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# NK HAFID JAMIL

## has left us

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### His Features and Role in the Course of Generations for Straight Egyptian Breeding

by Monika Savier ■ photos by Joanna Jonientz, Nicole Sachs, Monika Savier, Archive Tutto Arabi

Quite often, the breeding potential of good stallions will only be recognized after they got old or even passed away. Only when they have vanished from the social media stage, but their positive characteristics make themselves felt in their successful offspring even after generations have passed – only then will the Arabian horse scene realize the vital importance these stallions had for the coming generations.

NK Hafid Jamil was a successful sire even while he was alive. He was a fascinating exotic among the Straight Egyptians. It is true he was much debated all through his life, but at the same time, he had many admirers who trusted in his qualities, using him frequently as a sire.

NK Hafid Jamil has 185 registered foals all over the world, and across the generations, he is sure to have influenced several thousand pedigrees. Even in his old age he was still called upon as a sire, as the tangible successes that his offspring continue to reap are facts, not fake.

This important role of NK Hafid Jamil as a sire is even more worthy of mention nowadays, as this stallion never attended a show, never was presented to a wide public via live streaming or advertising. So I asked his breeder: “why has this stallion never been

to a show? “, and Dr Nagel’s answer was: “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 of evaluation never existed. I think today we have one standard, called Show. And for many years now, many breeders have been selecting their Arabian horses for the show. But from the point of view of a breeder, show criteria can’t be the only criteria, and they are not my criteria. So I invite you to reflect on the standard you like and you are searching for. That means you must make your own choice and then breed very consistently to reach your personal goal.”

It was not just shows that NK Hafid Jamil ignored. Until today, Dr Nagel neither has a stud website nor a media presence on Facebook or Instagram. His Katharinenhof stud is a romantic place for his horses as well as for admirers of rural breeding, a place where the stallions NK Hafid Jamil, NK Nadeer, NK Nabhan, and all the others will only ever do pasture breeding and where they live nose-to-nose in their stallion barn and on the green pastures around the farmyard. They do like to show off with some naturally masculine behavior, of course, being active sires and not above using an occasion when it presents



itself. However, what they don't display is aggressive attacking behavior such as can be observed with many of today's stallions whose only experiences are the breeding phantom and being stabled in isolation.

The Katharinenhof stallions are used to having to court their mares, being nice and polite in order to be allowed to cover. Their charming and likeable character, which will also lead them to cooperate well with humans and attach to them, is epi-genetically consolidated, being a general characteristic of the Katharinenhof horses. This kind of social behavior is a desired and calculated as a breeding goal.

In 1947, Federico Tesio wrote the following in his famous manual for horse breeding: „Stallions are the basic potential of any stud - if you fail to introduce good stallions again and again, the offspring will deteriorate into mediocrity“.

This guiding principle is generally applied in horse breeding up to today, defining the importance as well as the difficulty of selecting highly qualified

stallions who will produce outstanding offspring – a requirement that is by no means accomplished every time. One reason for that may be today's strong emphasis on the sire lines.

Dr Nagel's approach to breeding, with his search for a „secret formula“ that will rather adhere to up-to-date science and genetics, is more comprehensively positioned than that: “Stallions are to improve the breed, but the mares need to provide a good quality basis for the stallion to stand a chance to transmit his big points. Successful breeding works only if you have two good parents who are mutually compensative” (Hans Nagel, 2005).

Along these lines, the success of NK Hafid Jamil is, among others, to be credited to the quality of his sire- and dam line. Of course, his daughters owe a lot to their “front man”, but actually, what makes history is the whole of the gene pool. Katharinenhof stud with its successful breeding concept of more than 50 years is living proof of that.



Dr. Hans Nagel and NK Nadirah



# NK Hafid Jamil - A member of El Zahraa's Nazeer sire line and his Influence on Katharinenhof Egyptian Breeding

*Dr. Nagel talks to Monika Savier in an interview about his late stallion NK Hafid Jamil*

*Dr. Nagel, it is time to talk about the role of your world-famous stallion. Let us start with his origin. Usually, people put lots of emphasis on the dam line, which in the case of NK Hafid Jamil is the famous Dahman Shawan line tailing to Bint Bukra. Why is his sire line, for you, so important as key to the success?*

In horse breeding, behind the word "sire line" is hidden a great richness of features and characteristics and at the same time it expresses "power" in breeding. In the course of time in all major horse breeds such

sire lines were well established and they became very influential on the whole breed. Some people, however, are claiming this influence of a sire line will not last very long and that after three or four generations, not much is left from the advantage a certain member of a sire line could bring. Other young sires normally come up quickly; they are more efficient and replace the previous ones. But sometimes history tells a different story.

