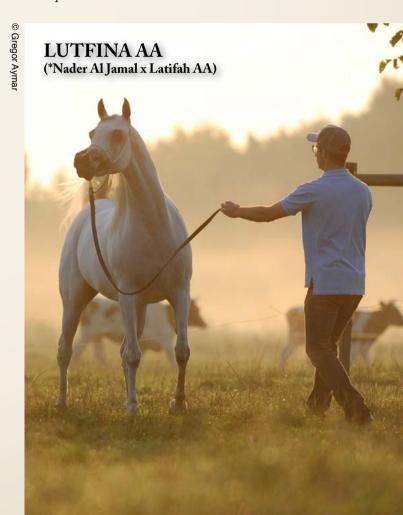
Today Al Maraam is a much sought-after sire around the world; his many sons and daughters are renowned for their exquisite type, great charisma, and trainability. His sons have proven to be consistent producers of show winners and his daughters excellent broodmares.

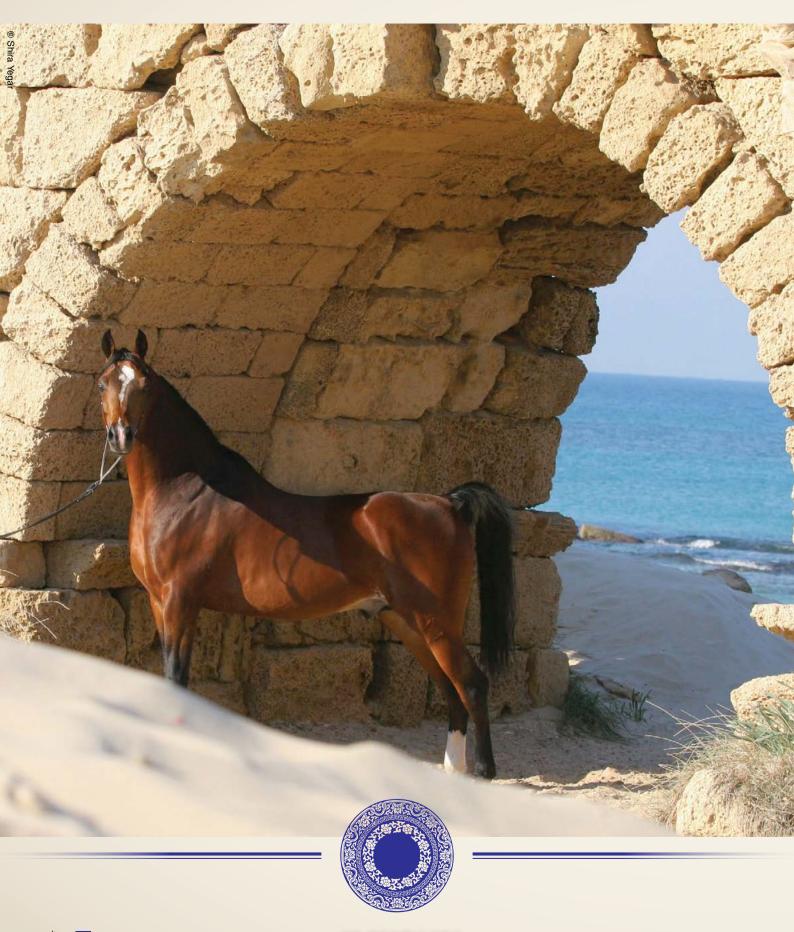
In Israel, Maraam has maintained his edge as a leading sire and grandsire of show champions both at the National Championship Show and the prestigious Egyptian Event – Israel and Israel Cup over several years.

Like his stable mate and paternal half-brother Laheeb, Al Maraam is one of the few straight Egyptian stallions to be invited to stand at the national studs of Poland where he has sired excellent get. In 2005 Al Maraam stood at Michalow Stud, and the following year he returned to Poland to stand at Michalow again. His daughter Parmana (Palmira) was Junior Champion Filly at the 2009 Bialka Spring Show in Poland and took Second in her age group at the AllNations Cup Show in September of that same year. Ariela's bay 2007 Michalow-bred Al Maraam daughter *Zlota Gwiazda (Zlota Ksiega), was Gold Medal Egyptian-bred Filly at Israel's 2009 Egyptian Cup. Another privatelyowned Polish-bred son, Elmaran (Ekstera), won a coveted Top Five award at the International Show at Wels, Austria in 2009. In 2014 Elmaran went on to win the Bronze Champion Stallion title at the Chantilly Breeders' European Championship Show in France as well as the Gold Champion Stallion title at the 3rd Warsaw Arabian Horse Show in Poland.

Perhaps Al Maraam's best-known son is the exotic Al Bilal AA (Bahiha), a multi-champion in Israel sold to Sheikh Ammar Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi of Ajman Stud in the UAE, and sire of the Israeli international champion and sire of champions Mouadaar BKV (*Barakis Whisper) and twice Israeli National Champion Dafina AA (*Dumka).

Al Maraam's most famous daughter is the classic white international champion Latifa AA (*Imperial Kalatifa), who won in Israel the titles of Filly Foal Champion, National Champion Filly, National Champion Mare and Egyptian Event-Israel Champion Mare before her lease to Becker Arabians in Europe in 2009. While on lease in Europe Latifah won the Champion Mare titles at both the International B Show at Strohen and the Arabesque Egyptian Cup in Baden-Baden, as well as the Reserve Champion Mare title at the Kauber-Platte International B





مراطقه العربة العربة

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AL MARAAM (*Imperial Imdal x *The Vision HG)

AL BILAL (Al Maraam x Bahiha)

© Gigi Grasso

LATIFAH AA (Al Maraam x *Imperial Kalatifa)

> PARMANA (Al Maraam x Palmira)

ELMARAN (Al Maraam x Ekstera)

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ESPINILLA (Al Maraam x Espadrilla)

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Stuart Vesty

AL CORNA

© Shira Yage

Show.

