





A Day in the Life

The Story of

Latifah AA


by Tzviah Idan
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At the celebrated stud farm of Ariela Arabians the life of one of their lesser known, or “average” Egyptian mares may seem anything but average to the rest of us, and more like the stuff of dreams. The 2001 matriarch Latifah AA (Al Maraam x Imperial Kalatifa), whose name in Arabic means gentle or kind, just celebrated a landmark 20th birthday in March of this year, and her story gives us insight into the life, career, and impact of such a mare.

Latifah AA was the first foal born from the first foal crop of Al Maraam (Imperial Imdal x The Vision HG). Her arrival came just as Al Maraam returned from a successful European show campaign where, handled by Frank Sponle, he captured the Reserve Champion Stallion title at the prestigious All-Nations Cup among other titles. An exquisitely refined and gentle bay stallion, Al Maraam, or in Arabic “the passion”, became universally respected as both a show horse and sire who left excellent sons and daughters on three continents and he passed away much too soon in 2018. His offspring have proven particularly valuable as breeding stock in a

variety of programs and are greatly treasured for their outstanding temperaments and gentle natures. As the very first foal of the The Vision HG (The Desperado x Belle Staar), Al Maraam was the first hint of The Vision's phenomenal genetic potential.

The Vision HG, bred in America by Marilyn Geurin, represented the influential Zafaarana family, and was a Saklawi Jedraniyah both in strain and type, tracing in tail-female to the famous foundation mare Radia. A double The Minstril (Ruminaja Ali x Bahila) granddaughter, The Vision was extraordinarily blessed with elegance, refinement, smoothness, and balance as well as her own personal hallmark — unprecedented type. She was purchased by Ariela in 1995 as a gangly yearling in order to introduce a high quality female of black color into the farm program. At that time, no one even imagined the unique legacy she would leave behind. A close look at Vision's pedigree reveals her strong linebreeding to the ‘queen mother’ of modern Egyptian breeding, Moniet el Nefous (Shahloul x Wanisa), which perhaps partially explains her tremendous success.





Al Maraam's sire, the internationally-acclaimed Imperial Imdal (Ansata Imperial x Dalia ex Morafic), was leased by his American owner Barbara Vallee to Ariela for three years and needs little introduction. Imdal was bred by the Imperial Egyptian Arabian Stud and was a blending of Glennloch and Ansata bloodlines. A super show horse himself, Imdal was strongly linebred to Nazeer through Nazeer's two leading sons, Ansata Ibn Halima (ex Halima) and Morafic (ex Mabrouka), and Imdal himself became a leading sire of champions both in America and abroad. Among countless prestigious titles, Imdal was named (Paris) World Champion Stallion and for a time was the world's number one "poster boy" promoting the straight Egyptian Arabian. Not surprisingly, he proved to be a seminal sire in Israel,

leaving his strong stamp and influence not only on the Ariela program, but throughout the country. Indeed, his is arguably Israel's most dominant and influential sire line until today.

Latifah's dam was the very valuable mare Imperial Kalatifa sired by Imperial Al Kamar (El Hilal x Imperial Sonbesjul) out of AK Latifa (Ibn Moniet el Nefous x Siralima ex Sirecho). Impeccably bred by the famous Imperial Egyptian Arabian Stud, Imperial Kalatifa was imported to Israel together with her dam at six months old.

Latifah AA is a Dahman Shawaniyah in strain and strongly represents the female line of the very influential Egyptian foundation mare Bint Bint Sabah (Baiyad x Bint Sabah) tracing from the original matriarch

