



Photo: HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein with the **Arabian Horses** of the Royal Jordanian Stables



# HRH PRINCESS ALIA ALHUSSEIN

## *Spreading the Seeds of Compassion*

WRITTEN BY CARMEL ROWLEY

Life is full of vivid recollections; many from generations of compassionate people who make a conscious decision to be caretakers of the earth.

These caretakers throw out seeds that flourish and become bountiful, their goals converging into a pounding desire to leave the earth in better shape for following generations.





**B**ut today in the golden blaze of craving for treasure, the interaction and love between humans and creatures lessens as desire hides behind profound fear. Our task must be about offering love to all creatures, all of nature in its perfect beauty and to cast out that fear. The message can then become clear: *creation is truly an indivisible whole; what touches one part of it touches all.*

Having to make life choices tests every one of us. Do we always remember to take into consideration who, what and where will be affected by what we choose?

As a true ambassador for animal welfare, education and possessing a deep compassion to treat humans, animals and the prized purebred Arabian horse with empathy and understanding, *HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein* makes life-changing choices every day. Princess Alia believes that a strong voice for change and action is desperately needed. This steadfast belief for change urged her to found the *Princess Alia Foundation (PAF)* a registered non-profit, non-governmental organization, under the Ministry of Social Development in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

**Its aim is: to promote compassion and respect for all creation, using a holistic approach while bringing all stakeholders together to work as a united front.**

*The Tree of Life* is the *Princess Alia Foundation (PAF)* logo. Now a beloved, spiritual symbol, the meaning of the Tree of Life is ancestry,

lessons of the spirit, life, history, lineage, and hope for the future. It crosses all cultures with the symbolism of the sprouting seed, growing into a trunk and branching off, sending out smaller branches and little twigs, seeking the truth of life. As with the tree itself, the concerns of Princess Alia began to spread as wide and prolific as the canopy of the tree itself. For troubled and autistic children the *Growing Together* program (Equine Therapy) at PAF was initiated in 2010.