In Arabian horse breeding one comes across such



The stallions stables in El Zahraa, Cairo



sire lines as well, in particular by analysing and evaluating the Egyptian Arabian horse population. This population has its beginning around 1920 and started with a relatively small number of about one dozen root mares and several breeding stallions. Until today, about 14 - 16 generations within 100 years have passed, and during this time several stallions showed up as the preferred ones and which were complying with El Zahraa's breeding goal.

***What was the breeding goal in El Zahraa at that time, and who was behind it and had set up the definitions?***

This aim of breeding was guided by the idea to maintain an original type of Arabian as it had developed during thousands of years in Arabia, and to preserve it. Regrettably, this kind of Bedouin horse breeding came to an end as a consequence of the great political and cultural turmoil in the beginning of the 20th century. But some valuable horses out of this

desert population were collected before by the Pashas of Egypt who decided to keep and breed them as a heritage. Therefore, "heritage breeding" could be the headline of the breeding policy followed by the El Zahraa Arabian Horse Stud in Egypt, a branch of the Egyptian Agricultural Organisation (EAO). In this stud all breeding stock are collected, kept until then by the former Royal Agricultural Organisation (RAS) and by King Farouk's Inshass Stud.

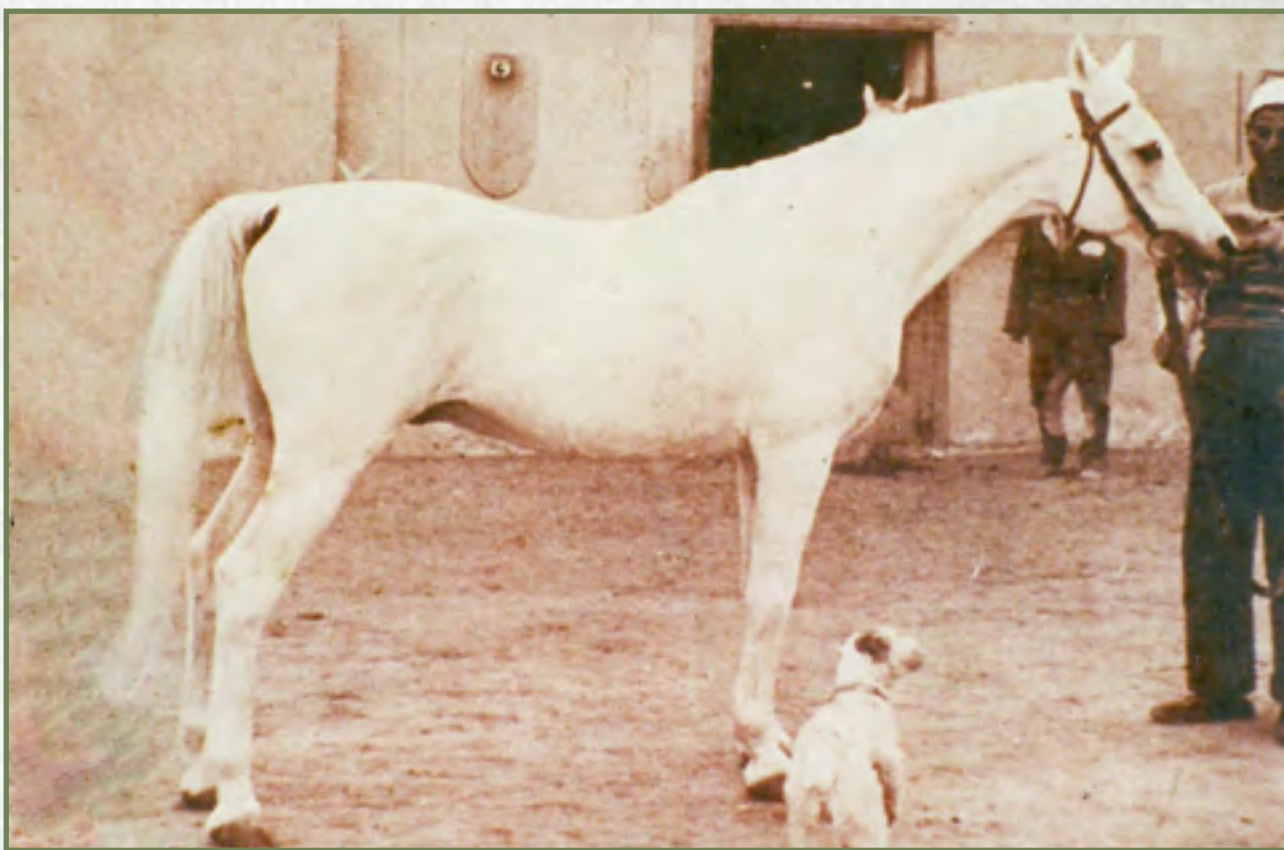
***At that time, who were the "stars of breeding" in Cairo?***

