

"NATURAL IS THE NEW BEAUTY"



**TB HELWA**  
IBN EL NIL x TB HASNA



# SULIFAH'S GRANDCHILDREN

## THE MARES OF THE OBEYAN FAMILY AT TRE BALZANE STUD

A SUCCESS STORY WITH LIGHT AND SHADE AND AN OPEN END

BY  
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Buying and owning beautiful Arabian horses is easy in today's globalised markets. Successfully breeding horses, on the other hand, is a challenge with many risks and simply takes time. After all, it takes years to learn from your own right or wrong breeding decisions. Horse breeding works best in its natural environment in rural areas. Plenty of pasture is important for the horses, to promote their physical development and make social communication in herd life possible. Also important, is that not only should we be happy with our horses, but they should also feel comfortable when they (have to) live with us. Traditionally they would have experienced the vastness of nature, the steppes, and deserts where for centuries the Arabian horse developed into what we love and want to preserve.



TB HEBA  
NK SHARAF EL DINE x TB HASNA

**THE TRE BALZANE STUD FARM,  
UMBRIA – CENTRAL ITALY) – WAS  
ESTABLISHED IN THE MID-1980S.**

At the end of the 1980s, many Russian and Polish Arabians were imported to Italy, and a handful of purebred Arabian mares also moved into the stables at Tre Balzane Stud. They were mainly ridden. It wasn't until the early 1990s that I saw the original imports Hanan (Alaa El Din x Mona), Mahiba (Alaa El Din x Mouna) and Lotfeia (Alaa El Din x Bint Kamla) by Dr Nagel from the Egyptian state stud El Zahraa and their offspring, such as the young Salaa El Dine. This was an impressive moment and the idea of continuing to breed straight Egyptian Arabian horses from the countries of origin, was born.

**THE ARRIVING OF THE OBAYAN  
MARE SULIFAH**

In 1996, the filly SULIFAH entered the stud. She was bred by Siegfried Manz, out of Dr Nagel's breeding lines. Her grand

dam Marah was one of the four root mares imported to Katharinenhof Stud from El Zahraa/Egypt. Marah was bred out of the Anter daughter Maysa, her sire was the Nazeer son Galal, a typey chestnut stallion who also passed on the black colour gene. Her sister Magidaa also descended from Maysa. She founded her own dynasty in the USA, from which the three famous full brothers Alidaar, Ruminaja Bahjat and Ruminaja Ali were later bred.

Sulifah's dam was Matala Bint Marah (Jamil x Marah), her sire was the bay Alaa Al Din (Salaa El Dine x Ashraff).

Sulifah was special. In many respects, she resembled her male grandsire Salaa El Dine and her female grandsire, Jamil. With her class and her charisma, it was quickly apparent that she was destined to found a family line of her own in the stud. Her mother instinct and fertility were impressive, and this was something she passed on to all her daughters.







**SULIFAH**  
ALAA AL DIN x MATA LA BINT MARAH BY JAMIL

*"A good stud farm is also an economic model based on solidarity. Profits from breeding should be shared fairly with the horses and have a positive impact on their quality of life."*



**TB YASIR**  
SALAA EL DINE x SULIFAH

Her good offspring made Sulifah and Tre Balzane internationally known very quickly. Sadly, Sulifah died at stud in 2016.

Sulifah's first daughter, the bay TB Hasna, remained at stud and later took her place as a foundation mare. Her sire was KEN Mahbub, son of the European Champion KEN Asam and bred by Sylvie and Wolfgang Eberhardt. His dam Bint Mahiba came from the mating of Ansata Halim Shah and Kis Mahiba. KEN Mahbub was also an excellent riding horse with a great character. He later went to northern Italy for endurance sport.





Sulifah did not remain the only foundation mare at the stud, over the years I also acquired good fillies from other straight Egyptian bloodlines, such as the Dahman Shahwans and the Saqlawi Jedranis. But the example of Sulifah illustrates that if you stay true to your breeding goal and have confidence in your mares, you are sure to produce quality foals. But you must also have the courage to use interesting stallions that are better than the mares, at least in terms of phenotype. I have never bred stark contrasts, the result is a big risk, but when I thought honestly about my mares, I thought of a few aspects that I wanted to improve.