Al Maraam

photo by Linda Svensson

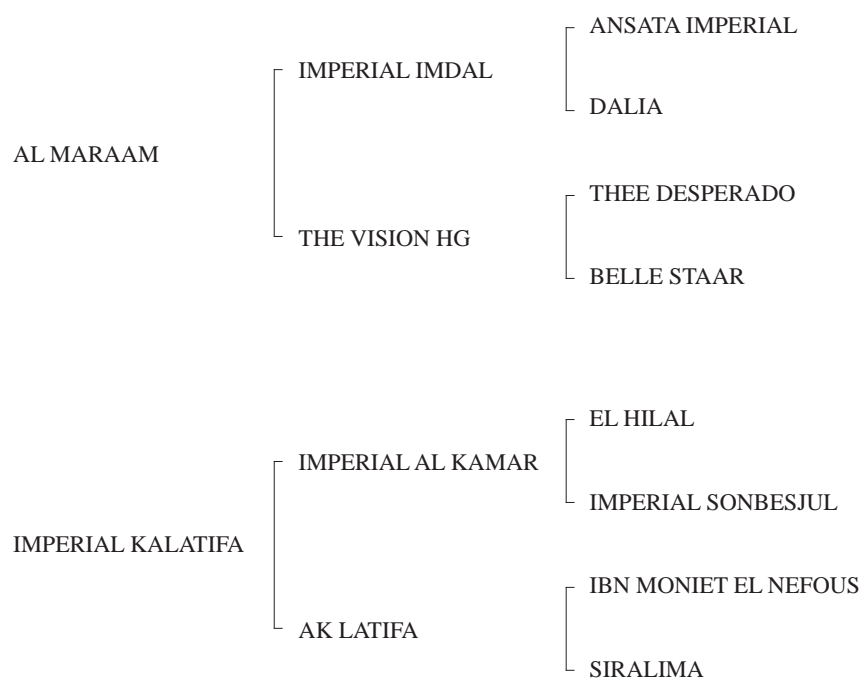
**Imperial Kalatifa**

photo by Irina Filsinger

El Dahma (Harkan x Aziza). She and her dam and granddam provided a valuable and most dependable genetic foundation for the Ariela program. Their pedigrees contain a who's who of the leading Egyptian bloodlines found in America during the final half of the 20th century; these trace back to the choicest horses found at the EAO (Egyptian Agricultural Organization) during its zenith years and served as the cornerstones of the historic Ansata, Imperial, Glennloch, and Bentwood studs.

At Ariela, thoughtful planning created a new breeding platform from which emerged, among others, the likes

of international sires Laheeb (Imperial Imdal x AK Latifa), the above-mentioned Al Maraam, (Paris) World Champion Mare Loubna (Imperial Imdal x Imperial Kalatifa), and of course, Latifah AA, Loubna's maternal sister who shares 75% of that same blood.

Although she was not campaigned nearly as much as Loubna, Latifah achieved a very respectable show career both in Israel and in Europe. Even more so, the stellar show successes of many of her progeny have made Latifah perhaps the best known of all the Al Maraam daughters. Balanced, charismatic, appealingly feminine and markedly refined, Latifah's phenotype truly reflected

her genotype and when used as a broodmare, her progeny became the “proof of the pudding.” Latifah proved to be the most important of all the Imperial Kalatifa daughters in terms of overall quality of foals produced, and today it is through Latifah’s progeny alone that the dam line of Imperial Kalatifa is represented within the Ariela herd.

In Israel Latifah AA won the titles of 2001 Filly Foal Champion, 2002 Reserve National Champion Filly, 2003 National Champion Filly, 2005 Egyptian Event-Israel Champion Mare and 2007 Israel National Champion Mare before her lease to Leonhard Becker of

Becker Arabians in Germany in 2009, returning home in September 2010.

While in Europe Latifah was campaigned by Becker Arabians and won the Champion Mare titles at the 2009 International B Show at Strohen and the 2009 Arabesque Egyptian Cup in Baden-Baden. She later went on to garner the Reserve Champion Mare title at that same year’s Kauber-Platte International B Show. Upon her return to Israel, Latifah ended her show career by winning the title of Silver Champion Mare at the 2012 Palestinian International Arabian Horse Championships.

Latifah soon proved herself a remarkably dependable and prolific broodmare. Her first foal was the lovely 2005 filly Leena AA by Ali Valentino (Ruminaja Ali x Moniet), eventually sold locally in Israel where she became a successful broodmare for her new owners.