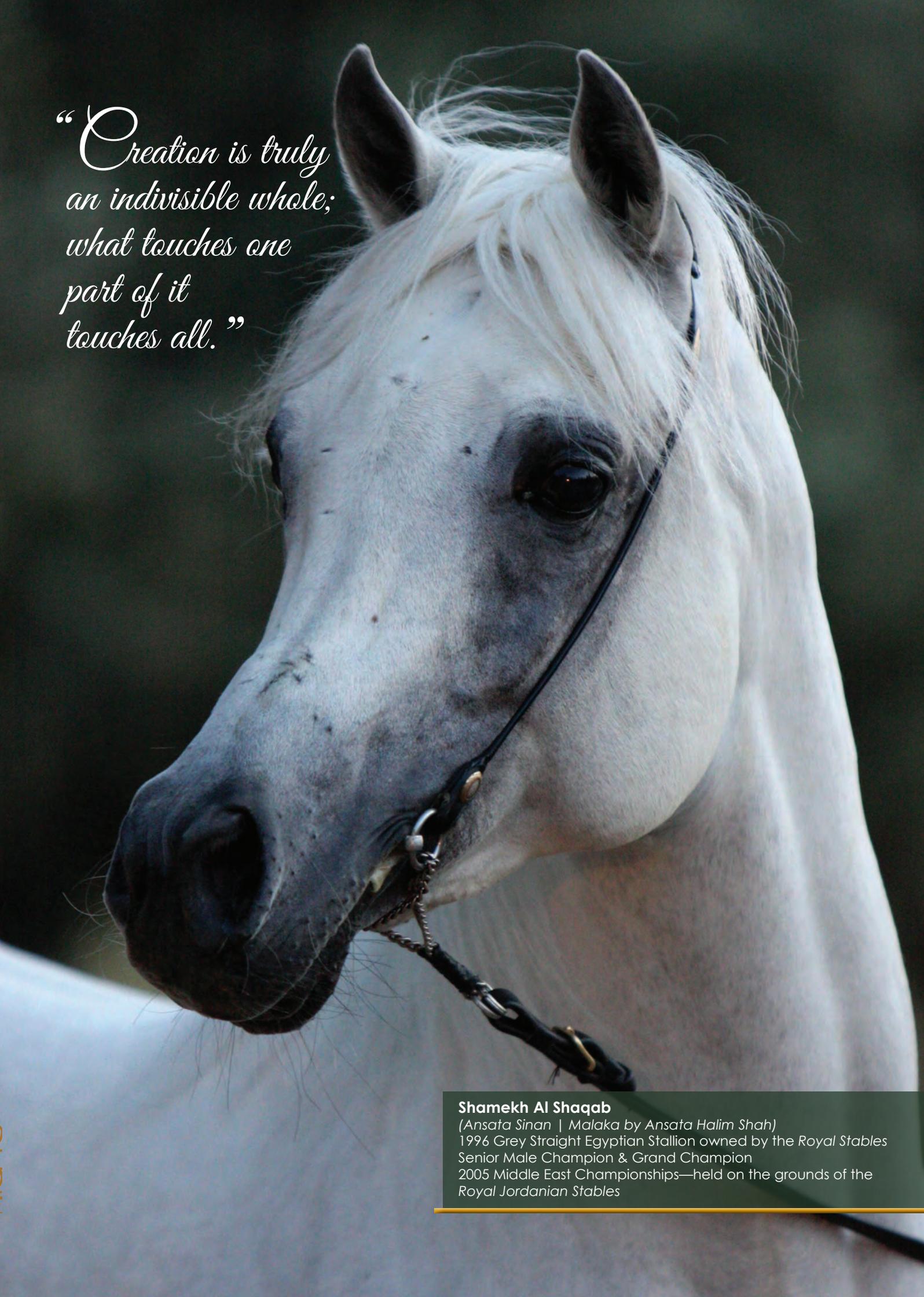
### **PRINCESS ALIA ELABORATES:**

*“Showing remarkable results the **Growing Together** programme is based upon the basic principles of the **Horse Boy Method** and draws upon the inherent resources of rescued and rehabilitated Arabian horses.*

***Growing Together** provides young people on the autistic spectrum with an opportunity to interact with other living creatures in a natural environment and to explore their own connection with the earth around them in a holistic way.*

***Growing Together** has since expanded to assist over 1,200 people with various emotional and physical difficulties. It is provided totally free of charge to all (regardless of their financial situation) and has shown amazing results in emotional, physical and behavioural improvements.*

*Many non-verbal children begin to speak within a very short time of attending, and a large percentage of children with autism progress into mainstream school after being on the programme.”*



*“Creation is truly  
an indivisible whole;  
what touches one  
part of it  
touches all.”*

**Shamekh Al Shaqab**

*(Ansata Sinan | Malaka by Ansata Halim Shah)*

1996 Grey Straight Egyptian Stallion owned by the Royal Stables  
Senior Male Champion & Grand Champion

2005 Middle East Championships—held on the grounds of the  
Royal Jordanian Stables



The goal of the foundation is to help wherever and whenever there is a need and to work where possible with other parties whose field of operation and expertise can complement as well as complete all the foundations efforts.

## **PRINCESS ALIA EXPLAINS FURTHER:**

*“The original plan was to focus on slaughter house reform, but at the first meeting with the relevant ministries, we were asked to address the issues of stray/feral dogs, and the abysmal zoos sprouting up. We were of course happy to agree although it was not our field of expertise but we have wonderful contacts worldwide who all help from the heart and are generous with practical advice as well as their own time and contacts.*

*Our work with the zoos has been an uphill struggle and sadly is still unsatisfactory in terms of results, but we have set up two centres to provide solutions to assist the authorities with the rehabilitation and where possible, the release into the wild of confiscated wildlife, whether from zoos, private collectors or smuggling.*

