

The Pure Arabian PRINCE

His Highness Prince Khaled Ibn Abdullah bn Abdel Aziz honored us with his presence in this year's 10th Egyptian National Championship & the 6th International Championship for Arabian Horses in Al-Zahraa stud farm. Interviewing Prince Khaled was like "sailing into the lands of wisdom and experience"; his love and passion for Arabian Horses and the fact that he lives where all Arabian horses originated "Saudi Arabia", were combined together to bring us a deep insight of the Arabian horse. We thank prince Khaled for his time and for the most valuable information.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when the word Arabian horse is mentioned?

The origins of it, with this I mean Saudi Arabia, the place where Prophet Mohamed was, Al Gazira Al Arabia.

What's the difference between an Arabian horse and any other breed?

In my opinion, I think all other types of horses came from Arabian horses. It is just a mixture between the far bred horses and an Arabian Stallion.

We heard that the Israeli and Americans through genetic engineering are sort of competing with the Arabian countries and the Arab world in breeding horses. How far is that true?

I never heard of that, but definitely America, Europe, and other countries have excellent Arabian horses. And unfortunately they have been taking more and better care of it than the Arabian countries for the past 30 or 40 years. But now, I think in the past ten years, Saudi Arabia concentrated more and I believe in the next ten or twenty years we will gain back the beauty in the Saudi Arabian breed.

Does this mean that they sort of passed us in breeding, I mean are their breeds better?

They did, not only in the past 40 years, more than that. They have been concentrating on it and valuing it, while we were totally ignoring it, except in few Arabian countries. One of the countries that tried to hold the quality of what we call "the Egyptian blood" is Egypt, because the Egyptian line is now one of the best breeds.



Regarding this issue, why is the differentiation? You said in the beginning that Arabian horses originated from Saudi Arabia and we are all Arab countries, why is there today differentiation between the Egyptian breed and the Arabian breed?

They are all Arabian horses but each one has different characteristics as Arab. And it doesn't mean that one is better than the other one, it is just that each one has a different type of beauty, and a different type of strength.

What do you think of cross breeding?

We only breed from the same family of horses, we have a pure Saudi breed, we don't compete with it in beauty contests, we only compete with it in races. They are not the most beautiful horses, but we are proud of it because it is a pure Saudi and we try to protect it. I am with cross breeding so long as it is an Arabian horse, not with other kinds of horses because the Arabian horses have to be pure.

What are the determinants of the value of the Arabian horse? What makes one horse very expensive and the other not?

Normally we see the blood line, the sire, and the mare, also the beauty of the horse. Some kinds of horses are only for racing; like the French I believe have the best Arabian racing horses.

How long have you been in the breeding horses industry?

Breeding horses! You better say "how long I have been in love with horses?" I started riding horses when I was only six years old, but I don't ride them now ■



His Highness Prince Khaled with Khaled bn Laden during the 6th international championship for Arabian Horses..



His Highness Prince Khaled and Her Highness Princess Alia bnt Al-Hussein and his winning horse during the 6th international championship for Arabian Horses.