



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

# THE OBAYAN MARES FROM TRE BALZANE STUD

THE SUCCESS STORY WITH LIGHT  
AND SHADOW IS STILL CONTINUING

BY  
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## PROLOGUE

How can one optimally enjoy life in the countryside while compensating for the disadvantages compared to the big city? What are the advantages of country life, of direct contact with nature? Definitely horses, a hobby I have more or less actively carried around with me since childhood. Then, when I left my job at the university in Berlin in the mid-80s and started my new job in the environmental field in Italy, the decision was made.

An old abandoned farm was first occupied, then later leased and restored. First our riding horses stood in the sheep pens and later a group of English Thoroughbred mares were added for breeding.



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

### A STALLION IN "POLITICAL ASYLUM"

If you have horses in Italy, you have to make a pilgrimage to Verona at least once, in November, for the international horse fair, the Mecca of horse lovers. My idea was to lease an Arabian stallion and cross it with my English Thoroughbred mares to breed Anglo Arabians.

In Verona, in the early 90s, I met the Italian breeder Loris Beccheroni. He had a stallion for me, not just any show stallion, but Ibn Insiatur, an original import from Persia's Bedouin breeding. He originally belonged to Shah Reza Pahlevi, whose rule was abruptly ended by the founding of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His horses were in acute danger as the Revolutionary Guards associated them with the WAHO and the West. To this end, Ibn Insiatur and other asil Iranian Hamdani Arabians bred by Mary Gharazoglou, owed their lives to the efforts of Gustl Eutermoser and Ulrike Marcik from Austria. As the story goes, they kidnapped the horses from the royal stud in Tehran and rode them, from Iran via Anatolia and western Turkey to Austria. Inevitably, the story fascinated me, the stallion seemed like an archaeological find and I was convinced that he would fit into my performance breeding.

One successful breeding season and many village races later, the stallion had to go back to Bologna. We loved him and Tina, my groom, who had always ridden him, wanted to buy the stallion, but he was far too expensive for our means.

When the truck with three men arrived, the stallion stood transfixed at the ramp. He did not want to leave his new "asylum". After many friendly attempts, a fourth man came. He blindfolded him, and from behind two men went at his croup with a broom. Ibn Insiatur did not move. Two more "experts" were called in to help, the time passed.



Finally, I interrupted the "experts" and called Tina, who did not want to be there. I asked her to try for the stallion's sake, she went to the truck, took the rope, the stallion followed her as if he had been waiting for her and calmly let himself be tied up. We never saw him again, but his more than 30 foals born the following year, and his legendary reputation made Tre Balzane a respectable stud.

I asked myself after this experience, why not breed pure bred Arabians right away?

### A STUD NEEDS GOOD MARES

Until then, Arabian horses had not been part of my life. The past is a broad concept, hadn't Europeans already been travelling in the Arabian countries on behalf of the kings to import desert Arabians over 200 years ago? These horses were rooted in Europe long before present day Arabian breeding. It dawned on me that I needed to know more about this bygone era in order to better understand the Arabian horses in our modern world and to be able to integrate them in their species-appropriate way.

Reading alone did not teach me, because



**SULIFAH**  
ALAA AL DIN x MATALA BINT MARAH BY JAMIL

I lacked the identification with the countries of origin, an advantage that Arabian breeders in the Middle East have over others. Arabian horses evoke an emotional response, even without cultural appropriation.