It took some time, but after several generations of breeding in these studs in Egypt certain stallions emerged who proved to be valuable sires: an older group, such as Mansour, Shahloul, Sheikh El Arab, El Sareei, Nazeer, and a later younger group, such as Anter, Ghassir, Touhotmos, Sid Abouhom, Alaa el Din, Morafic, Sameh, Ibn Hafifa, Amrullah, and Nasrallah. In addition, according to the El Zahraa



the paddocks of the mares at El Zahraa, Cairo





**Nazeer (Mansour x Bint Samiha), leading sire at El Zahraa in Cairo**

Stud Book No. II, about 40 - 60 broodmares were available for these stallions for further breeding.

***Why did Nazeer figure so prominently in breeding at that time? Did his offspring have such overwhelmingly convincing quality?***

It is surprising to find out that among all these horses with famous names, only one group emerged which was on its way to form a very outstanding sire line. All other groups remained clearly in the shadow of this only one. These observations centred around the stallion "Nazeer" who was used for breeding since about 1950. People named this stallion later on even "Stallion of the Century". All the other stallions and their offspring had a relatively short career and it seems to be correct what was mentioned before: that after three or four generations, the influence of a certain sire is not noticed any more or becomes very weak. The contrary became true in the case of Nazeer. During his 15 years an active sire in El Zahraa, Nazeer

produced a very typical group of beautiful daughters out of broodmares of different mare families, and in addition, a few outstanding sons were born who became very influential in Egypt and as well abroad. In El Zahraa it was his son Alaa el Din out of the mare Kateefa, further Morafic out of Mabrouka, then Galal out of the black Mohga, all these three were intensively used in the Stud. As a result, the type of El Zahraa's Arabians at that time was clearly stamped by these horses. Abroad, in the US, the stallions Morafic and Ibn Halima, in Germany Ghazal, Hadban Enzahi and Kaisoon, and Aswan in Russia were the ones, who established the great reputation for the Egyptian horses abroad in worldwide Arabian breeding.

***And it was accepted without trouble, this dominant role that Nazeer took up in El Zahraa?***

At a certain time, mainly around 1970, the rumour of too much in-breeding in the El Zahraa Stud made its round and people pointed at Nazeer and his extremely





**Alaa El Dine**



**Morafic**



**Gassir**

growing influence. It became fashionable to look for Nazeer-free horses. Other stallions in El Zahraa and their offspring with a different genetic background came into the picture, and horses such as Anter, Sameh, Gassir, Tuhotmos and Achtal were now the preferred ones for breeding. It was mainly breeders in the US who looked for horses of such origin. But as is known now, none of these horses could form in El Zahraa or abroad a sire line as important and comparable to the one of Nazeer.

Regrettably, many private farms will not last for a long time. It is difficult for their owners to find a heir who is willing and interested to continue the work of his parent. Or for an older breeder who started late, there remained not enough time to establish and to concentrate his work on a certain sire line. Most of these breeders disappeared again after no more than one or two generations had elapsed. It is basically the El Zahraa Stud as the original source of all Egyptian Arabians which has to guarantee and to fulfil long term obligations in breeding, as for example to take care of one or several valuable sire lines and to stay a rich and continuous source for Egyptian Arabians.