*New Hope is the rehabilitation centre and Al Ma’wa is a large sanctuary for nature and wildlife in the beautiful region north of Jerash where we rehome the large predators, big cats, bears and other species for which we cannot find homes in sanctuaries abroad. This project is a joint venture with our wonderful partners Four Paws International who also support New Hope and who provided wonderful homes in their own sanctuaries for some of our first guests, including lions,*

*African hyenas, a tiger, a Serval cat and a Syrian brown bear. Al Ma’wa is also a way of protecting the forest in which it is situated as it was being decimated illegally for firewood.*

*Of course we had to provide solutions for the local community’s problems and so in addition to training and employing its members, we have been fortunate enough to be able to support local projects by providing jobs for many members of the local community as well as revolving funds for renewable energy for homes, wells, and other positive steps. The project works on water harvesting, and aims to provide education and awareness about environmental issues as well as training for wildlife vets. It is a new field of expertise for the region with eco lodges to encourage local and international tourism.”*

One of Princess Alia’s Foundation initiatives is education. Scholarships are offered for young people at university level and there is an ongoing need to equip local schools with solar energy and split units to improve the learning environment. This enables senior students to fulfill necessary curricular use of computers. Other initiatives include working with the youth on programmes aimed at empowering them with a focus on confidence building. It is clear the foundation is extremely proud of all these young people’s achievements.

If you can imagine how their attitudes shift from negativity and skepticism, to dynamic involvement and positive activity. But to the observers, the inspiration comes from witnessing these young people helping and raising positivity in others.



Photo: **Hlayyil Ramadan** (Kamar Al Zaman | Haboub)

### PRINCESS ALIA SAYS:

*“Our system is not based upon having a budget and deciding what to do next but rather it is in responding to needs as they arise. Impractical though it may seem and as bizarrely diverse as the programmes ARE, I do believe that attempting to do the right thing and to ACT where possible is what matters. I believe, thank God, funding and help appears when the intentions and the goals are genuinely good. We have been blessed with positive and enthusiastic support from around the globe and we are eternally grateful to everyone who has contributed. Our message is Compassion and Respect for All Creation as everything is linked and to harm or to discount the importance of any fragment is to damage every part of it eventually.”*



Photo: HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein pictured with Hasanaat Al Haneefah

*“The stables are based upon the horses which came from Arabia with my great grandfather King Abdullah...”*



Photo: HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein with **Radiyyah** (Monarcos DD | Rahaf)



Princess Alia is leaving her own footprint for many to follow, but as any lover of Arabian horses would expect, by her very birthright she inherited an unfailing admiration, love and concern for the classic Arabian horse. The Royal Jordanian Stables were founded by the late King Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. A renowned horseman, his Majesty had the inherited knowledge and appreciation of the true Arabian horse of the desert. It is written that at his untimely death in 1951 he had a collection of such prepotent individuals they were able to consistently reproduce their classic qualities with each generation.

### PRINCESS ALIA EXPLAINS:

*"The stables are based upon the horses which came from Arabia with my great grandfather King Abdullah during the Arab Revolt. Added to that nucleus were horses from the horse breeding tribes of Jordan who appreciated King Abdullah's knowledge and interest in this breed. Also added were two stallions bred in Spain and one bred in Egypt, the latter a half-brother of the famous Nazeer. These were gifts and the ones from Spain were reciprocal gifts for two mares which King Abdullah presented to Spain.*

*At least one of whose bloodlines can still to be found in current Spanish Arabian breeding stock. By the early 1960s, horses were no longer a necessary part of daily life in the Middle East and sadly many were crossed indiscriminately with imported (non-Arabian) stock to increase size and speed as flat racing became the main focus of many horse breeders. My late father realized the danger to the horses of the stables and appointed a remarkable couple of friends, Santiago*