Latifah has proven to be an extraordinary producer of competitive halter winners, one of which is the young international show mare Lutfina AA, the 2009 Israeli National Gold Medal Filly Foal who was leased abroad to Ajman Stud during 2011 and 2012. While abroad Lutfina won almost every time shown and among other titles, brought home the title of 2011 Gold Champion Filly at the Ajman National "C" Show in the UAE, the 2011 Bronze Champion Filly title at the Egyptian Event Europe in Lanaken, Belgium, and the 2012 Gold Medal Champion Filly at the Desert Cup (Straight Egyptian) Kauber Platte Championships in Germany. In August 2014, while on lease to Al Baydaa Arabians in Egypt, Lutfina was first in her class at the European Egyptian Event in Lanaken, Belgium with a super super score of 93.86 points, including seven scores of 20 and was also Bronze Champion Mare at the International Egyptian Event of Kuwait, the very first Ariela-bred horse to compete in that country.

But Lutfina is not Latifah's only claim to fame. In 2013, all within just one month, four of Latifah's direct offspring won titles in four different countries. Latifah's oldest son, Leran AA (Laheeb), was crowned Gold Champion stallion at the Russian Nationals in Moscow for the second time, while her three year old colt BK Latif (Nader Al Jamal), owned by the Becker family of Germany, won the titles of Junior Champion and Gold Medal winner at the German Nationals and Silver Champion at the European Egyptian Event in Belgium. At the same time this was going on in Europe, Luftina AA was named 2013 Gold Champion Mare at the Israeli Egyptian Event, and her full younger sister, Labibah AA, won the Silver Champion Filly title at the same show and then went on to be named the Gold Champion Yearling Filly at the 2013 Israeli Nationals. Latifah's 2013 colt Lasani AA by Al Ayal AA showed extreme type and super movement very early on and has been sold to a Straight Egyptian breeding program in France. What an extraordinary record for their dam, Latifah, who is only 13 years old!

Some five years ago Al Maraam was jointly leased by Raymond Mazzei's Furioso Farms and Manny Viera's Valley Oak Arabians in California where he sired exquisite foals out of pure Polish, straight Egyptian and domestic mares. The veteran breeder, Arabian judge and bloodstock agent, Raymond Mazzei, has this to say about the horse: "Al Maraam was bred to a great variety of mares while in America. His get from all of these have tremendous type, move extremely well, and have more refined faces than their dams. They have good color and pigmentation – including some blacks – and tremendous attitude. What's more, they are all extremely easy to work with, like their sire. Many stallions will produce nice fillies but very few will produce both excellent fillies and really outstanding colts. Maraam has done this crossed with mares of every conceivable background."

Manny Viera of Valley Oaks Arabians adds, "Al Maraam had a great influence on my breeding program and I bred him to several of my best mares. He brought type and beauty into my program along with structure and balance that is really going to help with my future plans for Valley Oaks Arabians. His excellent tail-set and the placement of those large, expressive eyes have been consistent in all of his foals, which are all striking in their type and very pretty. I feel privileged and honored to have been a part of his importation."

Al Maraam left the United States to head off to Dr. Nasr Marei's Al Badeia Stud in Egypt as part of the historical stallion lease exchange between Al Badeia and Ariela Arabians which also brought Ariela's stallion Laheeb to Egypt and Dr. Marei's Simeon Sharav to Israel. Dr. Marei believes that it was fate that brought Al Maraam to Egypt and shared his recollection of the horse: "Al Maraam came to breed at Albadeia for one breeding season in a stroke of luck. Albadeia and Ariela had already started exchanging stallions and Al Maraam substituted another stallion that had first been designated to come. Of course, I knew of him and his achievements and contributions. I immediately seized the opportunity that offered itself and told Chen that I would be very happy to have him."

"I examined him upon his arrival at my farm. It was the first time I had seen him as a mature horse and my first impressions were that he reflected what I consider the "REAL STALLION" look. He had a very strong and balanced body. I discovered that he was not only of the size I need to add to my herd, but he was extremely handsome and expressed all the physical attributes I was hoping to find in him: very correct top line and croup, ideal angle of shoulder, upright long and nicely shaped neck and very masculine pretty head with very expressive eyes. My eyes continued scanning him and went down to his strong-boned proper legs that covered a lot of ground under his remarkable body."