In Cairo I found a noble stallion with a fine type, good body, and a lot of charisma. Ibn El Nil RHM from Gizeh. His dam, Nile Allure by Ansata Halim Shah, had been send in foal to Montasir in utero from Ansata Stud to Kuwait. His granddam, Ansata Nile Magic, was in turn a daughter of Dr Nagel's Jamil, as was Sulifah. Ibn El Nil was very successful on the racetrack



TB HASNA  
KEN MAHBUB x SULIFAH



IBN EL NIL  
MONTASIR x NILE ALLURE

and has also become a winner at Arabian shows. I liked this combination of nobility and functionality. The vendor showed me some very nice foals by him. The stallion was very difficult in character and still expensive, but somehow, I managed to transport him to Italy. Later, during a visit to the El Zahraa State Stud in Cairo, I asked the studbook manager how many foals Ibn El Nil had? "None so far, he seems to be sterile," was the answer.

When the stallion arrived, he looked puffy, almost waxy, he ate and ate but he was getting thinner and thinner. After three

**TB HEBA**  
NK SHARAF EL DINE x TB HASNA

**TB HELWA**  
IBN EL NIL x TB HASNA



months, he was a skeleton. The vets put this down to long-term doping with testosterone. Eventually he got his act together and slowly put on weight again. He was now able to go on the Phantom twice a week and was also ridden again. He taught us a lot about the infertility of Arabian stallions. The widespread inbreeding among Arabian horses can also lead to this as a genetic defect. His beautiful foals consoled us for the greatly reduced fertility. After one year, Sulifah was in foal to him. TB Sabah El Nil was born. She later made her career in Cairo.

### THE THREE GRANDDAUGHTERS OF SULIFAH

The following year, TB Hasna was pregnant by Ibn El Nil. TB Helwa was born. She is like her sire, a combination of fire and gentleness. And she passes this on to her foals. Three years later, Ibn El Nil was back as a stallion. Unfortunately, I succumbed to the temptation to lease him out to Cairo for another two years. After six weeks, the first mare there was in foal, but Ibn El Nil had to be put down, he had broken his hind leg in the paddock. His son TB Hafid El Nil, out of Sulifah, was later imported to Cairo to continue his sire's story.



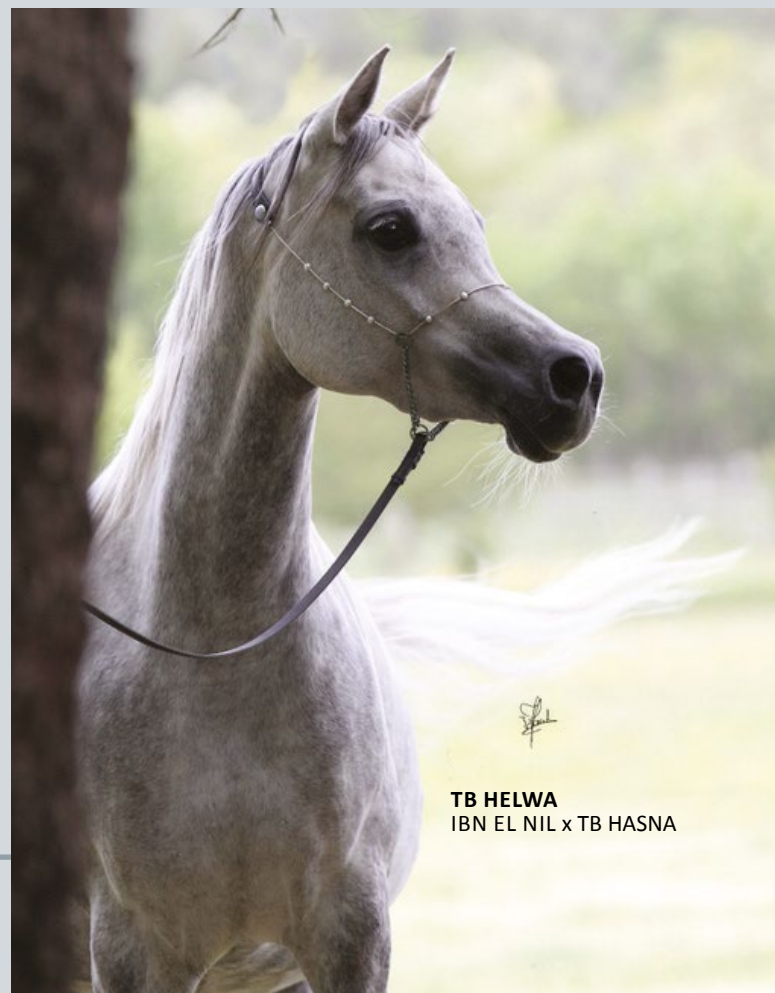


**TB HEBA**  
NK SHARAF EL DINE x TB HASNA

In addition to TB Helwa, I have also kept TB Hejaziya and TB Heba from the bay TB Hasna. She completes my Obayan family's herd of mares.