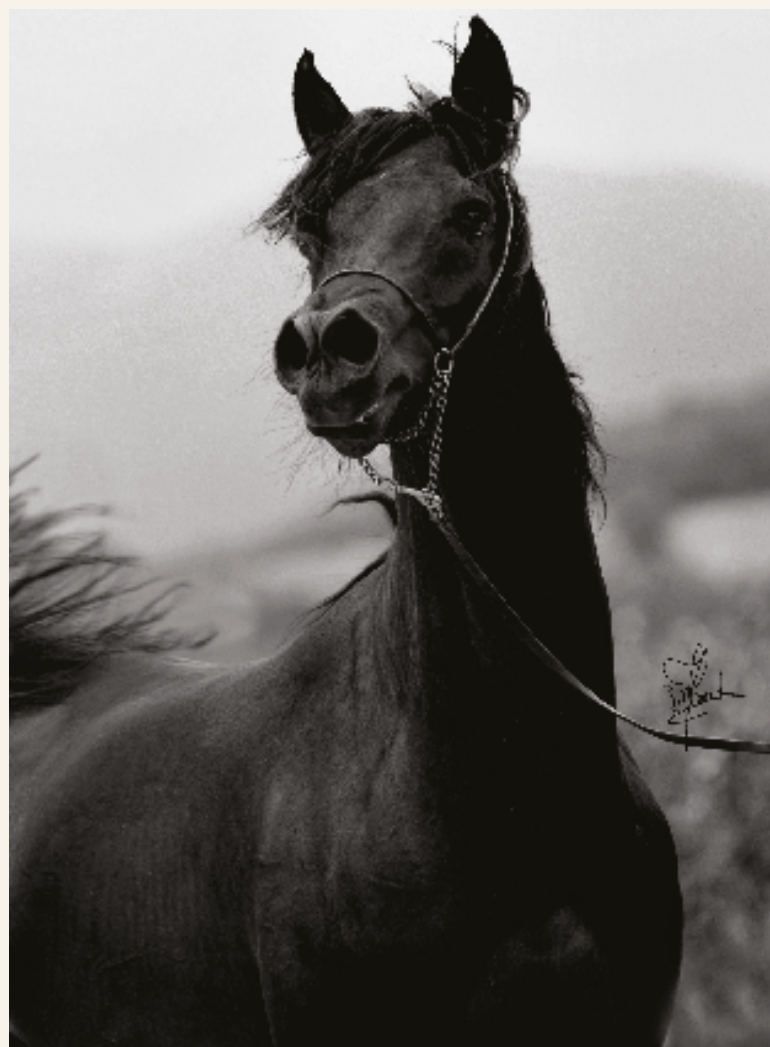
I visited places of knowledge and experience, the former Royal Stud Marbach, the State Stud Babolna in Hungary, Janov Podlaski in Poland, the racecourse in Warsaw, Dr. Nagel's Katharinenhof.

### THE ARRIVING OF THE OBAYAN MARE SULIFAH

I then made a decision. 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. 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



**KEN MAHBUB**  
KEN ASAM x KEN BINT BINT MAHIBA



**TB YASIR**  
SALAA EL DINE x SULIFAH

instinct and fertility were impressive, and this was something she passed on to all her daughters.

Their good offspring made Sulifah and Tre Balzane very quickly known in various countries, especially in Egypt. Also in Italy we participated at ICAHO shows with her and her offspring. The stallions, on the other hand, were ridden by us.

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

### GOOD MARES NEED BETTER STALLIONS

Sulifah did not remain the only foundation mare at the stud, over the years I also acquired good fillies from other pure Egyptian bloodlines, such as the Dahman Shahwans

and the Siglawies. With the example of Sulifah I can illustrate that if you stay true to your breeding goal and have confidence in your mares, quality foals will certainly be born. You also have to have the courage to use interesting stallions that are better than the mares, at least in terms of phenotype. I have never mated stark opposites, the result is a big risk, but when I honestly thought about my mares, I thought of many aspects that should be specifically improved.

In Cairo I found a noble stallion of a fine type, a good body and a lot of charisma. IBN EL NIL RHM from Giza. His dam, Nile Allure by Ansata Halim Shah travelled in utero from Ansata Stud to Kuwait. She was in foal to Montasir. 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 and meanwhile also 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 had a difficult character and was still expensive, but somehow I managed to get him to Italy. During a later visit to the state stud El Zahraa in Cairo, I asked the



IBN EL NIL  
MONTASIR x NILE ALLURE



RAMSES  
ADNAN x ANSATA REBECCA



**TB HASNA** KEN MAHBUB x SULIFAH  
and **TB HEJAZIYA** RAMSES x TB HASNA

studbook guide how many foals Ibn El Nil had? "None so far, he seems to be sterile", was the answer.

When the stallion arrived, he looked swollen, almost waxy, he ate and ate and became thinner and thinner. After three months he was a skeleton. The vets put this down to permanent doping with testosterone. Eventually he got his act together and slowly put on weight again. His testicles, which were as big as cherries at first, normalised slightly. He could now go to the Phantom twice a week. My stud manager Elisabeth Auer even started to ride him again. Special food, training, grazing with mares, massages, the whole programme to get him fertile again. We learned a lot about infertility of Arabian stallions.

