



استبل الراشدية
Al Rashediah Stud



THE RASHED IN *ALRASHEDIAH* STUD

The Great Vision of Mr. Rashed Abdulrahman Al Jasmi

by Kamila Kozłowska
photos by Alessio Azzali, Gregor Aymar, Simone Bergamaschi, Glenn Jacobs, Sunny
and Al Rashediah Stud archive

There is no Arabian horse aficionado in the world that would not have heard of the famous Al Rashediah Stud. Located in the breath-taking Kingdom of Bahrain, this incredible collection of carefully selected Arabian treasures has created one of the most influential breeding programmes of our time.

After the spectacular success of Naseem Al Rashediah at the 2020 Straight Egyptian World Championship in Milan, the Arabian horse society have again turned their eyes to Al Rashediah. Only four years after becoming Gold Champion Junior Colt at the same show, the gorgeous grey six-years-old Naseem has proven to be one of the most exciting stallions in both Straight Egyptian and non-Straight Egyptian breeding world. Not only did he win the title of Unanimous Gold Champion Stallion, but he also became Unanimous Best in Show Male and the highest scoring horse of the show.

This amazing achievement would not be possible without the determination and engagement of Rashed Abdulrahman Al Jasmi, who is the proud breeder and owner of Naseem. In addition to carrying on the great legacy of his father by choosing the finest representatives of the Arabian breed for the Al Rashediah breeding programme, this young visionary decided to follow his own path by establishing a new enterprise called RJ Arabians.

When I met Rashed earlier this year in Poland, I could not help but notice his great passion and admiration for the horses. His eyes lit up every time one of the Arabian beauties entered the show ring in Janow Podlaski. In between expressing his appreciation for the horses and analysing their pedigrees, Rashed found the time to answer my questions. Not only did he tell me about his everlasting love for the horses, but he also shared with me the story of RJ Arabians, where his passion and love for the Arabian horse conquered his fears of being excluded from the Straight Egyptian breeding society.



Rashed and Mr. Abdulrahman Aljasmi father & son, 2nd Berlin Cup January 2013



Mr. Abdulrahman Aljasmi and Rashed, Milan SEWC 2017



*Unanimous Golden SEWC Stallion:
2020 Champion Stallion*



*Naseem Al Rashediah being awarded Golden Junior Champion Colt
at the SEWC 2017, Milan*



Kamila: How do you manage to run such a big enterprise as Al Rashediah Stud being such a young person?

Rashed: As Earl Nightingale once said: "All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination". I always work with pure passion which goes side by side with the depth of my love and compassion for the breed. My truest intent is to evolve the Straight Egyptian horse to the level unseen since back in the day when SE horses had high chances of winning in the shows against other purebred Arabians. In order to achieve my goal, I have been collecting these precious pearls with the most unique lineages into one breeding programme, creating the herd of the rarest foundation gems found in the world nowadays. Having all this in mind, I cannot forget that it was my father who played a vital role in pushing me towards my life purpose shortly after I turned fourteen. Thanks to his continuous support, I am now being led to a brighter and more fulfilling destination, where the best interest of the horses is my main focus. The trust and faith that my father unceasingly put in me, while raising me up, helped me to follow my instincts towards my own personal philosophy of breeding, which then saved me from making the false assumption that by mimicking another successful breeder, I can achieve the same results.

Kamila: How do you choose the people that work for you and what are the most important characteristics of your employees?