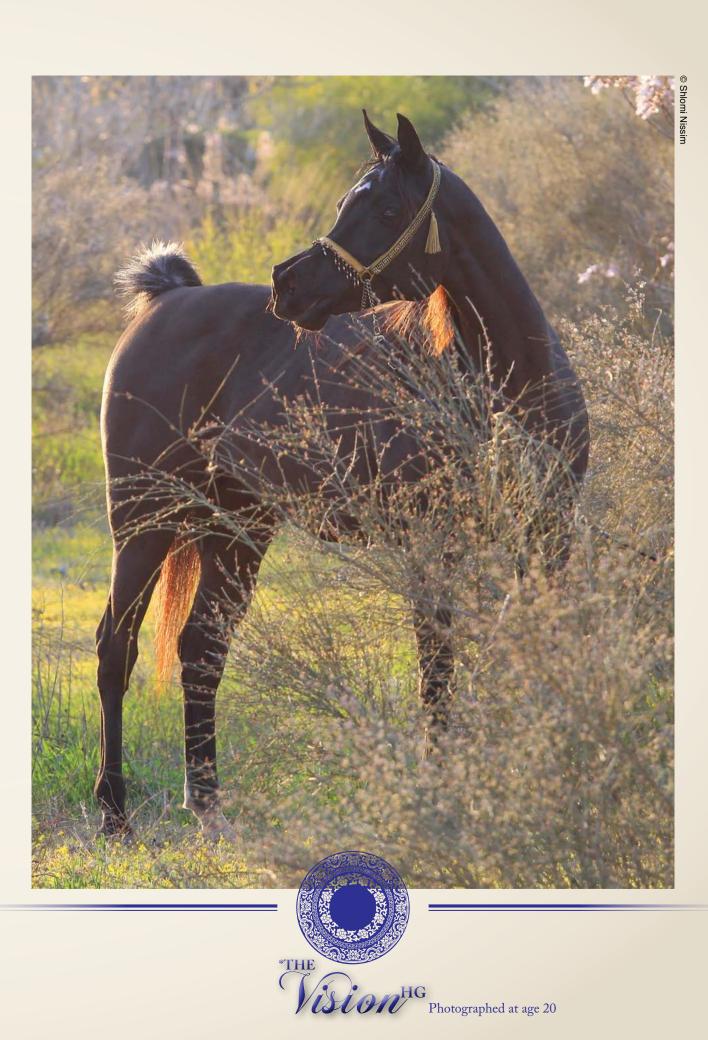
"He was tired from the long trip, so I decided to give him some rest and see him at liberty the day after. I was not wrong in my expectations. He possessed a powerful yet agile movement propelled by his hindquarters and covering distance with his shoulder-engaged forelegs. He looked even more impressive." "Al Maraam was a real 'Macho' kind of a stallion but his disposition was simply impeccable. A three year old child could lead and ride him. He had no bad habits and was free of any undesirable manners. A real gentleman."

"I used him during this breeding season on mares that were selected from different pedigree backgrounds and variable physical attributes. A year later his crop started to come and he got five colts and seven fillies of great quality. He added, as I was hoping, good strong bodies, long necks with nice shape and an excellent attitude. He did not compromise any of the Albadeia's hallmarks that I wanted to keep. Two of his fillies



AL LAHAB (Laheeb x *The Vision HG) Desert Heritage Magazine • 117





are competing at present in the show rings of Europe; the rest of the fillies are to be bred once they are of breeding age. Two of the colts promise to be stallions of breeding quality. One of them is black and the other is bay like his sire. I am extremely happy to have had Maraam at Al Badeia."

Vision's Second Foal - Al Lahab

Some might say that with the birth of her first colt, Al Maraam, The Vision was, perhaps, just 'warming up.' Her second foal should need no introduction, for World Champion Al Lahab, by Laheeb, is such a legend as to be the stuff of fairytales; his extreme type and indescribable beauty are famous throughout the world. Al Lahab's show ring accomplishments confirmed The Vision's worldwide influence as a broodmare beyond the shadow of a doubt, not just to her owners, but to the entire Arabian industry. Purchased by the Friedmann Family of Germany at ten months of age, Al Lahab is today one of the breed's most highly decorated horses, winning the titles of European Junior Champion colt, Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion – USA, twice All Nations Cup Champion Stallion, World Champion Stallion, Paris & Most Classic Head winner, 2006 ECAHO Cup Champion Stallion, 2007 & 2010 Champion Stallion at the Dubai Gold Cup, 2010 German National Champion Stallion, 2013 Gold Champion Stallion at the Sharjah Straight Egyptian Show, and 2014 Gold Champion Stallion at the Abu Dhabi International Horse Championship in the UAE, and Bronze Champion Stallion at the Dubai International Show.

Al Lahab has also proven to be a consistent sire of champions and champion producers, and has winning get throughout the world. Just to name a few: Mahala (Mahasin II), considered his most successful daughter is a multi-champion mare, now owned by Rabab Stud in Egypt; the Egyptian-related Champion stallion El Sid (Swana by Kubinec), is head sire of the Osterhof Stud in Germany; his multi-champion Egyptian-related son Al Milan (Milena by Ibn Narav), is head sire at Sax Arabians in Germany, and his Egyptianrelated son El Palacio (El Dorado), a multi-Champion who was Bronze Champion Stallion at the 2009 World Championship Show in Paris, is owned by the Al Khalediah Stables of Saudia Arabia.

When Al Lahab went to the U.S., on lease to the world famous Om el Arab Stud in California, he competed at only one show - the prestigious Egyptian Event in Kentucky. There he won the title of Supreme Champion Stallion, with his own sire, Laheeb, standing as his Reserve, an unforgettable occasion for those fortunate enough to witness it.

Ariela farm manager Chen Kedar thoughtfully recalls, "When Vision began her broodmare career, we were hoping that she would reproduce herself in her daughters. But when the charismatic and typey Al Maraam was born, his quality was so obvious that we realized that Vision had the potential of producing both valuable fillies and colts. Next she was bred to Laheeb, and produced a second exceptionally exotic and refined colt, Al Lahab. With the birth of this second colt we realized that Vision was one of those rarest of the rare broodmares – a mare who could produce stallions of the highest possible quality that in turn, could later recreate the best traits of their dam in their own get."

Additional Produce of The Vision

The Vision is also the dam of the exciting blue-black stallion and champion sire, Al Hakim, sired by Ariela's homebred stallion Muhajjal (Imperial Imdal x Maar Bilahh). Al Hakim is owned by Black Smoke Arabians in Germany, where he is senior sire. Because of an injury sustained as a young horse Al Hakim has not been shown, but has been represented well in the show ring by several of his get, most of whom are black.