After one year Sulifah was in foal to him. TB Sabah El Nil was born, who later made her career in Cairo.

### **THE THREE DAUGHTERS OF TB HASNA**

From the bay TB Hasna I have kept TB Helwa as well as TB Hejaziya and TB Heba. They complete the mare herd of the Obayan family.

The following year TB Hasna by Ibn El Nil was in foal. TB Helwa was born. Like her sire, she is a combination of fire and gentleness. And she passes this on to her foals. Three years later Ibn El Nil could be seen as a stallion again. Unfortunately, I succumbed to the temptation to lease him again to Cairo for 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, the full brother of TB Helwa, was later imported to Cairo to continue his father's story.

TB Helwa's most famous daughter was TB Faysa. Her father was Jamil Al Rayyan. This mating was great. Fayza had everything, charm, type, gaits, she danced in hand and she won shows. It was difficult for the judges not to score her well, she did it all by herself.

I sold her at the age of three to a member of the royal family in Doha, Qatar. But she never arrived. She died halfway, whilst in quarantine.

Two years later TB Haya was born, the full sister of TB Faysa. Again the mating with Jamil Al Rayyan had worked perfectly, even though Haya is a different kind of beauty. She too was sold to the Al Thani royal family in Doha and competes successfully at shows there.

TB Hejaziya, a chestnut mare, is the daughter of Ramses (Adnan x Ansata



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



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



**TB SABAH EL NIL**  
IBN EL NIL x SULIFAH



**TB HEJAZIYA**  
RAMSES x TB HASNA



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



**TB HAYTHAM**  
NK MUDEER x TB HEJAZIYA





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

Rebecca). He came from Katharinenhof and was a friendly stallion with good offspring that we enjoyed riding. Today he is also standing in Cairo. 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 this because her mother TB Hasna gave birth to her by caesarean section. Thanks



MoSa

**TB JAIDAA**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HEBA





MoSa

**TB HADIR**  
 NASEEM AL RASHEDAH x TB HELWA

to the expert university hospital at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Perugia, mother and daughter survived, which is apparently very rare. Usually the foal suffocates from the mother's anaesthesia, I was told.



MoSa

**TB HEJAZIYA**      **TB NIZAR**  
 RAMSES x TB HASNA      NABEEL AL KHALED x TB HEJAZIYA

TB Heba is perhaps for this reason a favourite mare and she thanks us with extraordinarily beautiful foals and great gentleness. Her sire is NK Sharaf El Dine from Katharinenhof. He is one of the best sons of Salaa El Dine.





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



**TB HAYDAR**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HELWA



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



**TB JAIDAA**  
JAMIL AL RAYYAN x TB HEBA



TRE BALZANE STUD

I had bred several mares to Al Adeed Al Shaqab, TB Heba produced the best foal of this mating, the beautiful TB Alia, who later became Andrea Dello Iacono's favourite mare in Napoli.

Last year TB Jaidaa was born, a sibling to TB Fayza and TB Haya and of the same quality, because her sire is also the outstanding sire Jamil Al Rayyan (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan). Maybe she will represent the next generation at Tre Balzane Stud.

We already have the right stallion for that. Nabeel Al Khaled, He resembles Ibn El Nil in many ways. He has type, charm and nobility but he has a great character and is very fertile. His dam Ansata Nile Pearl comes from the same dam line as Nile Allure by Ibn El Nil.

Times are difficult for horse breeding. A lot of time and money goes into horse breeding before you have a good horse in your hands. Shows are now useless as a criterion for quality and selection.

P. Paraskevas rightly wrote about this: "The inner attitude, the essential original inner values such as courage, humanity and the nobility originally so deeply rooted in the Arabian, are shockingly neglected, because they can neither be measured nor shown in the show ring. And because they cannot be shown, advertised and weighed out with money, the intangible values in which the true greatness of the Arabian is rooted are largely ignored at shows today."

Many ideas abound, but in the end the horse business always dominates.

One could add to the quotation and make the statement that the show ring takes away, from most horses, the natural trust in humans that we breeders have built up with the foals from their birth through empathy, horse-friendly rearing and education.

However, should positive alternatives be created, many breeders and I would be happy to be involved again.