Rashed: First of all, the people I work with need to share my love and passion for the breed and act in the best interest of the horses. It is crucial that my employees are loyal, hardworking and goal-oriented team players who take pride in what they do. In my opinion, the horse industry is full of crazy horse lovers, whose passion depends on the discipline they desire to participate in, be it dressage, jumping or endurance. According to my personal observations, the Arabian horse show industry is limited to a handful of qualified and well-respected horsemen. Throughout the years, I myself had gone through working with many different handlers and employees, from horse grooms to management. These experiences have taught me that each mistake and each failure to overcome an obstacle can be a valuable lesson in life. However, the trick is not to let time slowly drift these lessons away to fade into the past. As the common saying goes: "fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me; fool me three times, shame on both of us". It is my guidance for how not to make the same mistakes while choosing my staff. Whether it is grooms, vets, managers or trainers, they all need to be honest, trustworthy and have respect for one another and for the horses. A good knowledge of the breed, experience in horsemanship, professional integrity and a common decency as human beings are also essential characteristics of the people I choose to work with. And they need to be realists, who are eager to accept a situation as it is and are prepared to deal with it accordingly. At the end of the day, I trust them to take care of what I cherish the most – my precious horses.

Throughout the years, I have had my fair share of different employees that were interesting in their own way. Nevertheless, I have never regretted choosing them as it has given me the opportunity to learn from my mistakes and move on. No one is perfect, we all have flaws and we should learn to accept one another, but some people are just not suitable to work with horses. Let me put it this way: some people should have joined a circus rather than the horse industry.

From the left to the right: Hilke De Bruycker, Rashed, Dr. Hans Nagel, Glenn Schoukens, NK Naeema. Egyptian Event Europe, Belgium Lanaken, 2013

However, I have met many great horsemen throughout my career. The story of my first manager, Mrs. Hilke De Bruycker, is quite interesting and unusual. I met her in 2011, when I was only thirteen years old and she was in between jobs, helping Philip Looyens to prepare his horses for the shows. I stumbled upon her while she was braiding my favourite horse's hair. I introduced myself and, after a brief conversation, I wanted to learn more about this petite blonde lady who was taking care of one my most beloved horses, Farid Nile Dream. This was the beginning of a long-lasting friendship. Eventually, I helped her in achieving a completely different position in her professional career. From being the employee of the Schoukens Training Centre, she progressed to a managerial role with all the duties and responsibility that come with it. Over the years, we learnt so much from each other. I was happy to be the witness of her development into a confident manager with great leadership skills. As a result of her incredible progress, she was given a great opportunity to become senior manager of the stud in Qatar. With all her hard work and commitment, I believe that she contributed greatly to their success, which makes me very proud of her. Another great horseman and devoted employee, Mr. Franck Boetto, who is my current manager, is so grateful for his position that he would never take advantage of it. His dedication and commitment are unparalleled and he is willing to work very hard for the sake of the horses and the breed. I am really impressed with how much he has learnt about breeding Straight Egyptian horses. But most importantly, our horses are doing better than ever under his thoughtful care.

Kamila: What is important to you while choosing the trainers?

Rashed: Unity and horsemanship. It means that they need to share my compassion for horses. They would never neglect or harm a horse. Throughout history, we have seen all these violations when a horse has been through a traumatic experience because of being shanked or whipped. This is totally



Tom Oben with Rashed and Franck Boetto



Giacomo Capacci, Franck Boetto, Naseem Al Rashediah and Rashed

unacceptable as it changes the characteristics of a horse. It is very important for me that all my horses are both happy and healthy. For a trainer, I will always choose a person who takes all the time needed to train the horse at its own pace without expecting it to perform well at all costs. A good trainer should always steer towards harmony while being careful not to demotivate the horse to compete in the show ring. While assessing Arabians, judges take into consideration not only conformation, but also type and charisma. The trainer needs to be confident enough to make good use of the magic fluid that flows through the veins of every Arabian horse and is determined by the genetics of its ancestors. As it is charisma and amazing movement that make Arabian horses look like flying gazelles. A well-trained horse takes so much pride from its achievements and truly knows its own beauty. It shows that the trainer has done his work by complimenting the horse rather than pushing it to its limits. Apart from teaching the horse how to stand, the trainer should steadily encourage it to show its unique natural traits like blowing or snorting. Another thing I want from a trainer is to be gentle. The last thing I want to see is horses being shanked and trained with the use of wires, as it previously happened in the USA. Actually, one of our core stallions, ZT Faa'iq, had a pretty serious incident and he ended up being covered in blood because of the nails that were used on the halter behind the ears. The question that often arises in such situations is whom to blame: the breeder or the trainer. The truth is that the breeder puts great trust in the trainer, but in the end, it is usually the breeder that gets blamed for the bad behaviour of a horse. Also, when you trust the trainer, you need to trust the entire team because everyone is involved in handling the horse. You really need to know your trainers, recognize their love and passion for horses and commitment to their wellbeing. It is also useful to