*and Ursula Lopez, to oversee the breeding and care of the stud. This became their life's mission, preservation of the purebred horses of Jordan, and we owe them an enormous debt for their dedication.*

*When WAHO was established, they were founding members and Jordan was the first Arab country after Egypt, which had a long history of recording their stock, to become a full member and to have its Stud Book recognised internationally."*



Photo:  
HRH  
Princess  
Alia Al  
Hussein

The bloodlines of the *Royal Jordanian Stables* are a combination of English, Egyptian, Spanish and desert bred stock. It's a joy to trace the contribution of the stallion *Bahar*, the refined *Farha (Selma x Mashalla I)* and the grey beauty *Gazella*. The head study of six month old *Farida (Bahar x Farha)* in the book *Arabian Exodus* is delightful.

Princess Alia references the main strains at the *Royal Jordanian Stables* as the comparatively rare *Um Argub*, also *Abeya Um Jeres*, *Hamadania Sameri*, *Kehila Ajuz*, and *Maneqia* which trace back to King Abdullah's stock. The highly valued strain of the *Kehila Wadhna* was introduced through imports.

The horses are often shown at Arabian horse shows in Jordan and or globally often present a situation that many a horse person can relate to.

## PRINCESS ALIA EXPLAINS:

*“Our first show abroad was when we sent a mare, Sarra, to the UK for a couple of years. A mare of great beauty and strong personality, she was always well placed but never won due to her dislike of being shown in hand. To quote a mention of her that year, second in the intermediate mare class was the Royal Jordanian Stud’s Sarra who as usual refused to cooperate but has enough quality to stay at the top anyway.*

*The difficulties and concern for the horses became the precursor to discussions about showing abroad, firstly due to the extensive travel and understandably the quarantine situation. Taking all these issues into account it was decided to focus on bringing all the regional horses and breeders together. And in 1987, the first international Middle Eastern Horse Get Together was held as a non-competitive event titled The Arabian Horse At Home.”*

## PRINCESS ALIA SHARES HER RECOLLECTIONS:

*“Five countries sent horses from as far as Oman and Egypt and fifteen other countries sent delegates. All expressed great interest in the event. Thereafter we began a yearly Championship show and by 1993 we were holding two international shows, The Arabian Horse at Home and The Middle East Championships, which still runs and has evolved into an ECAHO Title Show, as well as our Nationals. These*

*days we participate less abroad but are proud of our Multi-Champion Hlayyil Ramadan who was among other foreign titles Tulip Cup, European Championships and eventually World Champion stallion. Several of his descendants also competed extremely successfully abroad. We have also participated in Endurance and the Asian Games. Some compete in Endurance abroad and our horses have also done well in flat racing and at a local young rider’s level in show jumping. We feel that a good Arabian horse should be able to perform. One stallion won his senior in hand class after a 1,500-meter flat race two days earlier and placed 14 out of about two hundred starters in a marathon the following week- truly a versatile Arabian horse.*

*Also, the desire to assist other breeders parallels the Foundation’s words ‘wherever and whenever there is a need’ so we are very proud to cooperate with other breeders whether farms or just individuals. We loan stallions for breeding to horse breeders in other parts of the country and abroad when requested to generally improve their stock.”*

*This attitude reflects Princess Alia’s concern to not only preserve the classic Arabian horse but also her desire to continue her family’s heritage.*

## PRINCESS ALIA WISHES TO ADD:

*“Regarding in hand showing abroad, it is the degree of stress and DISTRESS most show horse’s exhibit in the ring these days*

