

El Hilal

A GREAT ARABIAN SIRE

by Joe Ferriss

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El Hilal, a great Arabian sire in his prime,
1966 grey stallion (Ansata Ibn Halima x Bint Nefisaa). Jeff Little photo

In the 1960s the beloved Nazeer son Ansata Ibn Halima was winning hearts all over America for his classic looks, versatility under saddle and joyful attitude towards people as well as being dominant for these qualities. Don and Judi Forbis were spending a great deal of their time traveling in the Middle East and other parts of the globe so did not have a lot of time to show Ansata Ibn Halima. However, their friends the Marshalls of famed Gleannloch Farms were in a good position to lease and show him. It seemed like the right thing to do and it was. In the talented hands of Gleannloch's trainers Tom and Khita McNair, Ansata Ibn Halima went on to have a very successful show career that gave him greater public exposure. But the added benefit was that Ansata Ibn Halima had the opportunity to be bred to the select Egyptian mares from Gleannloch's vast band of imported lovelies. Given Ansata Ibn Halima's proven ability to sire consistently good quality and Arabian type, any of Gleannloch's mares would be ideal for him. One seemed to stand out as an ideal choice in pedigree and in characteristics. That mare was Bint Nefisaa (Nazeer x Nefisa), one of Gleannloch's first imported Nazeer daughters.



Ansata Ibn Halima 1958 grey stallion (Nazeer x Halima), One of the two most influential Nazeer sons of all time, admired by many. Johnny Johnston photo

And so it was done. In 1966 Bint Nefisaa produced a handsome little colt named El Hilal by Ansata Ibn Halima. This cross was impressive and encouraged repeating later producing the full sisters, Negimaa and Nourah. Even Ansata Ibn Halima's sons Mohssen (x Bint Mona) and Dakmar (x Gamilaa) were bred to Bint Nefisaa several times so it was clear that this combination of Ansata Ibn Halima blood with Bint Nefisaa was a great cross. Interestingly a similar type of breeding was playing out at the famed Weil-Marbach stud in Germany. Ansata Ibn Halima's three-quarter brother



Bint Nefisaa 1959 grey mare (Nazeer x Nefisa). From Nefisa she was a source of lovely large dark eyes. Photo at Gleannloch by Judi Forbis.



El Hilal as a foal
at Gleannloch.
Judi Forbis photo

Hadban Enzahi, was being bred to Bint Nefisaa's full sister Nadja, five times producing such notables as the mares: Nayla, Nabya, Noha and Nedjari. Clearly, these ingredients were magical as illustrated by the beautiful mare RN Farida (Salaal El Dine x Noha).

Yet for the little colt El Hilal there was no need at Gleannloch. Instead the future was bright for their shining star Morafic and his sons. El Hilal was sold as a weanling to famed performance breeder Sheila Varian. This was quite a

diversion for her program concentrating mostly on Crabbet/Polish horses. True to some close descendants of the great Egyptian race winner Balance, El Hilal was a slow maturing horse. Nonetheless, as a two year old Sheila Varian bred him to two mares, one resulting foal which became The War Lord++ (x Nouz-Ha-Toul) who was a successful show horse winning his Legion of Merit distinction. However it did not take long for El Hilal to attract the attention of Robert Thorndike in the Northwest U.S., who had previously purchased the handsome



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The Egyptian Prince from Gleannoch. After only producing two foals for Sheila Varian, El Hilal was whisked off to Washington State where he would join The Egyptian Prince.

Like The Egyptian Prince, El Hilal soon proved to be a popular sire of show winners in the region, siring hundreds of foals, many becoming champions. After only about three-dozen foals in his first three seasons at stud, the quality of El Hilal get from a wide range of different mares was proving him a phenomenal sire. El Hilal was to attract the attention of an up and coming show trainer, Ron Palelek. Having already had great success with the imported Polish stallion, Meczet, a brilliant moving son of Comet, Ron had built a reputation for success both in performance and halter. Ron soon realized the potential in El Hilal and in concert with the owners of Meczet, El Hilal became the new stallion at Ron Palelek's facility. In time El Hilal blossomed into a balanced, handsome and charismatic horse and in Ron's capable hands El Hilal went on to win many championships as well as U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten honors.