Rashed with his father Mr. Abdulrahman Aljismi

know how the stable staff are recruited. After all, the success and wellbeing of the horses depend on a combined effort of the whole team.

Kamila: Who is your greatest inspiration and from whom you have learnt the most about Arabians?

Rashed: My father is my greatest inspiration; however, it was Mr. Alaa Al Roumi who taught me most of what I know about Arabians. Firstly, he was the one that introduced me to all the original Arabian horse breeders who shared all their breeding



Beside Mr. Al Jasmi is his loved filly Salma al Rashediah and standing on the left is Ms. Eileen Verdick and beside her Mr. Alaa Al Roumi, Al Rayah Stud, Kuwait. 2019 Egyptian Event Europe, Frankfurt

philosophies with me. They respected one another's breeding vision, learning from and cheering for one another. Secondly, he was the first person who took me seriously at the age of thirteen and even bought some horses from me at that time. He highly appreciated my breeding programme and recommend my foal crops to many breeders with complete conviction. And he surely would never mislead them. He was the only one that used to have long serious in-depth conversations with me about the horses. It created a sense of acceptance and let me believe that I was not treated like yet another child in this world ruled by the grown-ups. I was given the benefit of the doubt while I shared my observations with him. What is more, he introduced me to some of the most renowned European breeders. Thanks to him, I met Dr Hans



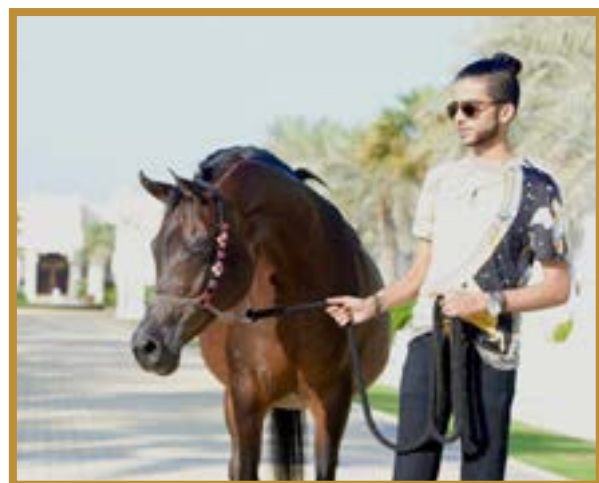
Ms. Eileen Verdieck beside Rashed with the newest addition to his program
Ansata Royal Qasim, Arizona February 2020



Dr. Hans Nagel with Judy Forbis

Nagel from Germany, whose great knowledge and experience helped me to appreciate the importance of strains and dam lines. Another person that I think very highly of is Mrs. Judy Forbis who, among other things, taught me to stay focussed on my breeding program. She also emphasized the importance of using strong foundation mares as the key to becoming a successful breeder. When she started establishing her own breeding programme, she was lucky to have Ansata Bint Bukra, Ansata Bint Zaafarana and Ansata Bint Mabrouka as her foundation broodmares. I am truly honoured to know her in person. From all the people that have influenced me