TB Hejaziya, a chestnut mare, is the daughter of Ramses (Adnan x Ansata Rebecca). He came from Katharinenhof and was a friendly stallion with good offspring that we enjoyed riding. He is also stabled in Cairo today. TB Hejaziya has produced several impressive foals, including the black stallion TB Haytham by NK Mudeer (NK Nadeer x Ansata KEN Rania).

TB Heba translates as "the gift". I named her that because her mother TB Hasna gave birth to her by caesarean section. Thanks to the excellent work of the university clinic at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine



**TB HELWA**  
IBN EL NIL x TB HASNA





**TB FAYZA**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HELWA



**TB JAIDAA**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HEBBA

MoSa



in Perugia, both mother and daughter survived, which is apparently very rare. I was told that the foal usually suffocates from the mother's anaesthetic.

TB Heba is perhaps also my favourite mare for this reason. She repays me with extraordinarily beautiful foals and great gentleness. Her sire is NK Sharaf El Dine. He is one of the best sons of Salaa El Dine.

### THE THIRD GENERATION OF SULIFAH

The most famous daughter of TB Helwa was for a long time TB Faysa. Her sire was Jamil Al Rayyan (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan). This mating was great. Fayza had everything, charm, type, gaits, she danced in-hand and she won shows. I sold her at the age of three to a member of the royal family



**TB HEJAZIYA**  
RAMSES x TB HASNA



**TB HAYTHAM**  
NK MUDEER x TB HEJAZIYA

in Doha, Qatar. But she never arrived. She died halfway through the journey with the transporter.

Two years later TB Haya was born, the full sister of TB Faysa. Again, the mating with Jamil Al Rayyan had worked perfectly. She was sold to the Al Thani royal family in Doha stud farm, where she is a successful show horse.

I had bred several mares to Al Adeed Al Shaqab, TB Heba produced the best foal of this mating, the beautiful TB Alia.

In 2022, TB Jaidaa was born, a quasi-full sister to TB Fayza and TB Haya and of the same quality. Her sire is also the outstanding sire Jamil Al Rayyan. Perhaps she will represent the next generation at Tre Balzane Stud.





**TB ALIA**  
AL ADEED AL SHAQAB x TB HEBA



**TB HAYA**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HELWA





**TB FAROUK**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HELWA



**NABEEL AL KHALED**  
F SHAMAAL x ANSATA NILE PEARL



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

We already have the right stallion. Nabeel Al Khaled, Dahman Shahwan stallion who resembles Ibn El Nil in some respects. Their mothers are sisters. His dam Ansata Nile Pearl comes from the same dam line as Ibn El Nil's dam Nile Allure. He has type, charm, and nobility and, unlike Ibn El Nil, he is exceptionally fertile.

But times are difficult for horse breeding. Shows have become useless as a criterion for quality and selection. Not only because show sponsors are allowed to participate with their horses without this being considered a conflict of interest. The show ring is also counterproductive in the form in which the horses are presented. A stand-up is basically a poor piece of pedagogy on the horse, yet in most cases it is forced on the young horses with medieval-style whippings. The natural trust in humans that the breeders have built up with the foals from birth, through empathy, horse-appropriate rearing and training is destroyed for a long time in that way.

There are many alternative ideas, but in the end the horse business always dominates, from which the breeders benefit the least. Perhaps the national Arabian horse organisations should work on positive alternatives to selection through ECAHO shows. These organisations should steer with a positive outcome for all breeders instead of making themselves servants of the beauty shows.

The Arabian horse breed has been undergoing modification for years, in parallel with the shifting values and attitudes of today's global society. Today, the Arabian

horse should be first of all beautiful and famous. This goal characterises the selection. The emphasis on outward appearance according to modern beauty criteria (of the head) is now decisive for breeding all over the world.

At Tre Balzane Stud, we in addition pay attention to health, performance, and a trustworthy character. This flows into our breeding planning, regardless of the pedigree of our horses. ■



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