Because Ron Palelek focused on quality

horses regardless of bloodline, a prepotent sire was very important, and El Hilal proved this beyond a doubt. He was consistently turning out quality horses of beauty, balance, good movement and excellent trainability, much like his famous sire and dam were already noted for. El Hilal was on the small side but bred to a variety of larger mares of all types, he consistently stamped improved hips and loins, beautifully arched necks, good conformation and lots of Arabian type and style. His get were not only impressive but a joy to train and show. El Hilal attracted a lot of breedings from all over which was to elevate El Hilal to the title of the leading straight Egyptian sire of champions. Just one example of the highly desirable type of horse he was consistently producing from American bred mares is the impressive Canadian National Reserve Champion mare Ebony Moon (x Esperanzo Mara), winning her title at the age of three. There were many like her in a variety of colors, beautifully proportioned, of excellent quality and great show horses no matter who the dam. These El Hilal daughters also proved to be great broodmares and continued his influence for generations. One excellent example of this is U.S. National Champion mare



El Hilal begins his show career. He would become a U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten stallion. Johnny Johnston photo

BLOODLINE

Ebony Moon 1974 bay mare (El Hilal x Esperanza Mara) A classic example of the show winning get of El Hilal. She won Canadian National Reserve Champion Mare as a three year old.
Johnny Johnston photo



WH Justice, "the champion maker" 1999 grey stallion (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea). He traces to El Hilal on his dam's side. Gregor Aymar photo.



RDM Maar Hala 1973 grey mare (El Hilal x Maar Jumana).
An all time leading straight Egyptian dam of champions (and grand dam too).
She had those lovely big dark eyes so often coming from El Hilal. Todd Dearth photo



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BLOODLINE

Simeon Shai 1984 bay stallion (Raadin Royal Star x Simeon Safanad) He won all the titles, Scottsdale, U.S. and Canadian National Champion and Paris World Champion. He traces to RDM Maar Hala's son ET Crown Prince. Gigi Grasso photo



VP Kahlua+, sired by Jora Honey Ku and out of Khalette, sired by El Hilal. I will never forget seeing her win the U.S. National Title. She was the most beautiful chestnut in the ring, with the supreme, femininity, grace and style of the ideal Arabian mare. She stood out and it was no surprise to me that she would become the National Champion mare.

Some of the best of American bloodlines were represented in the quality of mares that El Hilal attracted, and his success would later make its way into the pedigrees of numerous international

champions. Just a few of these many multi-cultural El Hilal descendants include: champion maker WH Justice, Pershahn El Jamaal, Savio, MA Shadow El Sher (2 crosses to El Hilal) and Egyptian Event Supreme Champion mare ZT Shakjamara. With 639 get in his lifetime, El Hilal now is found as an ancestor in literally thousands of champions worldwide. He was truly an excellent sire confirmed by his being among the top all time leading sires in the breed.

Straight Egyptian mares were rare in the Northwest at the time El Hilal arrived in Washington State. It was not until El Hilal was seven years old that he sired his first straight Egyptians. But what a great start that would prove to be. Among El Hilal's first straight Egyptian daughters was RDM Maar Hala (x Maar Jumana). She would become the all time leading straight Egyptian dam of champions with an incredible production record, giving El Hilal a lasting influence within straight Egyptian lines.

Her produce included numerous celebrated stallions now influential worldwide. Her first son, ET Crown Prince (x The Egyptian Prince) himself a multiple champion, was a consistent sire of champions in Class A shows and



Prince Ibn Shaikh 1981 grey stallion (Shaikh Al Badi x RDM Maar Hala by El Hilal). U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten stallion and sire of champions. Polly Knoll photo



El Halimaar 1980 grey stallion (Ansata Ibn Halima x RDM Maar Hala by El Hilal)
U.S. National Top Ten Futurity stallion and international sire of champions.
Javan Schaller photo



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Halilulya MH 1995 grey stallion (El Halimaar x RDM Maar Hala). A beautiful stallion, the product of breeding El Halimaar to his dam. Jeff Little photo

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Moon Mistique 1982 grey mare (El Hilal x Nafairtiti). Class A champion mare and dam of champions. Rob Hess photo



Moon Danseur 1985 bay mare (El Hilal x Nafairtiti). Champion mare and grand dam of Abraxas Halimaar. Jeff Little photo



Abraxas Halimaar 1990 grey stallion (El Halimaar x SF Moon Maiden, out Kachina Moon). A double El Hilal bred champion. He was U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten, Egyptian Event Supreme Champion stallion and a regional dressage champion. Susan McAdoo photo



HS Hero 1998 grey stallion (Simeon Sadik x Helwa Lancer by El Hilal). Imported to the U.S. from the U.K. in 2002. A sire of champions for Abraxas Arabians. Jeff Little photo

at the U.S. Egyptian Event. His son Ra'adin Royal Star, out of the Tuhotmos daughter Om Khamsa, was exported to Australia where his fame would become everlasting via his world famous son Simeon Shai, U.S., Canadian and Paris World Champion. RDM Maar Hala's next two sons were both sired by Ansata Ibn Halima producing the bay stallion Halim El Mansour and the grey El Halimaar, between them siring nearly 200 foals.