in one way or another, Ms. Eileen Verdieck is surely one of my dearest friends. Not only did she share her knowledge about how to mix different bloodlines to achieve great results, but she also told me the amazing story of Imperial Arabians. It was really interesting to look at the history of the industry from her perspective, as she experienced various economic changes that heavily influenced the market when she worked for both Imperial Arabians and Al Shaqab Stud. But, above all, she is very dear to my heart and I have a lot of respect and admiration for her. My true love for her is unmeasurable and is well described by what we like to say to each other: "Love you to the hell and back". Although she is a very busy person, she has always been there for me. We have been friends for the last ten years and we talk with each other almost every day. She has always believed in my breeding programme and now I am lucky to have her in my team. For over a year, she has been the director of our stud. Finally, someone I cannot forget to mention: Mrs. Christine Jamar, who has not only been my dear friend, but also took me under her wing and became like a mentor to me when I was only fourteen years old. At that time, I decided to head over to Belgium to take part in a very short and intense course about judging Arabians run by



her and Mrs. Toto Modderman. Even after the course came to an end, she kept sharing her wisdom with me. She showed me the ropes of the Arabian horse industry and introduced me to the variety of breeding programmes around the world. I was lucky to spend some time at her place, where we had many conversations about judging Arabians in an ethical manner. Unfortunately, there are judges that

exhibit unethical behaviour such as favouritism and bribery. At the other extreme, a biased judge may intentionally underestimate the true value of a horse, simply because they are not fond of the breeder or the owner. Such unprincipled judges bring shame upon their profession, which a woman of great integrity like her, clearly despises. She always reminded me to stay focused on the horse when judging and to ignore all the internal and external voices that may result in an unfair or biased score. Apart from her judging techniques, she also taught me the anatomy of an Arabian and how various flaws can be adjusted and fixed through a carefully designed breeding program.

Kamila: *Please share your breeding vision with our readers.*

Rashed: *Personally, I have never met a breeder that would share their breeding philosophy without justifying it with certain aspects that you cannot avoid, especially in the world of Straight Egyptian horses: their pedigrees, families, dam lines and strains, to name just a few. Every breeder has their own dance routine that identifies where they have been, how they arrived at where they are now and in which direction they are going. Breeding SE horses is similar to a symphony, where every note played on each instrument must be perfect, otherwise, the entire orchestra falls into demise. It is very much a creative endeavour, full of harmony, where beauty is the main goal. I believe that a true breeder should criticize their own horses more than anyone else. Also, it is vital to know where your breeding program is heading towards and what steps you must take to not only arrive at your destination but also to know where to go from there. To me, breeding SE horses is about the journey and not about the final destination. As with any success in life, you cannot rest on your laurels, as soon you will be left behind. It happens to many SE breeders who follow the same path, using just a few selected bloodlines and focusing on particular traits rather than perceiving the horse as a whole.*

Kamila: *In your opinion, what are the most important characteristics of a good broodmare?*

Rashed: *I always look for an overall quality of the mare as it is extremely difficult to breed exceptional*

offspring without it. Obviously, type is very important, but should never be a decisive factor, especially at the expense of the overall conformation. I believe that currently, many breeders take into consideration only the head and the charisma of a horse, which, in my opinion, is relatively easy to breed. It is much harder to improve the structure of a horse, its shoulders, legs, balance and pigment. All these qualities are hard to find and, at the same time, are essential to produce a horse that is not all about a pretty head or flashy movement but is complete and correct. I thoroughly evaluate every horse, looking at their strengths and weaknesses first. The next step is analysing their pedigrees to establish the origin of any desirable conformation traits as well as their





individual genetic prepotency. I always look for rare and unique pedigrees, ideally outcrosses, as they work well with the bloodlines that are currently available around the world. Additionally, these pedigrees need to match well with the bloodlines of the stallions that are available for me to use.



Kamila: Is there a 'must have' list of qualities that a breeding stallion needs to have?