In 2002 the breeding of The Vision to Laheeb was repeated; this time the result was the very classic grey filly Al Halah AA, Vision's heiress apparent. Al Halah is the dam of two exquisite fillies. The first, Helwah AA, is now owned by the Brown Family of South Africa, breeders of world champion EKS Elihandro. The second is the now deceased Haniyah AA. Both were sired by *Al Ayad (Moheeb x Al Mamoonah), Al Halah is herself a consistent show winner in Israel. Her most recent win was in 2009 when she won the coveted title of Gold Medal Champion Mare at Israel's first Egyptian Cup.

This successful Vision x Laheeb mating was repeated for the next two years and produced two more world class colts, Al Hadiyah AA and Al Raheb AA; both are multi-champions in Israel, with Al Hadiyah never defeated in Israel. While on lease to Al Movida Arabians in Austria, Al Hadiyah brought home both the 2008 Austrian Nationals and the Asil Club 2008 Junior Champion Colt titles. He was sold abroad to Luciana Fasano of the internationally esteemed Fazenda Floresta stud in Brazil. In 2012 Al Hadiyah placed second in his class at the prestigious Breeders Cup in Las Vegas, Nevada and then went on to become 2012 Bronze Champion Stallion at the Egyptian Event in Lexington, Kentucky.

The extremely tall and striking Al Raheb AA, owned by Muchsan OnAllah, has established an excellent show record in Israel including the title of Bronze Medal Colt Champion at the 2009 Israeli National Championship Show and the Gold Medal Colt Champion at the 2009 Egyptian Cup. Exported by his owner to Raymond Mazzei's Furioso Farms in California in late 2010, Al Raheb was named Supreme Champion Stallion at the 2011 Egyptian Event in Lexington, Kentucky.

In fact, The Vision is the only Straight Egyptian mare with three direct offspring sired by the same stallion to compete at the US Egyptian Event in Lexington, Kentucky and bring home medals for their owners. These three, all sired by

AL HADIYAH AA (Laheeb x *The Vision HG)

AL RAHEB AA (Laheeb x *The Vision HG)

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AL HALAH AA (Laheeb x *The Vision HG)

O April Vise

© Carmin





Laheeb, include Al Lahab and Al Raheb AA, each of which were named Supreme Gold Champion Stallion, and a third brother, Al Hadiyah AA, who was awarded the Bronze Medal. Another Ariela-bred stallion, the exciting Baha AA (Baraaqa AA), who carries two close crosses to The Vision through his dam, competed at the US Event in 2014 and was named Supreme Gold Champion Stallion.

Over the years the Laheeb x The Vision cross has proved so consistent in quality and type that Ariela has carefully selected outside stallions to use on Vision in order to bring in valuable new blood, so that future daughters or granddaughters might later be bred back to Laheeb. Each of Vision's daughters plays such an extremely valuable role in Ariela's breeding program that the farm has parted with just one of them.

In the year 2000 Vision produced the exotic bay filly Al Baraqai AA, by *Baahir (Ibn El Mareekh x GF Nasra Bataa). Al Baraqai is the dam of Israel National Champion Filly Baraaqa AA (x Laheeb), an excellent broodmare and the dam of Baha AA (*Al Ayad), the 2011 Israeli National Champion Colt, 2013 Egyptian Event Europe Champion Stallion, and 2014 Egyptian Event USA Supreme Champion Stallion, the filly Badriyah AA (Nader Al Jamal), the colt Badr AA (Al Maraam), 2011 Bronze Champion Foal at the Israeli Nationals & 2012 Silver Champion Colt at the Israeli Egyptian Event, and finally the exquisite 2013 filly Baarikah AA by Al Ayal AA, who is perhaps her best foal yet.

Al Baraqai is also the dam of the 2010 Laheeb daughter Basmah AA who is considered to be one of the farm's most promising young mares. Basmah was the Gold Medal Champion Filly Foal at the 2010 Israeli Egyptian Event and in 2013 was Gold Medal Champion Filly at the Israeli Egyptian Event and Bronze Champion Filly at the Israeli Nationals. Basmah's first foal, a 2014 colt sired by Al Ayal AA, has been sold to a breeder in Italy.

Vision's cross with the Babolna stallion Halim Shah I (Ansata Halim Shah x 214 Ibn Galal I) resulted in the elegant bay Al Amal AA, who proved a consistent show winner in Israel. She is the dam of both the 2008 Egyptian Event-Israel Junior Champion Filly Ayat AA by Al Ayad, and the 2009 Israeli Reserve Champion Foal Colt and Egyptian Cup Gold Medal Foal Colt Champion, Abyad AA, by Nader al Jamal. Al Amal was the first daughter of The Vision ever to be sold, and is now owned by Kathrin Hampe Klingebiel of





EOS Arabians of Switzerland. Al Amal's Nader Al Jamal colt, EA Amjad ibn Nader, was Bronze Champion Colt at the 2014 Arabica Egyptian Cup held in Frankfurt and a few months later was Gold Champion Colt at the Desert Cup Show held in Kauber Platte, both in Germany.

Al Amal's daughter Ayat AA, sired by *Al Ayad, was both a Reserve Filly Foal Champion and Junior Champion Filly at Israel's Egyptian Event. And at just ten months of age Al Amaal's son, Abyad AA, caught the discerning eye of Marek Trela, manager of the famous Janow Podlaski Stud in Poland, while Trela was judging at the 2009 Israeli Nationals. Trela soon arranged to lease Abyad as a future sire for Janow, well before the colt was of breeding age, making him the third Ariela-bred Straight Egyptian to be leased by a national stud in Poland. Abyad's first foals have shown such quality that in 2013 his lease was extended for another three years. Now covering some of Janow's finest mares, he has also done well in limited racing in Poland.