El Halimaar became the more famous of the two brothers, winning not only a U.S. National Top Ten title but his high quality get were in demand everywhere as he became sire of international champions. Among his popular get were the stallions Richter MH, a U.S. and Canadian Top Ten, and international Senior Champion; Abraxas Halimaar (with 2 crosses to El Hilal), a U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten, and U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion stallion. El Halimaar also sired MB Mayal (x Imperial Maysama) exported to Australia and now in Saudi Arabia. El Halimaar's beautiful daughter Maar Bilahh (x Bint Nabilahh) won a U.S. Top Ten, as well as Israeli National Champion Mare, Middle Eastern Champion Mare and produced the excellent sire Imperial Mahzeer who sired the unforgettable Middle Eastern Champion Bint Saida Al Nasser.

Another renowned RDM Maar Hala son was Prince Ibn Shaikh (x Shaikh Al Badi) a U.S. and Canadian Top Ten as

well as sire of many champions. RDM Maar Hala's daughter Maartrabbi (x Al Metrabbi) was exported to the U.K. producing HS Marguerita (x Simeon Sadik). RDM Maar Hala's final foal is the magnificent stallion Haliluyah MH sired by El Halimaar thus being the product of son bred to his dam. I saw this beautiful stallion two years ago and he confirmed the supreme merit of RDM Maar Hala as a champion producer, and one of El Hilal's finest daughters.

Within straight Egyptian breeding, another great cross for El Hilal was to the mare Nafairtiti (Morafic x Bint Maisa El Saghira) the full sister to Shaikh Al Badi. This cross gave such magnificent mares as Moon Mystique, a multi-champion mare and grand dam of Imdals Jade who produced Egyptian Event Reserve Supreme Champion mare Jade Lotus SMF; Moon Danseur, dam of champion Shiaynne by Simeon Shai (2 crosses to El Hilal); Naderah a champion mare exported to Brazil; and Kachina Moon, whose daughter SF Moon Maiden produced multi-champion sire Abraxas Moonstruck (x ET Crown Prince) and the legendary Abraxas Halimaar previously mentioned.

The straight Egyptian El Hilal daughter Royal Egyptian (x Niema) is dam of two successful racehorses, Wazirs Tut Too and Royal Menpheta. Royal Egyptian's full sister Bint Niema produced Niema Nile (x Shaikh Al Badi) whose handsome black son HU Sheikh Imaan is quickly becoming a very popular sire of black



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Arabians.

El Hilal's straight Egyptian daughter Helwa Lancer (x Nahidd) was exported to the UK where she produced the stallion HIS Hero (x Simeon Sadik) for Halsdon Stud and this stallion then returned to America where he stands at Abraxas Arabians, a farm with great success using El Hilal blood in their straight Egyptian breeding program, and also famed for their senior sire ET Crown Prince previously mentioned.

El Hilal's straight Egyptian daughter Hi-Fashion Hitesa was another excellent producer. Her son Hi-Fashion Mreekh (x Ibn El Mareekh) made his mark through his son The Elixir (x Jaliya) Egyptian Event Reserve Supreme Champion and sire of many champions. Hi-Fashion Hitesa became a broodmare for Silver Maple Farm, another breeder of champions and owner of Simeon Shai, thus multiplying the crosses to El Hilal.

El Hilal was also bred to his full sister Nourah producing the beautiful bay mare Sidra, U.S. National Top Ten as well as Egyptian Event Champion World Class mare.

Perhaps El Hilal's most successful straight Egyptian son and the most heavily used is Imperial Al Kamar, (x ImperialSonbesjul) from the female line of U.S. National Champion Serenity Sonbolah. Imperial Al Kamar proved to be an excellent sire passing along the smooth balanced qualities of El Hilal's

influence along with charisma, style and a great attitude for showing. This made his get much in demand internationally. Sons of Imperial Al Kamar went to countries such as Belgium, England, Chile, Australia, Israel, Morocco, Egypt, Qatar and the Emirates. Among his most memorable champions are the very charismatic Imperial Kamilll U.K. Senior Champion and Paris World Top Ten, and the unforgettable mare Kamasayyah (x Sundar Alisayyah) a champion filly throughout the Middle East as well as Jordanian International and Qatari National Champion Mare. Imperial Al Kamar's beautiful daughter Imperial Kalatifa (x AK Latifa) was not only an Israeli Reserve National Champion filly but also dam of the exquisite World Champion mare Loubna (x Imperial Imdal).

And the list goes on and on. El Hilal has clearly proven himself a superior and consistent sire for many qualities that we desire in good Arabians and as a result is a real treasure in Arabian pedigrees of today. The once small and slow maturing colt who eventually blossomed into a champion and, more importantly, a sire of many Arabians of championship quality whether shown or not, has proven that good things are well worth waiting for. □



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HiFashion Hitesa 1983 bay mare (El Hilal x Yasamin) grand dam of Egyptian Event Supreme Champion stallion The Elixir.
Polly Knoll photo



Imperial Al Kamar 1987 grey stallion (El Hilal x Imperial Sonbesjul) the most heavily used straight Egyptian son of El Hilal and a sire of international champions.
Javan Schaller photo.