*Katharinenhof, too, has a close-cut breeding concept that bases its strategies on a foundation formed by just four mares. How much of "El Zahraa ideas" is behind that?*

Katharinenhof in Germany was probably the only stud outside of Egypt, which followed the original policy of El Zahraa and took, in this context, special care of the continuation of the Nazeer-sire line.

Here is where the name "NK Hafid Jamil" comes into the picture. He is a member of El Zahraa's most important sire line and stands in line together with previous important members of this group. Since the stallion Mansour, the sire of Nazeer, had such an





**Anter**

importance on the future of El Zahraa's breeding in early times, he should be mentioned in the beginning as the first one. Then with his son Nazeer, the famous one in Egypt and abroad beyond Egyptian borders, this particular sire line will start, and then six stallions follow in line until the time when NK Hafid Jamil showed up.

Mansour was one of the first major breeding stallions in Egypt. He was the sire of Nazeer and the sire of his half-brother Sheikh El Arab: two strong columns of early Egyptian breeding. Sheikh El Arab was, however, only a producer of females; Nazeer was the great all-round breeding magician of males and females. Let me make a systematic list of the facts that I was able to use for my breeding concept:

Nazeer was, due to his dam Bint Samiha, a member of the Hadban family, one of the most influential groups in El Zahraa also thanks to Nazeer's great contribution; El Zahraa works with five of such families.

Nazeer became the sire of very prominent stallions: Alaa el Din, a chestnut stallion known for his beautiful daughters. Regrettably, he left no son of equal quality, his sons Galal and Morafic, however, took over this part. His other great sons were sooner



**Mansour**



**Sameh**

or later exported, Ibn Halima and Morafic to the US where they had for years the greatest influence in Egyptian breeding.

Ibn Halima was without doubt Nazeer's best son. He was sold as a youngster to the Ansata Stud in the US and was named there "Ansata Ibn Halima". Ansata Stud was built on this stallion and he was responsible for its excellent reputation. As a consequence of such a great success, Arabian breeders and the public created the expression "Ibn Halima Look" due to the



**Ansata Ibn Halima  
(Nazeer x Halima)**



**Ansata Halim Shah  
(Ansata Ibn Halima x Ansata  
Rosetta)**

particular type of his offspring. As his masterpiece, he produced Ansata Halim Shah.

Ansata Halim Shah was leased at an early age of three years to Katharinenhof in Germany. In checking his pedigree, he goes back to Bukra, one of the broodmares of the prominent Dahman Shahwan family. In two breeding seasons in 1984/85, he left in Germany

30 foals, 19 excellent daughters and 11 sons. All of them were of brilliant quality and had no doubt a great influence on all Egyptian breeding in Germany. As a sensation, which happened never before or after, German officials licensed all 11 stallions for use in breeding, a condition and requirement. One of his sons was Salaa el Dine out of the Alaa el Din



daughter Hanan. He was the choice of Katharinenhof to continue the Nazeer sire line in this stud.

Salaa el Dine fitted perfectly in Katharinenhof's breeding plans. A better shoulder position and a stronger hindquarter was needed. Ansata Halim Shah had them and Salaa el Dine inherited these features in perfection; they formed an ideal combination with Katharinenhof's fine and elegant mares. Just like his father, Salaa el Dine could produce in Katharinenhof as his offspring several wonderful daughters and five important sons: Adnan, Nahaman, Shahin, Safir and Nejdy. Katharinenhof decided to keep Nejdy as a further representative of this sire line; his dam was Lotfeia, a granddaughter of Nazeer's mother Bint Samiha. Behind this decision stands the idea to return to the Hadban family at a certain point. All other Salaa el Dine sons left the stud after they had produced at home some valuable daughters. Adnan and Shahin became noticeable sires in Kuwait, and Safir was for years the chief stallion in the Al Rayyan

Stud in Qatar.

Nejdy regrettably died at an age of three years and left only two offspring, a filly and a colt. This elegant stallion had only little chance to prove himself, but it was great luck that his only colt developed to be an interesting stallion. He was named Ibn Nejdy.