The Vision was also covered by the international sire *Nader Al Jamal (Ansata Sinan x Savannah CC) while Nader was on lease to Ariela. This was the only occasion that she was bred back to the Thee Desperado bloodlines and the cross resulted in the very extreme and refined 2009 colt, Nader Alroeya AA, sold locally in Israel.

The Vision Meets *Al Ayad

The extremely valuable and recently deceased German-bred stallion *Al Ayad (Moheeb x Al Mamoonah ex Maysoun), was very heavily linebred to Nazeer and, like Nazeer, of the Hadban Enzahi strain. He carried the blood of some of Germany's most important early foundation horses, including, among others, Mahameh, Mahomed, Hadban Enzahi, Ibn Galal, and Ghazal. Al Ayad stood at Ariela during 2006 and 2007, where he was bred to The Vision, and got two exquisite grey colts which were retained by Ariela as future sires. One of them, the very refined and beautiful Al Amir AA, is a wonderful combination of the best features of both his sire and dam and a colt of exceptional quality and movement and has since been sold in Israel. The other colt, the exciting Al Ayal AA, was leased abroad in 2009 to Ajman Stud, who campaigned him in Europe and the Arabian Gulf and also used him at stud for three years.

From the moment he first stepped into a show ring Al Ayal proved himself to be an exceptional halter colt, winning the prestigious Foal Colt Championship titles at both the Israeli Nationals and the Israeli Egyptian Event in 2008. He was unforgettable as a weanling; his great quality, presence, balance, and exotic type seemed extraordinary in such a young colt. Every visiting judge and international breeder who saw him that year picked Al Ayal out as Ariela's next rising international star.

During his first show season in Europe Al Ayal had tremendous success. In Germany he won the Reserve Junior Championship titles at Orientalica, The Egyptian Europe Cup, and the International Kauber-Platte shows, and a prestigious Bronze Medal at the International B show at Strohen. He went on to win the Arabesque Egyptian Cup Junior Champion Colt title, also in Germany. He was also named the Reserve Champion Colt title at the Lowland Arabian Cup in The Netherlands. In both 2009 and 2010 he won the title of Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah in the UAE. The next year brought him the following titles: Gold Champion Colt at the Sharjah International Show, International Gold Champion Colt at Dubai, and Gold Champion Colt (unanimous) at the Egyptian Event Europe in Lanaken.

Al Ayal sired some excellent foals despite his very young age while abroad, including, among others, LEI My Star (Magic Sorya), Gold Champion Foal and Most Classic Head Champion at the first Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse World Championship in Rome in 2012, Al Ayal Moniscione (Ariel Moniscione), Gold Champion Yearling Colt at the Abu Dhabi International Championships and the Gold Champion Colt at the UAE Nationals in 2013, and Monrach (Virginia Apal by Justify), Reserve Champion Yearling Colt at the National Show at Bruges, Belgium and Silver Champion Colt at the Belgium Nationals at Libramont in 2013.

Since his return to Ariela Al Ayal has quickly sold out his breeding book each season and his first Israeli foals have done very well in local shows. These include, among others, Jamilaa ABD (HT Kamilaa), Gold Champion Filly at the 2013 Israeli Spring Show, Amal Bint Sachra (Sachra Bint Maraam), Bronze Champion Filly Foal at the 2013 Israeli Egyptian Event, Ainaan Al Qasem (Barakat Al Salam), Gold Champion Filly at the 2013 Jericho Show, Ayal Pearl (O. Rosettas Princess), Bronze Champion Colt Foal at the 2013 Israeli Egyptian Event, and Atiq Ayal (Atiq Que Serra), Silver Champion Colt Foal at the 2013 Israeli National Championship Show.

In early 2014, at the Israeli Spring Show, the Al Ayal daughter Bushrah AA (Badriyah AA) won the Silver Champion Yearling Filly title while her half sister Ainaan Al Qasem (Barakat al Salam YA) brought home the Bronze Medal in the same section. The Al Ayal son Gabriel AA (Gazania) was named Bronze Champion Yearling Colt at the same show. At the 16th annual Galilee Arabian Horse Show held in Kfar Manda, his daughter Al Amira (Al Ghalia) brought home the title of Silver Champion Weanling Filly and the colt Fayid Al Khir (Al Nijmh RZ) was named Bronze Champion Weanling Colt. At shows abroad Al Ayal get also did well in 2014. In Belgium, the filly FM Pippas (FM Gloriaa) was named Bronze Champion Filly at the Bruges Arabian National Horse Event, while in Italy, another daughter, AH Princess Soraya (Jamila MPE) was Bronze Champion Filly at the Straight Egyptian show held

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in Salerno.

In the late summer of 2014, after completing his many breeding obligations, Al Ayal once again departed Israel, this time for one of the world's best breeding programs and home of some of the most highly awarded horses of our time: Aljassimya Farm, owned by HE Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar. Al Ayal will stand at Aljassimya's Farm in Santa Ynez, California for two and a half years.

Bart Van Buggenhout, manager of Aljassimya is simply elated about this deal and recalls, "A few years ago when Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani started to plan his breeding program he asked me some advice on stallion power to be used. I told him at the time that a great breeding stallion should be born out of a mare that is herself of quality and has produced consistently well. And so, we created a list of several mares worldwide to consider. The Vision was on the short list from day one."

"So it is with great delight that today, some years later, we were able to work a deal with Ariela Arabians to bring Al Ayal AA on lease to Aljassimya Farm," he continues. "We are so looking forward to using this splendid stallion with classic looks, not only for his personal excellent qualities and abilities but also because he is a direct son of The Vision."

"I remember The Vision well as a three-years old filly when she was shown in Jordan. Black and exquisite with her ultrarefined face and elegance – I would say that she exemplified the word 'exotic' in her own right, and all this was well before she proved to be one of the worlds best producing dams! We hope that The Vision may graze our worldly pastures for a long time to come and together with us, through her son Al Ayal, enjoy the success of her children and grandchildren on a global scale."