The next year Latifah foaled the impressive Laheeb colt Leran AA, who was very closely bred to AK Latifa and matured into an extremely powerful stallion. Leran proved an excellent broodmare sire for Alsham Arabians in Israel until his eventual sale abroad to Arenas Cicenias of Lithuania and finally to Professor Valery Minaev of Russia, for whom he has twice won the title of Gold Champion Russian National Stallion.

Latifah's 2007 filly, Lana AA, was sired by the very respected stallion Ansata Selman (Ansata Hejazi x G Shafaria by Prince Fa Moniet). Lana produced one filly, R'alia AA (x Al Ayal AA) for the Ariela program who was sold locally and went on to compete at halter with some success in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Latifah gained international recognition in 2008 when she produced her first foal by the young American-bred stallion Nader al Jamal (Ansata Sinan x Savannah CC ex The Desperado), bred by Two Silos Farm Egyptian Arabians, who came to Ariela on lease as a yet unproven sire and to whom Latifah would produce a total of five exceptional offspring. Three of these were fillies and one

a colt that were born at Ariela; the fifth was the excellent colt BK Latif, foaled at BK Arabians in Germany and now owned by Al Shiraa Arabians in the United Arab Emirates. Latif is a respected international show horse and sire of champions, and in 2018 was German National Champion Gold Stallion.

Regrettably, Nader Al Jamal was tragically lost at a young age but he left behind a remarkable legacy. He traced in tail-female to the extremely significant Abeyyan Om Jerres mare Bint Magidaa (Khofo x Magidaa ex Alaa el Din) and the balance of his pedigree carried a high percentage of valuable Saklawi blood which proved to blend beautifully with the Egyptian bloodlines found in

Israel at that time. Nader Al Jamal became a leading Israeli sire both in total number of offspring sired and the percentage of champions he sired.

Nader's cross with Latifah AA, created a dynasty of show champions and champion producers difficult to match.

The first foal of the Nader Al Jamal X Latifah AA cross was the super exotic 2009 filly Lutfina AA who was both Israeli Egyptian Event and Israeli National Champion Gold Champion Filly Foal. In 2010 Lutfina continued her winning ways at home to win the titles of Silver Champion Filly at the Israeli National Championships and Gold Champion Filly at Israel's Egyptian Event.

Lutfina ^{AA} During her lease to Ajman Stud
photo by Irina Filsinger

photo by Javan

In 2011 Lutfina was quietly leased by the Ajman Stud of the UAE with the help of European middlemen (The Lutfina Partnership), for whom she continued her winning ways, capturing the prestigious Gold Champion Filly title at that year's Ajman National Show, as well as First Place awards at both the Abu Dhabi International Horse Show and UAE National Arabian Horse Championships. She then went on to capture the Bronze Champion Filly title at the Egyptian Event Europe in Germany.

The next year Lutfina won three First Place awards at the Al Khalediah International Show in Saudi Arabia, and the Abu Dhabi and Sharjah International Shows respectively, both held in the UAE, as well as a Second Place at the Dubai International Championships. She finished the season by winning the Silver Champion Filly title at the Kauber-Platte International B Show

Lutfina ^{AA} as a foal
photo by Shalomi Nissim

and Gold Champion Filly title at the Desert Cup Show, also in Kauber-Platte, Germany, and then captured the Bronze Champion Filly award at the European Egyptian Event in Belgium.

Lutfina delivered her first foals while on lease to the Ajman Stud: the beautiful straight Egyptian filly AJ Lamya sired by Al Ayal AA (Al Ayad x The Vision HG), and the Egyptian-cross AJ Lafi by Ajman Moniscione (WH Justice x Anthea Moniscione), later owned by Fontanella Magic Arabians.

In 2013 Lutfina was back home in Israel where she captured both the Gold Champion Mare title and High-Point Horse honors at Israel's Egyptian Event and then went on to capture that year's Silver Champion Mare title at the Israeli National Championships. During the 2014 season Lutfina was leased by the Al Baydaa Stud in Egypt and competed at the prestigious International Egyptian Event held in Kuwait where she was named Bronze Champion Mare; by the next year she was back in Israel where she won the title of Silver Champion Mare at our own 2015 Egyptian Event.