Ibn Nejdy could be described as a typical member of the Hadban family, though he was, due to his dam Ghazalla, an Obayan. Members of this family would normally look as follows: rectangular horses with a high-set neck, a perfect tail carriage and a small head. This was also the look of Ibn Nejdy, totally dominated by his sire Nejdy. However, Ibn Nejdy excels with two more very important features: his big round eyes and very interesting small ears, a typical feature of Katharinenhof's Arabians. Ibn Nejdy was a sire of several sons and daughters, but one of them was a surprise for everyone who has seen him. It was NK Hafid Jamil. From his first days on as a



Ghazala (Ghazal x Hanan)



Adnan (Salaa El Dine x Ghazala)





**Salaa El Dine**  
(Ansata Halim Shah x Hanan)



foal and from then on for his whole life, he was as it is quite normal - if something fell out of the known framework, for some still a most welcomed exciting new horse. Some others looked at him with criticism and irritation only.

***NK Hafid Jamil was an exotic, and you said this about him once: "Hafid Jamil, where did he come from? He***

***tails back along a long line of stallions including Salaa El Dine, Nejdy, Ibn Nejdy... and I can 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."***

NK Hafid Jamil was a different horse compared to all the other previous stallions of this Nazeer sire line. He was born as a weak horse, extremely fine and





**Safir (Salaa El Dine x Aisha)**

delicate, a little foal as if made out of porcelain. It took a lot of effort to make him grow up to become a healthy horse. When one examined him for a correct body conformation, it could not be overlooked that it was his hindquarters which worried. This somewhat unfortunate structure was not a complete surprise, it is known. It appeared before in other stallions of El Zahraa, even in members of the Hadban family.



**Ibn Nejdy (Nejdy x Ghazala)**

Now this weakness showed up in this horse again. However, his front, his head, his neck, his withers, his chest, were perfect and made up for his deficiencies in the hindquarters. Particularly when looking at his head and neck one was impressed by this unique appearance: the shortest and broadest head, never seen before in all previous generations, and very small ears in addition; short head and short ears – this fits



**Ansata Ken Ranya  
(Salaa El Dine x Ansata Prima Rose)**



**Nejdy (Salaa El Dine x Lutfia)**





**NK Hafid Jamil with Robert Schlereth, Trainer**

together. His best points: excellent eye sockets with dark round well-sized eyes, the front of his head designed in a light elegant concave swing, which ended in a fine mouth and his extremely big nostrils. These nostrils widened enormously in breathing out and gave his head an extra concave element. This nice head was perfectly attached to the neck, a very clean “mitbah” (throat). The neck was of good length, highly set on the chest and perfectly arched which gave him the look of a real powerful stallion; he showed this amazing shape of neck in perfection when something excited him in his surroundings.

NK Hafid Jamil’s tail carriage was absolutely striking, a heritage of the Hadban family in Egypt, which is famous in this respect. Even when his hind part was not the best, NK Hafid Jamil was a powerfully moving horse with a light knee-action in front.



**NK Hafid Jamil (Ibn Nejdy x Helala)**

He also had a wonderful character, not aggressive at all; rather kind and he liked to be patted. He was easy to handle in every situation, a brave horse and not frightened at all. This last feature was a very important point since he was travelling a lot. Several times to England, to Saudi Arabia for one year and to Kuwait as well. In all these trips never any problem occurred - without doubt, due to his nature that he had trust in people.

*Would it have been possible to derive from his pedigree that a stallion of his quality would be born, or was that a piece of genetic luck?*

In studying his pedigree, it becomes evident that all his parents were of first-class Arabian type. When the formula propagated by experienced breeders “to breed equal to equal” is correct, then this condition





**Helala (Salaa El Dine x Ansata Gloriana)**

is perfectly fulfilled in the case of this horse. The choice of his parentage could not be better; all horses, male and female, appear as a very nice uniform group. This friendly horse took an important position in the Nazeer sire line. He is responsible for the situation that this line could continue to grow very successfully further into the future.

*Are there sons and daughters on your farm, who successfully perpetuate the heritage of NK Hafid Jamil?*

At Katharinenhof, he produced four sons: the full brothers NK Nadeer and NK Nizam and another full-brother pair, Jamal el Dine and NK Kamar el Dine.