The Industry Speaks

Rarely has the Arabian breed been blessed with a mare such as The Vision. Her sheer beauty is a constant blessing and her highly regarded descendants are influencing the breed on five different continents.

Arabian handler Frank Spönle, who has handled both The Vision and her progeny, put it simply, yet eloquently: "The Vision HG is every breeder's dream. She's not only a beautiful and extremely typey mare, she also produced incredible foals. She is the dam of Al Lahab, well-known as a international champion, Al Maraam, and more recently of the extreme Al Ayal AA. She has also gifted Ariela with some outstanding daughters. I'm proud to be part of her success by showing her incredible progeny at the most important shows worldwide." Veteran American breeder Mauri Chase of Chase Arabians in Texas had the privilege of owning Belle Staar, The Vision's illustrious dam. She recalls, "It was a great joy and rare privilege to own Belle Staar. She was a captivating mare with a certain combination of features – pronounced jibbah, large jowl and beautiful black eyes – that gave her a distinct look all her own. The Vision is an extraordinary mare who also reflects this unique look. Her extreme exotic beauty, consistently inherited by her children and grandchildren, has had a worldwide influence on the Arabian breed that will be felt for generations to come."

Katherine Hampe of EOS Arabians, the owner of The Vision's daughter Al Amal recalls, "I remember the first time I saw Al Amal in Austria. I was simply mesmerized by her beauty and movement and expression. She had a certain It'factor which cannot be measured or explained. From there on I so hoped that one day I might be able to have her in my barn."

"For a breeder, the blood of The Vision is a promise kept, a promise of the highest quality for years of breeding to come. Every foal of Al Amal is simply great. So are the ones of The Vision. With the purchase of Al Amal AA, I became part of The Vision, a Straight Egyptian legend, and I am looking forward to many more years with Al Amal AA, the queen of our SE breeding program."

Shawn Crews, the manager of Arabians, Ltd., and the major force behind the breeding success of Thee Desperado shared cherished memories about her first glimpse of The Vision: "When The Vision HG was born, I knew she was one of the prettiest babies that I would ever see in my lifetime. She was one of Thee Desperado's first, to Judy and I the confirmation to know, just as we had hoped, that he would be an important sire. For anyone who admires Arabian horses of any origin, The Vision garners respect. Her record speaks for itself, but it is her beauty, heart and courage that sets her apart from many other pretty mares. Chen, our hats are off to you. She is great, but no one else could have done it with her like you have. All the best and hugs to the queen."

Longtime Arabian breeder and writer Jeff Wallace commented as follows: "The Vision is not only important to Ariela Arabians but to the entire breed. She is a symbol of the finest quality in Arabian horse flesh but a true symbol of peace, as well. Her offspring travel the globe with honor while sharing their amazing attributes with so many different breeding programs – she is one of the very finest mares in the history of our beloved breed."

Envisioning the Future

"For many years now," Chen reflects, "when you walk from stall to stall in our stables, just about every horse you will meet carries the blood of The Vision. And this, of course, is a good thing."

"This situation creates certain breeding challenges regarding our farm's Straight Egyptian program, as any straight Egyptian breeder would appreciate, and over the years it meant that we bought a few, especially selected mares to complement our program and broaden our genetic base.

"Eventually it started us thinking about the important legacy that The Vision would be leaving behind for the entire breed, and after much discussion we came to the conclusion that it made sense to see what she might accomplish using bloodlines other than straight Egyptian."

"One of our very favorite horses in all the world is the incredible stallion Gazal Al Shaqab, whose pedigree carries fifty percent Egyptian breeding through his sire Anaza El Farid, who traces back to the extremely valuable Dahman foundation mare Deenaa. So, once we decided to take the leap, it was only natural that we chose Gazal as the sire for Vision's 2012 foal."

"This foal arrived in the form of a very showy bay colt we named Al Ghazali AA. An impressive youngster, Ghazali is both an excellent mover and very statuesque. He is full of quality and charisma. His lines are smooth and flowing, his neck long, refined, and perfectly set. He has wonderful Arabian expression from both his parents, and of course, exquisite type."

Ghazali is presently on lease in Italy to Giacomo Capacci who has pronounced him as "a perfect breeder's dream" and stated in no uncertain terms that the colt has absolutely everything one would expect from this unique combination.

Chen continues, "Since they are also admirers of The Vision, we reached a deal with the Al Shaqab Stud that had us cover her twice with the great Marwan Al Shaqab in 2012. One foal was slated to go to us, and the other to Al Shaqab."

"The foal belonging to Al Shaqab turned out to be a filly, the lovely bay Layla Al Shaqab. However, our embryo was eventually reabsorbed and we had to try again in 2013. Our second attempt succeeded and resulted in another filly, a dry liver chestnut who has Vision's face and expression, a long refined neck and excellent shoulder. We have named her Vision of Marwan AA. I believe that she is one of Vision's best foals, and our plans are to show her next year."

The Vision was also covered by ZT Marwteyn resulting in the very special 2013 bay colt Aeneas AA. This colt was sold as an embryo to longtime judge and breeder Ferdinand Huemer of La Movida Stud in Austria, who graciously shared his personal philosophy and strong opinions about this rare opportunity: "First I have to mention that for some years I have watched the dramatically increasing deals with embryos with some very critical concerns, and I always refused to sell embryos from my mares or to buy embryos from other breeders. At La Movida we do ET only occasionally and with few of our mares, this being only for our own use." "So when there was the chance to buy the embryo out of The Vision by ZT Marwteyn I have to admit that I started 'praying water and drinking wine.' The temptation was too much, and I could not resist. The reason for this is not only the fact that The Vision is, from my very personal point of view, one of the most beautiful and impressive mares in my all-time ranking. Besides this very emotional part, we all know that The Vision has become a living legend, producing

not only wonderful daughters but also spectacular sons which have influenced the breeding of Arabian horses on the highest possible level worldwide. Some years ago I was lucky enough to have her son Al Hadiyah at my farm and I was more than happy with him – only he did not remain long enough with us."