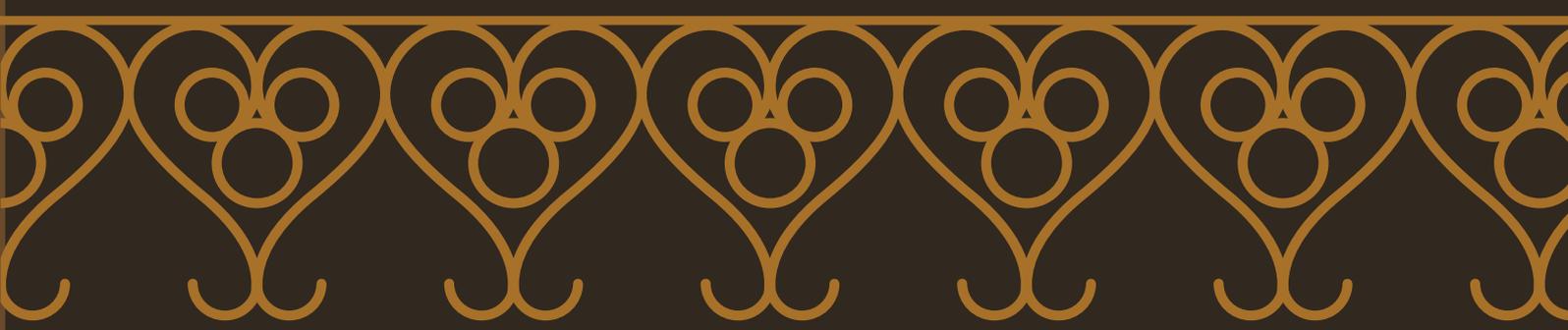


Photo: **Shaddad** (Hlayyil Ramadan | Shaafiah)

*“One seed of compassion can grow into a mighty Tree of Life carrying the knowledge that we are all related to the cosmos - to our human family - our animal family - our earth family and our beyond family.”*

*which prevents us from sending horses to compete abroad. We are extremely vigilant at our shows with strong, empowered DC's and I must say that when handlers KNOW that rules will be strictly enforced they are perfectly able to show their horses in a normal manner. Sadly, so many have been clearly trained in a hard way and are wary and tense but at least they are not being terrorized in the ring by subtle gestures. They are not shaking, sweating and plunging around their handlers as I have seen in other shows abroad. Over the past few years it appears to have become worse and worse. Such a sight literally reduced a friend to tears two years ago in Paris.*

*Our culture as Arabs and even more so as Muslims, totally forbids inhumane behaviour and disrespect towards our fellow beings, whether human, animal, or plant. This being the case, and these rules having been set very specifically and clearly at a time when humans were also facing hardships and struggling to survive, the argument that such things are less important today is rendered null and void."*

Most have read Princess Alia's speech, *The Relationship Between Horses and Humans in Today's World*, from November 2011 at the WAHO Conference in Doha, Qatar. The sentiments reflect the person and although we are discussing the *Royal Jordanian Stables* we are also discussing Princess Alia's passions and concerns.

## **PRINCESS ALIA ADDS:**

*"The preservation of our lines and their QUALITIES remains our main goal. We do not want to lose individual characteristics in the name of current fashion, and we do feel that our horses need to remain sound and with potential to lead athletic lives and not become just PRETTY. We also focus on their being respected and not abused. The current tense posture and stressed demeanour so prevalent at shows is damaging to their mental health and to the breed as a whole. As well as breeding, showing and endurance, our horses assist in the PAF Growing Together programme. The results speak for themselves! Horses are amazing creatures which seem to facilitate positive healing, God Bless them."*

One seed of compassion can grow into a mighty Tree of Life carrying the knowledge that we are all related to the Cosmos - to our human family - our animal family - our earth family and our beyond family. The seeds hold the message of Creation with Compassion and Respect portraying the future Earth as a place where we would all love to live.



**READ MORE ABOUT THE PRINCESS ALIA FOUNDATION:**  
<http://www.princessaliafoundation.org/>

**SHOULD YOU WISH TO BECOME A SUPPORTER, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<http://www.princessaliafoundation.org/partners-supporters>

**AL MA'WA FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE**  
<http://www.almawajordan.org/>



Photo: HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein



Photo: Haleem (Kamar Al Zama | Hameeda)