Lutfina foaled the elegant Egyptian-cross colt Lamaan AA by Marwan Al Shaqab (Gazal Al Shaqab x Little Liza Fame) in 2016. Lamaan went on as a two-year old to win Gold Champion Colt and Most Classic Head at Israel's first Arabian Horse Festival and the Bronze Champion Colt title at the Israeli National

Championships; this captivating and charismatic youngster has an exciting future ahead of him.

Bred to Shamekh Al Danat (Ajmal Al Kout x Ajmal Sherifa), Lutfina foaled the lovely straight Egyptian filly Lutfiyah AA in 2018 who captured the Bronze Champion Filly Foal medal at that year's Israeli Egyptian Event.

In 2020 Lutfina foaled the exciting Egyptian-cross colt Leron AA by Emerald J (QR Marc x Emandoria); that same year she produced La Luna AA, a beautiful grey filly by Kenz Al Baydaa (Jamil Al Rayyan x Kareemah Saqr), owned by Hanaya Stud and leased to Ariela for two seasons. La Luna will remain part of the Ariela program. In 2021 Lutfina foaled another lovely grey filly, this time sired by Moaiz Al Baydaa (Ezz Ezzain x Magda Sakr), owned by Al Baydaa Stud in Egypt and currently on lease to Ariela. Also in 2021 Lutfina foaled a second filly, this one a beautiful Egyptian-cross by the Brazilian stallion Jyar Meia Lua (RFI Maktub x Jiullya El Jamaal).


The second filly produced by the Latifah AA X Nader Al Jamal cross was the 2011 filly Leia AA, who captured the eye of veteran straight Egyptian Arabian breeder Nayla Hayek. Leia was selected and exported to Switzerland to join Nayla's valuable Hanaya herd where she and her daughter by (Paris) Bronze World Champion Al Ayal AA have since become successful broodmares.

Lamaan^{AA} (Marwan Al Shaqab x Lutfina^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj


2021 filly by Moaiz Al Baydaa x Lutfina^{AA}
photo by Bar Hajaj



Leron ^{AA} (Emerald J x Lutfina ^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj



La Luna ^{AA} (Kenz Al Baydaa x Lutfina ^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj



Lutfiyah ^{AA} (Shamekh Al Danat x Lutfina ^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj



**Labibah ^{AA} 2019 AHO World Cup Chantilly,
during her lease to Al Thumama, Qatar**
photo by Ricard Cunill

**Labibah ^{AA} (Nader Al Jamal x Latifah ^{AA})
2019 AHO World Cup Chantilly**
photo by Ricard Cunill



Lulu ^{AA} (Marwan Al Shaqab x Labibah ^{AA})

photo by Bar Hajaj

In 2012 Latifah AA produced both a colt and filly by Nader Al Jamal at Ariela. The colt, Lotem AA, was sold locally in Israel. The filly, Labibah AA, has been retained by Ariela and seems to be closely following her full sister Lutfina's example as she is both a successful 'working girl' in the showings of Israel and Europe and already a champion producer.

As a yearling Labibah AA was Gold Silver Yearling Filly at Israel's Egyptian Event and the Gold Champion Yearling Filly at the Israeli National Championship Show. Over the next four years she competed in Israel and was awarded the following titles: 2014 Silver Champion Filly at the Israeli National Championships, 2015 Bronze Champion Filly at Israel's Egyptian Event, 2016 Bronze Champion Mare and High-Scoring Horse at Israel's Egyptian Event as well as the Bronze Champion Mare at the Israeli National Championships, and finally 2017 Gold Champion Mare and High-Scoring Horse at Israel's Egyptian Event and again Bronze Champion Mare at the Israeli National Championships.