Rashed: In addition to the diversity in bloodlines, type and confirmation are always on the top of my list of most desirable qualities in any horse. I believe that, for a medium size broodmare band, at least three different stallions with different strengths are needed to continuously improve one's breeding programme. Personally, I have always been a great believer in selecting the stallion specifically for the mare you want to breed. I strongly believe that breeding pieces of perfection should be based on what needs to be corrected or enhanced in both the mare and the stallion. To me, selecting the best or most popular stallion and breeding it to your best mare

will never work without a thorough evaluation of their individual characteristics. Many breeders are tempted to use the most fashionable stallion without thinking of which qualities of their mare need to be fixed or enhanced, which rarely brings great results.

Kamila: Do personality and disposition of a horse matter to you and are Arabian horses different from other breeds in this respect?

Rashed: Obviously, there are differences between handling Arabians and other breeds. And of course, personality and disposition do matter to me, as I have been the witness to some dramatic incidents on a number of occasions. Some bloodlines, be it Straight Egyptian or other strains, are known for passing on bad disposition. It is definitely an attribute that a breeder should pay attention to. Unfortunately, it is commonly ignored. On the other hand, bad behaviour often results from the horse being repeatedly abused and illtreated. ZT Faa'iq, who was unfairly given the nickname "Monster", may serve as a good example. Perceived as a maneater, he simply exhibited the fight-or-flight attitude, a natural behaviour of a mistreated and harmed animal. Luckily, today he is one of the sweetest horses on our farm, where he has never shown any signs of aggression or inclination to harm anyone.

Kamila: Your breeding program is predominantly focused on Straight Egyptian bloodlines. What is your opinion on other types of purebred Arabians?

Rashed: Personally, I am devoted to the Straight Egyptian horse. However, I must admit that I have also dived in the dark arts with a few non-SE Arabians, representing various bloodlines and lineages. Telling people to use my stallion on a non-





Ms. Kimberly Jarvis and Rashed. Menton show, 2017

SE mare would verge on hypocrisy, so I have acquired a few non-Egyptian broodmares that carry on the legacy of Ali Jamaal, El Shaklan, Bey Shah, Padron Psyche and Bask. I decided to take a risk of being shunned by the SE community because of my desire to mix both worlds. It was seen by some as me having betrayed the breed. The truth is that I simply could not resist trying after I saw an amazing chestnut colt of mixed origin at Frank Sponle's training centre. Due to the conservatism of SE community that was against mixing SE horses with other bloodlines, I had to keep the non-SE breeding programme to myself. Besides, I did not want my love for the non-SE horses to become the cause of conflict between myself and those breeders who devoted their lives to enhancing the standard of Straight Egyptian Arabians. At the



Rashed at Pride of Poland auction 2020

2009 World Championships in Paris, I met Ms. Kimberly Jarvis who, from then on, has become as close as family. Her daughter Brooke is like a sister to me. No wonder I have great trust in that she will always give me the best possible advice and support. In the end, she was the one who introduced me to a very interesting and impressive group of mares that later on became the foundation of what is now known as RJ Arabians, the enterprise that was once a heavily guarded secret.

Kamila: Does your presence in Janów Podlaski mean that you are also interested in some Polish bloodlines? What is so special about Polish horses then?

Rashed: My first spark of passion towards the pure Polish Arabian horses began in the welcoming barns of Mrs. Christine Jamar. I could not help but notice her great passion and admiration for the Polish Arabians that go side by side with an incomparable



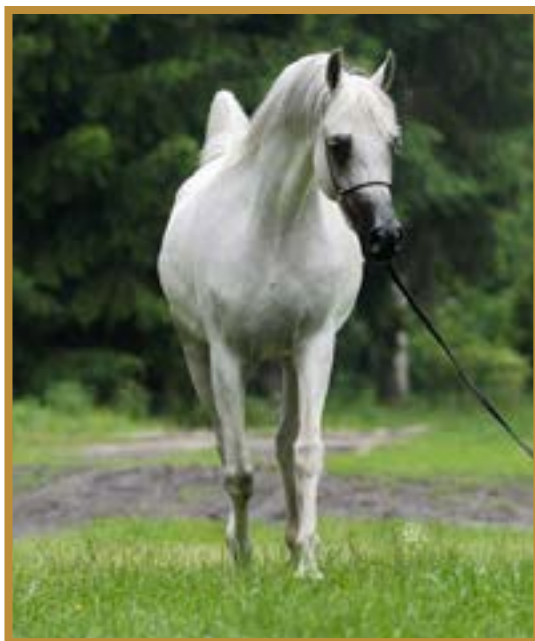
Me and Rashed's first long conversation together while enjoying the Polish horses