"When it comes to imagining foals nowadays, most of us are hoping for fillies. Colts have a hard life and perhaps only one out of hundred will get a fair chance in breeding. But with this possibility for a foal from The Vision sired by ZT Marwteyn, considering what she has already produced – I was clearly going for a colt."

"And so it happened... and the newborn colt Aeneas AA exceeded even our wildest expectations. So now we hope that he will grow and develop in the right direction – with his genetic base he has the potential to become a highly valuable outcross for us and for many of our colleagues."

In 2014, after Vision produced her fourth non-straight foal, Ariela returned to the practice of breeding her to the finest straight Egyptians available. She has since been successfully covered by the exciting straight Egyptian stallion *Ansata Nile Pharaoh (Ansata Iemhotep x Ansata Misty Nile by Ansata Hejazi), currently on lease from the Rhodium Arabian Stud in New Zealand.

"Pharoah is a wonderful example of classic Ansata breeding, an excellent individual in his own right and a proven show sire," Chen explains. "He has especially good movement and an excellent shoulder, traits we very much admire. He also carries the same dam line as one of our early foundation mare "Imperial Im Tiarah (Ansata Imperial x Imperial Mistry), a mare on whom we had set high hopes but who we lost much too early. He traces from both sire and dam female lines to the very important Egyptian foundation mare Sabah. We believe he is an excellent choice for The Vision and that he has much to contribute to our program and to all the straight Egyptians in Israel."

"Currently we are trying to cover The Vision once again with Laheeb," Chen adds. Neither of them are getting any younger and this cross has always worked so very well for us in the past."

As the sun slowly sets into the quiet of late afternoon, Chen stands and looks over the pasture fence, where several generations of Vision's progeny peacefully graze. She smiles. "I must admit that when we bought The Vision, we did so because she was the only black mare we saw that met our standards of overall quality and beauty. Before she started her broodmare career we never expected that she would become such an exceptional producer. Al Maraam, her very first foal, changed our thinking entirely. From the moment he was born he had the most extreme head and more refinement and type than any foal we had ever bred. As Vision continued her

BAASIM AA (Al Ayal AA x Basmah AA)

MANAR AA (Al Ayal AA x Madeena)

SINGAAR AA (Al Ayal AA x Shalimar AA)

Filly (Al Ayal AA x Elettra)

AMAN STUD

Filly (Al Ayal AA x Om El Bediya Dream)

AINAAN AL QASEM (Al Ayal AA x Barakat Al Salam)

G

Gai

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© Elisa Grassi

C Shlomi Niss



AL AYAL AA (*Al Ayad x *The Vision HG)



AL AMAL AA (*Halim Shah I x *The Vision HG)

© Thomas Mayer

AENEAS AA (ZT Marwteyn x *The Vision HG)





VISION OF MARWAN (Marwan Al Shaqab x *The Vision HG)

© Shlomi Nissim





AL GHAZALI AA (Gazal Al Shaqab x *The Vision HG)

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broodmare career, her sons grew to become both international champions and influential breeding animals worldwide. Then her daughters and granddaughters grew up, and have done the same. And now we are watching her great-grand foals growing up to continue the family tradition. This is so much more than we ever expected, and it is almost too much to take in – we are so very, very fortunate. It remains an extraordinary privilege and unique experience to share our lives with The Vision."

At this writing "The Vision HG is well past her twentieth birthday and is still – touch wood – going strong. Long life to the queen and long may she reign.

SHOW RECORDS OF THE VISION AND HER OFFSPRING *The Vision HG

(Thee Desperado x Belle Staar) Mare/Black/1994 bred by Marilyn Geurin and owned by Ariela Arabians

1995 Top Ten at the US Egyptian Event,

1996 Israeli National Champion Filly & Most Classic Head Winner 1996 Res. Junior Champion. & Most Classic Head Winner, at the Middle East Championship 1998 Israeli National Champion Mare 1999 Israeli National Champion Mare & High Scoring Horse of the

Show 2007 Champion Mare at the Israeli Egyptian Event

Al Maraam

(Imperial Imdal x The Vision HG) Stallion/Bay/1998, bred and owned by Ariela Arabians 1999 Reserve Junior Champion at Paderborn, Germany 1999 Reserve Junior Champion at the All Nations Cup, Aachen 1999 2nd Place at the European Championship, Verona 1999 Top Ten at the World Championship, Paris 2001 1st Place at the European Championship, Verona 2003 Sire of 3 out of 4 Junior and Reserve Jr Champions at Israeli Nationals 2005 Sire of 3 out of four Champions & 1 Res Ch at Israeli's 1st Egyptian Event 2007 Israeli Reserve National Champion Stallion

Al Lahab

(Laheeb x The Vision HG) Stallion/Grey/1999 - bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by the Freidmann Family, Germany 1999 Foal Champion at the Israeli Nationals 2000 Junior Champion and High Scoring Horse at the Asil Cup, Germany 2000 Reserve Junior Champion at the All Nations Cup, Aachen 2001 Junior Champion at the Egyptian Event Europe 2001 European Junior Champion 2002 2nd Place at the World Championship, Paris 2006 Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion - USA 2006 Champion Stallion and high scoring horse at the Elran Cup -Borgloon 2006 Champion Stallion and high scoring horse at the International Show in Towerlands 2006 All Nations Cup Champion Stallion 2006 World champion Stallion & Most Classic Head winner 2006 ECAHO Cup Champion Stallion 2007 Champion Stallion at the Dubai Gold Cup

