

THE HORSE IN ARABIC LITERATURE

By HK Stables

The Arabic poetry always mentioned horses and riding throughout Arabic history. In addition to the marvelous examples of ancient Arabic poetry we mentioned earlier, the tradition continued until the present day.

One of the better-known Arabic poets of recent days is Saudi Arabia's Prince Khaled Al Faisal. Regardless of being the Son of a King (Faisal Al-Saud), he is a clear example of the traditional Bedouin poet, and uses language that can easily be attributed to nomadic Bedouins roaming the desert hundreds of years ago. He is also a keen horseperson who enjoys raising Purebred Arabians of the finest quality, and being a royal in a rich country sure helps. Prince Khaled wrote a poem in native Saudi Bedouin slang, which is hard for even most Arabic-speaking people to understand, describing one of his mares. In this poem he is focused on the pure beauty and grace of the Arabian and describes how the sight of his mare makes him feel with very passionate and beautiful terms. Being able to do so using such a difficult language and terms adds to the beauty of the poem. We give you a translation of this poem that shows how much a horse can be important for the Arab, even if he is royalty.

The poem is duly called (Daughters of the wind)

From the daughters of the wind, I own a flighty chestnut mare.
When she flights, she's like a desert dear.
Any rider wishes a mare like her, as does all horse experts.
Her beauty is in her delicacy and majesty.
I never saw such beauty in horses her peer.
It is God who distinguished her with such qualities.
My lovely eyed mare would turn away from any man,
she won't stop for anyone but her owner.
I praise God every time she trots around,
and I thank him for favoring me with her reins.

She trots as if on the beat of drums,
and she leaves all horse loving hearts in awe.
Her forelock flows over her beautiful eyes,
breaking down the afternoon Sun with its shadow.
To describe her, is like describing a cloud,
every one's eyes will see a different aspect of beauty in her.
Or like trying to describe a thought as it passes through the mind,
when the mind can't reach the complete truth about this thought.
Every man has his own hobbies and interests in life,
eventually this hobby will possess the man completely.