NK Nadeer is a grey and NK Nizam is a bay, both are out of the mare NK Nadirah, the most striking mare of good size in the stud in expression and movement, and a member of the Hadban family again. Only the word "elegance" can describe this mare properly. She is an Adnan daughter and is for sure the best



**NK Nahla (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nasrin)**

representative of the Hadban family.

NK Kamar el Dine, bay, and Jamal el Dine, grey, both are out of the mare Ansata Ken Ranya, a Salaa el Dine daughter who is a member of the Bukra line. She had a great resemblance to her famous ancestor in Egypt, Bukra herself.

No NK Hafid Jamil daughters have been kept in the stud, even when some excellent fillies were born, as for example NK Nakeebya who is famous all over





NK Kamar El Dine (NK Hafid Jamil x Ansata Ken Ranya)



NK Bint Bint Nashua (NK Kamar El Dine x NK Nasrin)



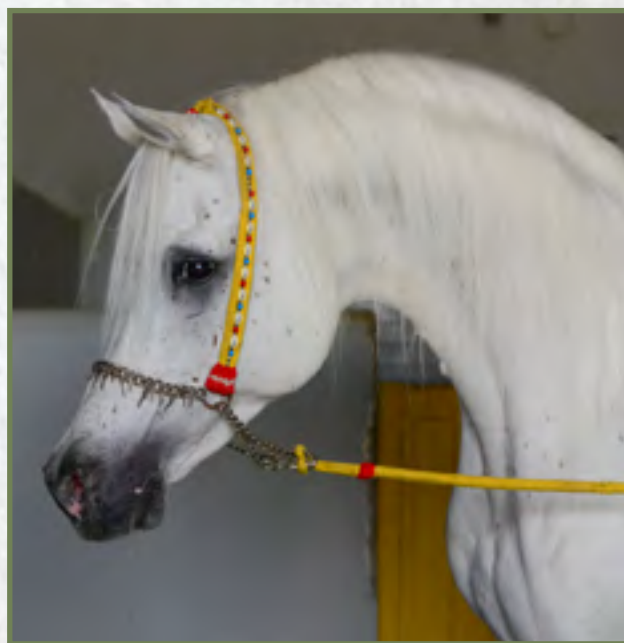


**NK Abia (NK Jamal El Dine x NK Aziza)**

Kuwait, or NK Jury and NK Neeheliah, the last one a highly estimated broodmare in the Al Rayan Stud.

*NK Nakeebah gave birth in Kuwait to her beautiful daughter Nabaweyyah Ezzain. Today she reigns as the "queen of Al Rashediah Farm" in Bahrain. She is a breath taking bay mare, Gold Champion at the Bahrain Nationals, and dam of the Multi Champion Naseem Al Rashediah*

...yes, but NK Hafid Jamil daughters did not fit into the breeding concept of Katharinenhof, consisting of a closed population with a limited number of brood mares and one sire-line. Since NK Hafid Jamil had some very appreciated qualities which should be distributed over the whole herd, it is advisable to use consequently his sons for such a purpose. To keep his daughters as well would lead into the direction of too close breeding, such as brothers to sisters or half-brothers to half-sisters. Therefore, it was decided to jump one generation on the female side and to breed



**NK Jamal El Dine  
(NK Hafid Jamil x Ansata Ken Ranya)**

on with the granddaughters of NK Hafid Jamil.

So it happened that all four of these stallions have left some excellent daughters at Katharinenhof, which are on their way to form the new broodmare generation in the stud. The oldest ones are four NK Nadeer





**NK Nadirah**  
(Adnan x Nashua)

**NK Nizam**  
(NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadirah)



daughters, followed by four Jamal el Dine daughters and further four NK Kamar el Dine daughters. NK Nizam is on his way to arrive possibly at a similar position as a sire of fine daughters who will be added later on into the breeding herd.

At this time one could conclude that NK Nadeer will

most probably be the one to continue the Nazeer sire line. Particularly when his son NK Nabhan was born, one could not think anything else as only a strong sire can produce such a fine horse; both father and son could be strong candidates for future members of this sire line.