knowledge of the Polish bloodlines. She strongly believes that Polish horses have great potential to be the basis of any breeding program. And I trust her judgement.

Kamila: *Is this your first visit to Janow Podlaski? How do you like it here?*

Rashed: *Yes, this is my first time and I really like it here. Even though some restrictions had to be imposed because of the pandemic, it was a very well organised show. I love the world-famous stables and*



Pollina (OM El Bellissimo x Pepina)

barns of Janow Podlaski and I had a remarkable time observing the Polish horses in their natural environment. I find it fascinating how the Polish bloodlines are perceived through the prism of various disciplines, be it showing or racing. It is almost as if some lines were genetically predisposed to do one or the other.

Kamila: *If you could name one horse that took your breath away when you saw it for the first time, which one would that be?*

Rashed: *Throughout the years, various horses have done so, but*

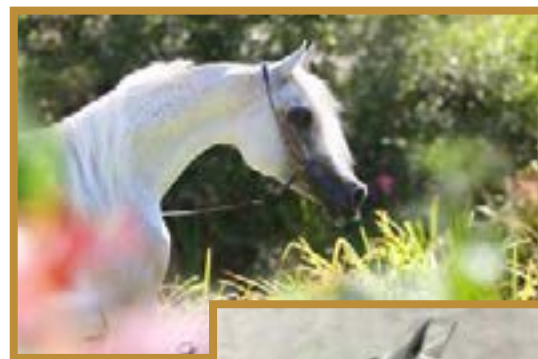


Mirwanah Kalliste (Marwan Al Shaqab x Nakubaya Kossack)

there are three individuals that highly affected me as well as my breeding vision: Mirwanah Kalliste, Marwan Al Shaqab and Pianissima. Not only did they take my breath away, but they also made me shift towards learning more and more about non-SE Arabians. My admiration for these amazing horses awakened my curiosity.

Kamila: *Can you name a historical Arabian that you would like to use in your breeding programme if that was still possible?*

Rashed: *Without a doubt, Ansata Sinan, Imperial Madheen and PVA Karim would be my top three.*



Kamila: *In your opinion, how the Arabian horse industry will change due to Covid-19?*

Rashed: *There has been a lot of uncertainty in the world, but one thing I know for sure: the Arabian horse breeders will never lose their love and passion for the breed. But obviously, it is shocking how things can change overnight and how planning for the future can become impossible. A global crisis like this will surely influence the whole industry. Therefore, I strongly believe that a comprehensive strategy for the future of the Arabian horse is now our highest priority. The principles that help to fight against the world-wide*

pandemic should be an inspiration for our Arabian horse society to create a balanced future for the Arabian horse breeding and showing. Firstly, the best interest of the horse should be placed above all other considerations. Secondly, the principles of honesty and ethicality should become an integral part of breeding, advertising, judging and show organisation. But most of all, the whole industry should strengthen the cooperation and synergy among all countries by searching for the methods that could create an optimal and stable balance until the situation in the world comes back to some sort of normality.