Labibah started her own breeding career in 2017 by producing the super Egyptian-cross filly Lulu AA, sired by Marwan Al Shaqab (Gazal Al Shaqab x Little Liza Fame) in 2017. As a yearling Lulu was the Silver Champion Filly at Israel's first Arabian Horse Festival, the Gold Champion Yearling Filly at the Galilee Arabian Horse Show and Bronze Champion Yearling



2021 Colt (Shanghai EA x Lulu ^{AA})

photo by Bar Hajaj

Filly at the Israeli National Championships. In 2021 Lulu AA produced her first foal, an exciting Egyptian-cross colt by Shanghai EA (WH Justice x Salymah EA). In 2018 Labibah was leased by Dana Al-Meslemani's Al Thumama Stud of Qatar and campaigned on the European show circuit where she won the Gold Champion Mare and Best In Show titles at the Straight Egyptian International Show held in Bruges, Belgium and was also Bronze Champion Mare at the European Egyptian Event in Germany. She went on to win the title of Silver Champion Mare at the 2019 AHO World Cup held in Chantilly France.

Latifah AA was twice bred to Ariela's homebred international sire and Bronze World Champion Stallion Al Ayal AA (Al Ayad x The Vision HG) with great success. In 2013 she delivered the exotic bay colt, Lasani AA who was sold overseas. The next year she produced the grey filly Lalali Beirut AA who was sold locally and whose first foal, the grey 2018 filly Layali Sham AA, was sired by the farm's homebred international sire Shams Sharav AA (Simeon Sharav x Saniyyah RCA).

In 2015 and 2016 Latifah herself was bred to Shams Sharav AA to produce two eye-catching full sisters. The first, Laneya AA is a striking flaxen chestnut bombshell who is proving to be a prolific broodmare. Laneya's first foal was the 2019 filly Layan AA by Kenz al Baydaa (Jamil Al Rayyan x Kareemah Saqr), who captured the Silver Champion Filly Foal medal at that year's Israel Egyptian Event and will remain part of the Ariela herd. The following year she produced a full brother to the above called Luham AA.

This year Laneya produced the very special grey filly Leen Al Jamal, sired through frozen semen technology by the late great Nader Al Jamal, who proved in the past to cross so beautifully with Latifah AA. Laneya is presently in foal to Al Ayal AA.

Loheila AA, Latifah's second foal by Shams Sharav was foaled in 2016 and has been sold; she is similar in quality and promise to Laneya but a classic grey. Latifah AA also produced a second foal in 2016, a colt sired by Muhsen Onallah's Ariela-bred international sire Al Raheb AA (Laheeb x The Vision HG).

photos by Mansour Habaka

Layan ^{AA} (Kenz Al Baydaa x Laneya ^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj

The exciting Kuwaiti international show champion Shamekh Al Danat (Ajmal el Kout x Ajmal Sherifa ex Ansata Sirius), bred and owned by Al Danat stud, carries a rare and valuable blending of classic Nagel and Ansata bloodlines and spent one season on lease to Ariela Arabians. Shamekh is the sire of Latifah AA's youngest foal, a very exotic and charming grey 2018 filly with tremendous genetic potential, Lili AA, who has been sold to new owners.

One can see that at 20 years young, Latifah AA has made her mark both in Israel and abroad and proven herself to be a consistent and valuable mare for the Ariela program; her influence can be likened to a silken golden thread running through several generations of that program, and in actuality she has quietly, even gently, created her very own mini-dynasty within that program.

Throughout her lifetime, Latifah has been not just a valued member of the Ariela herd, but also a dear and cherished part of the (mostly) human family that oversees all that transpires at Ariela. She is especially loved for her faultless "bedouin tent" personality, her

Leen Al Jamal (Nader Al Jamal x Laneya ^{AA})
photo by Bar Hajaj





innate gentleness, and her devoted attachment to the humans in her life — particularly to ten-year-old Daniel whose first introduction to the world of riding came under Latifah's tutelage; for in addition to all of her other accomplishments, Latifah is a trusted mount and superlative riding mare.

A true manifestation of her name and a living example of all the virtues prized in our noble and ancient desert breed, Latifah remains, most of all, an enduring mare of the heart. □

BK Latif (Nader Al Jamal x Latifah ^{AA})
photo by Antonia Bautista

Nader Al Jamal
(Ansata Sinan x Savannah CC)
photo by Shalomi Nissim

Leia AA
(Nader Al Jamal x Latifah AA)
photo by Bar Hajaj

Leran ^{AA} (Laheeb x Latifah ^{AA})
photo by Shira Yegar