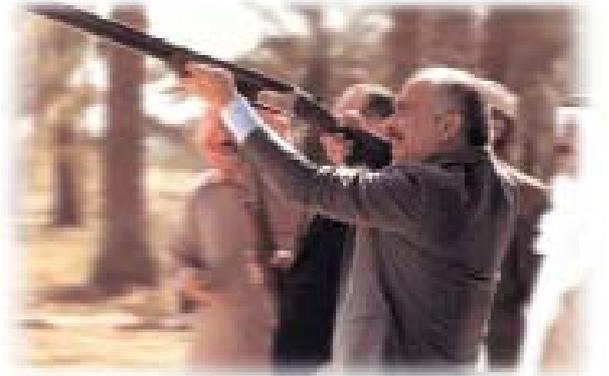


# The Recollection of A Collected Horseman



By **FATEN EL-ZEIQUD**

**Everything** is triggered by something. This literature was triggered by the appearance of Amr. Amr, an Arabian stallion that belongs to His Royal Majesty the late King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan. Amr walked along in his rider's funeral, and a stallion's normal behavior in a crowd is one of feistiness and hyperness - Amr that day was not.

I sat with Hani Bisharat (Captain of the Jordanian National Show jumping Team) and he shared his reminiscing moments of His Majesty with me. I felt it my duty as a rider, writer, and a true fan of His Majesty to pay tribute the best way I know how.

His Majesty never attended an equestrian school, for that he needed not to, for he inherited the natural seat of a rider from his grandfathers. He was known for his intense love to animals, and therefore, he knew a true appreciation of horses. An asset he was for he sparked the reservation of the Arabian horse.

The first International Show Jumping event that took place in Jordan in 1986 was under the patronage of their Royal Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. His Majesty dropped in suddenly, literally, with his helicopter in the center of the arena. He chose not to sit in the VIP stand, instead, he stood in the arena and helped with putting up and setting fences. That did not satisfy his sense of involvement, he began cheering the rider competing! He cheered with such enthusiasm that was naturally disseminated to the riders. The sensation was remembered to be one that words could not describe.

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint El-Hussein, now competing and playing the major role in the team, came for a while to do training at the Arabian Horse Club. Their Royal Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were there too! Hani remembers His Majesty sitting back, relaxing, and drinking his coffee for hours. It was as though His Majesty was releasing the immense load off his chest. Next thing you know he would jump up, walk into the arena, and help out with the training. His Majesty's presence was not only a boost of morale - it was irreplaceable. His Majesty gave many riders an incentive to excel. For Lubna Ezz El-Din that incentive was translated into a direct challenge between her and His Majesty in one of the Show Jumping events.

That competition included riders and drivers and their time was to be accumulated to declare the winner. Her Royal Highness Princess Haya was riding the course and His Majesty drove the car. Lubna rode and Nasser Bustami was to drive. The challenge that was on hand made Lubna take a great risk that nearly cost her her life. In the midst of the course she fell off

her horse and broke her hips!

She was rushed to the hospital in His Majesty's personal ambulance and there the Royal family stayed with her and made sure she got immediate and adequate medical attention. He even sent her cigarettes; back then Lubna's parents did not know their daughter was a smoker!

Lubna recalls the event with great melancholy, to her and many other Jordanians His Majesty was not only a man who gave the equestrian world a different taste, he was the most approachable man to those who needed him. Our discussion seized and cherished that thought for I saw in Lubna's eyes what I saw in others once the announcement of the passing away of our beloved King Hussein was made.

**AS WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS, THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRINCESSES ALYA AND HAYA CARRY HIS BLOOD, COURAGE, AND THE SAME TRUE APPRECIATION OF HORSES. OUR JORDANIAN EQUESTRIAN WORLD HAS LOST A REAL HORSEMAN. BUT THE LEGACY HE LEFT BEHIND SHALL OUTLIVE THE SANDS OF JORDAN'S DESERTS. MAY GOD BLESS HIS SOUL.**