Inspired by so many great horse people that he was lucky to meet throughout his life, Rashed has developed his own unique approach to breeding without the slightest intention to imitate anyone. Despite his young age, a clear breeding vision in his mind and the determination to make his own choices will undoubtedly lead to remarkable results in continuing the great heritage of Al Rashediah as well as developing the innovative breeding programme of RJ Arabians. Looking at his own mistakes as valuable lessons in life, Rashed has become a great judge of characters, carefully choosing the people who help him to take care of his most precious treasure – the exceptional noble creatures that are blessed to call Al Rashediah their home. Since Rashed was a 13-year-old boy, he has impressed and earned the respect of so many Arabian horse experts with his thorough knowledge of SE pedigrees and bloodlines. I managed to talk with some of them and ask about their personal experiences of working with Rashed. This is what they told me:



Judith Forbis:

“I will never forget the first time I met Rashed. He was a pre-teen rather chubby young boy and, He was visiting Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar with his father who was in the process of developing an Egyptian Arabian breeding

program. Rashed was already an enthusiastic admirer of Arabian horses at this young age. When we began to talk, I could hardly believe my ears. This kid was reciting Egyptian Arabian horse pedigrees better than even I could remember them now. I laughed to myself remembering when I was studying Egyptian bloodlines I had recited the pedigrees of each horse to Dr. Marsafi – then director of El Zahraa Stud of the Egyptian Agricultural Organization – as we walked through the farm looking at horses. Marsafi gazed at me rather puzzled that I had memorized them so well! That was back in the early 1960’s just after we had purchased Ansata Ibn Halima, Ansata Bint

Mabrouka and Ansata Bint Zaafarana. So here I was – several decades later – confronted by a young pedigree genius. I couldn’t help thinking it will be interesting to see if his excitement carries forward when he grows up.

Fast forward to some years later when I was attending a presentation of horses at the Al Jasmi’s now well-established Al Rashediah Stud farm in Bahrain. As usual, tea was served and introductions of the various guests took place. Imagine my surprise when a handsome tall and very slender young man, fashionably dressed, came up and introduced himself. Indeed it was Rashed – still as enthusiastic about Egyptian Arabian horses as ever. Of course I was very pleased to see a heavy influence of Ansata bloodlines in the Al Rashediah program and to know these Egyptian horses were being bred by a family who believes in the historical and genetic value of this “breed within the breed.”

This is a picture of Rashed and me taken in Germany at an Egyptian Event Europe a few years ago. Time marches on and I always look forward to seeing him and following the progress of the farm’s thoughtfully planned breeding program.”



Dr Hans Nagel:

"I am following with great interest the development and the prosperity of Al Rashediah Stud, and I am very happy to see their breeding success. Mr. Al

Jasmi and his son Rashed are known to me as great admirers of the Arabian horse which I could experience when they came to my farm to choose some foals which they considered to be foundation for the future. Their choice has proved a good knowledge and fine taste for Arabian horses. I have seen the development of their impressive stud and its surroundings which are a perfect place for their beautiful horses. I have always felt that working with Arabian horses brings both of them, father and son, much pleasure and satisfaction."



Franck Boetto:

"Rashed is one of the most intelligent people I have ever met in my life. He acts as if he had ten brains in his head, which

sometimes makes it difficult for others to follow him. His knowledge of Arabian horses and their pedigrees is truly impressive. He has great passion for the horses and is always involved in all that is happening on the farm. Sometimes he makes me crazy, but he is the nicest and kindest person I have met in my life and I am very proud and happy to work with him."



Alaa Al Roumi:

"I met Rashed through his father. However, my relationship with him is quite special due to sharing a similar hobby. I saw a spark in his eyes every single time we spoke about any subject matter related to horses. This

started when he was about 9 years old, which to me was astonishing, for such a young boy to be devoted to attend horse shows and to know the names and breeds of horses by heart. For a boy at that age to have so

much knowledge about Arabian horses was incredible, we called him the Encyclopaedia of Arabian Horses. I saw Rashed growing throughout the years to develop his own thought and perception of horses, where his perspective became of such a great value. He incorporated this knowledge into the breeding program of Al Rashediah Stud, where he managed to breed some of the world's greatest Arabian horses. His young age, experience and dedication is truly an inspiration."