**NK Nadeer**  
(NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadirah)



NK Nabhan presented himself to be a potential sire even when he was a young stallion. He proved his quality already by an important number of offspring at Katharinenhof and as well at El Adiyat Stud in Kuwait. Some of these foals developed to be excellent Arabians. The oldest of them have matured into fine mares already, reaching the age of three years, and will be ready soon to form another new generation.

*Could it be said, then, that NK Hafid Jamil is the patriarch of the “special looks of the Nagel Arabians”?*

It is justified to claim that NK Hafid Jamil had the potential to create a certain type of Egyptian Arabians who did not exist before. In examining him, his sons, his daughters and his grandchildren, it becomes evident that all these horses have those smaller, broader and shorter heads; they have the finest muzzles and amazing nostrils. Their arched necks and a good high tail carriage are features which underline their elegance. NK Hafid Jamil’s weak hindquarter disappeared totally. It did not show up

**NK Nabhan (NK Nadeer x NK Nerham)**





### NK Hafid Jamil

again. The hindquarters of his grandson NK Nabhan and his son NK Nizam, are of perfect shape and even their foals display a wonderful top line confirming that all these previous weaknesses have been eliminated. Like his parents, all this young generation excels in exciting movements, light and elegant, and at the same time powerful and energetic. To see and to observe an Arabian in motion brings out all his appreciated features, and an elegantly carried neck and head, combined with a high tail carriage, brings a horse into perfect balance. Nobody could predict that a tiny little colt would have such a great impact as a grown-up sire. Not only at Katharinenhof Stud, but

also when one of his sons is used for breeding in other studs, they left traces of his most impressive features.

Of course there are stallions in other studs who are members of the Nazeer-sire line and who occupy important positions. This applies certainly for some of the important studs in the Middle East, such as Rayyan Stud in Qatar or Ajmal Stud in Kuwait. In Rayyan Stud, the line starts with Safir, a Salaa el Dine son out of the Ansata Halim Shah daughter Aisha. Safir was later replaced by his son Ashhal Al Rayyan, who won great influence by several of his sons in other studs in Qatar and in Saudi Arabia. Also in Kuwait,





the Ajmal Arabian Stud has chosen an Ansata Halim Shah son, Ansata Hejazi, as their foundation sire. Not enough time has passed to recognise a proper line, but it can be already noticed that one of several existing Ansata Hejazi sons will follow his sire as a perfect replacement.

Last not least, NK Qaswarah cannot be overlooked. This NK Hafid Jamil son was an eye catcher from birth on and left as a young colt for Ezzain Stud in Kuwait. All his life he was surrounded mostly by NK Hafid daughters who were, however, of different mare lines – a unique situation. NK Qaswarah created his own kingdom; nowhere can you see finer Arabians and prettier heads than in this stud. Only NK Qaswarah, his sons and grandsons are used as sires until now and it appears this project will continue the same way, a very special continuation of the Nazeer sire line as well.

Therefore, it can be said it appears to be guaranteed that the sire line of Nazeer will continue successfully, even by several branches parallel to each other, and carry the heritage of this famous sire into the future.

With NK Hafid Jamil some new refreshing elements have entered into the Nazeer line, mainly in two areas: in the field of type, and in movement. NK Hafid Jamil himself, his son NK Nadeer and his

grandson NK Nabhan as well as several young colts, are demonstrating that such changes have happened, they are consistent and indicate that a new direction in breeding has taken place.

However, progress and improvements are required in all fields, in all disciplines and in nature: possibly, due to an adaptation to a changing environment, or necessary because of different preferences in economy or culture that form the environment for today's horses.

But when it comes to Arabians and to what they are kept for, such progress and improvements should happen within certain limits, not disturbing or altering the typical features and structure which give this horse its particular identity, and which attracted thousands of breeders and friends at all times to worship this horse. They have to comply with the desire of these people for beauty, to enjoy their Arabians as a companion, and to continue Arabian horses as the only breed which is famous all over the world for its elegance and aesthetic appearance.

Regrettably, NK Hafid Jamil died in November 2019. He was 23 years old. He passed away resting in his always reserved stable box, which he seemed to recognise with pleasure each time when he returned home from one of his extensive visits in other studs abroad. □