2009 Supreme Champion Stallion, Menton - France

2009 All Nations Cup Champion Stallion

2009 Reserve World Champion Stallion – Paris



2010 Dubai International Gold Champion Stallion - Dubai

2010 German National Champion Stallion – Germany

2013 Gold Champion Stallion at Sharjah Straight Egyptian Show - Sharjah

2014 Gold Champion Stallion at the Abu Dhabi International Horse Championship, UAE

2014 Bronze Champion Stallion at the Dubai International Show

Al Baraqai AA

(Baahir^{*}x The Vision HG) Mare/Bay/2000 - bred and owned by Ariela Arabians

The dam of three extraordinary multi-champion Laheeb daughters including Israeli National Gold Medal Champion Filly Baraaqa AA; Israeli Egyptian Event Gold Medal Filly Basmah AA, who is considered to be one of Ariela's most promising young broodmares, and Israeli National Bronze Medal Champion Filly Foal Brakkat AA.

Al Hakim AA

(Muhajjal x The Vision HG) Stallion/Black/2001, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Black Smoke Arabians, Germany Not shown due to an injury

Al Amal AA

(Halim Shah I x The Vision HG) Mare/Bay/2002, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Kathrin Hampe Klingebiel, EOS Arabians, Switzerland

2003 1st place at the Israeli Nationals

2004 1st place at the Israeli Nationals

2005 1st place at the Israeli Nationals

Dam of Ayat AA (ex Al Ayad), Junior Champion at 2008 Egyptian Event - Israel

Dam of Abayd AA (ex Nader al Jamal), Foal Champion at EC and Reserve Foal Champion at 2009 Israeli Nationals, and on lease to Janow Padlowski Stud, Poland

Al Halah AA

(Laheeb x The Vision HG) Mare/Grey/2003, bred and owned by Ariela Arabians 2009 Champion Mare at the Israeli Egyptian Cup

Al Hadiyah AA

(Laheeb x The Vision HG) Stallion/Grey/2005, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Luciana Fasano, Fazenda Floresta, Brazil 2005 Foal Champion at the Israeli Egyptian Event 2006 Junior Champion Colt at the Israeli Egyptian Event 2006 Israeli National Champion Colt 2008 Junior Champion Colt at the Austrian Nationals 2008 Junior Champion at the Asil Cup International, Germany 2012 2nd Place at the Breeders World Cup in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA 2012 Bronze Champion Stallion at the Egyptian Event, USA

Al Raheb AA

(Laheeb x The Vision HG) Stallion/Grey/2006, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Muchsan OnAllah 2006 Foal Champion at the Israeli Egyptian Event 2007 Junior Champion at the Galilee Arabian Horse Festival 2007 Reserve Junior Champion at the Israeli Egyptian Event 2007 Israeli Reserve National Champion Colt 2008 Reserve Junior Champion at the Galilee Arabian horse Show 2009 Bronze Medal at the Israeli Nationals 2009 Junior Champion at the Israeli Egyptian Event 2011 Supreme Champion Stallion at the Egyptian Event, Lexington, KY, USA

Al Ayal AA

(Al Ayad x The Vision HG) Stallion/Grey/2008, bred and owned by Ariela Arabians. On lease to Al Jassimya Farm, (Doha, Qatar) and standing at their farm in Santa Ynez, California

2008 Colt Foal Champion at the Israeli Egyptian Event

2008 Colt Foal Champion at the Israeli Nationals

2009 Reserve Junior Champion at the International B-show Orientalica, Germany

2009 Reserve Junior Champion at the Egyptian Europe Cup 2009, Orientalica - Germany

2009 Reserve Champion at the Lowland Arabian Cup, The Netherlands

2009 Bronze Medal champion at the Inter. B show, Strohen - Germany 2009 Arabesque Egyptian Cup Junior Champion Colt, Germany 2009 Reserve Junior Champion at the Kauber-Platte International

show, Germany 2009 Junior Champion at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah – UAE 2010 Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Event of Sharjah - UAE 2011 Gold Champion Colt at Sharjah Int'l Show, UAE

2011 Gold Champion Coll at Sharjah Int'i Show, OAE 2011 Most Classic Head Award at Sharjah Int'i Show, UAE

2011 International Gold Champion Colt at Dubai, UAE

2011 Gold Champion Colt (unanimous) at Egyptian Event Europe, Lanaken, Belgium

2013 Silver Medal Champion Stallion at the Israeli Egyptian Event - Israel

2013 Silver Medal Champion at the Israeli National Championship Show - Israel

Al Amir AA

(Al Ayad x The Vision HG) Stallion/Grey/2008, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Anwar Salaouhi

Nader Alroeya AA

(Nader Al Jamal x The Vision HG) M/Grey/2009, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by the Miro Family

Al Ghazali AA

(Gazal Al Shaqab x The Vision HG) M/Bay/2012, bred & owned by Ariela Arabians On lease to Giacomo Capacci, Italy

Layla Al Shaqab

(Marwan Al Shaqab x The Vision HG) F/Bay/2013, bred and owned by Al Shaqab

Aeneas AA

(ZT Marwteyn x The Vision HG) M/Bay/2013, bred by Ariela Arabians and owned by Mr. Ferdinand Huemer of La Movida Stud, Austria

Vision of Marwan AA

(Marwan Al Shaqab x The Vision HG) F/Ch/2014, bred and owned by Ariela Arabians