Eileen Verdieck:

"When I first met Rashed about 10 years, he was just 14 years old and I was so impressed that this young man knew so much about the pedigrees and how the horse industry worked. He was very passionate as well as creative in his thinking process. I think one of things I like the most about him, as well as his father, is that they are willing to look to the future rather than just the immediate result of breeding. I think it is so crucial right now in the SE bloodlines, as there is so much diversity in the pedigrees that to continue blossoming and moving things forward, you need to make sure there is some outcrossed blood introduced. Rashed and his father share this vision and have asked me to help them achieve it, so I am looking forward to the future with them as they are doing some remarkable things and they are a wonderful team."



Christine Jamar:

"I first met Rashed when he was a 14-year-old boy. On his father's request, he came to my place for a three-day course, where me and another judge, Toto Modderman from the Netherlands, taught him about the anatomy of the horse and other breeding related matters. With



two teachers and just one student, the course was very intense, but Rashed surprised us both with how fast he learnt, how intelligent his questions were and how well he did on the final exam. He is very clever but pleasant and kind at the same time. And we always laugh at how I kept feeding him with salmon and asparagus, as there was no halal food so widely available in Belgium at that time. I am impressed with how his breeding programme improved over the years and I wish him all the best for the future.”



Kimberly Jarvis:

“I had the pleasure of meeting Rashed as a young boy and I was enamoured with his knowledge and outlook of the Arabian breed. It has been my sincere honour to become close with Rashed and watch him grow

and flourish into a man, breeder and Arabian horse ambassador. He knows his horses as well as how to precariously breed his herd in a way that Arabian type and beauty is preserved and prevails.”

Mohsen El Gabry:

“Rashed came to me as a young boy, passionate and excited about Straight Egyptians. In 2009, he saw Sherifa Elgabry and he fell in love with her. Sherifa was so precious to me that I would have kept her for myself to breed, but when I saw the love and appreciation in Rashed’s eyes, I made an exception for a young breeder who I knew will grow up to be one of the most important



breeders in the world. When I decided to sell my well-known stallion Jamil Al Rayyan, I wanted my boy to be at Al Rashediah. I knew that Rashed admired this important stallion and that he would use him carefully. When I visited the stud in Bahrain, I fell in love with the place and the people, who are now my dear friends. It has been a great pleasure to know them and I am so proud of what they have achieved in the world of Arabian horses.”

Glenn Jacobs:

“I have known Rashed for some years now. He is very passionate and knowledgeable about the Arabian horse. He is dedicated and has perfect understanding of what he wants. All this reflects in his world-class breeding programme at Al Rashediah



Stud, which in turn enhances the future of the Arabian breed in general.

I have bred my own mares to his stallions Naseem Al Rashediah and Jamil Al Rayyan with great result. I like to end with wishing Rashed and Al Rashediah lots of continued success and great foals in the years to come.”

Hilke De Bruycker:

“I met Rashed for the first time at the Egyptian Event Europe in 2011, when he was still a little boy. That weekend he helped me in the stables (feeding, brushing horses and even mucking out). He talked about his dreams and ambitions. He knew every pedigree of any Straight Egyptian horse generations back. It was really impressive for a 13-14-year-old boy. At that moment, I was in-between jobs and was going to start later that year at Athbah Stud in Saudi Arabia. We exchanged numbers and, from that day on, our friendship started. After Athbah Stud, I was given the opportunity to manage his young stud, housing some of the most influential lines of the modern Straight Egyptian programme. Our friendship grew only stronger and he became like a



brother to me. The years I worked there were a learning experience for both of us and we grew and accomplished so much together. Since I met Rashed in 2011, he has always been the same passionate and eager boy, chasing his dreams and making them come true. Today, Al Rashediah Stud is an established name in the Straight Egyptian breeding programme. It is all because of this little boy with big dreams. May the odds be ever in your favour, Rashed!”



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