



Divine Jet

Jet Master – Divine Nymph by Al Mufti

You gotta aim high.

That's the thread that runs through the pedigree background of Divine Jet, whose yearling price-tag of R4 million made him South Africa's highest priced youngster ever, back in April 2010. Now all he needed to do was run.

The word was out, for when Divine Jet made his debut early as a 3yo, in August 2011, he started at odds-on in a field of sixteen maidens at Clairwood. Slow away, he scored a comfortable win. Two more victories followed, in October and November in the Cape, both times starting deep in the red, completing the hat-trick. Next came the big test, the Cape Guineas, going beyond 12/1400m for the first time. Slow away, as he'd also been on his first two starts, the 28/10 favourite Divine Jet never got into the hunt, finishing seventh behind easy winner Variety Club. The 3yo colt returned to 1200m on Met-day a month later, starting at odds-on in a field of sixteen, winning easily.

His subsequent racing performances were an anti-climax. He was kept to sprinting, highly tried in the best company, reaching a very respectable MR 112 rating – but never won again. His tardy starting habits remained and didn't help in fast run sprints. And there were some recurring health issues, causing him to miss intended runs.

Interestingly, at his only try beyond sprints late in his career, over 1450m at Clairwood carrying top-weight, he recorded a rating not far off his best after a slow start, finishing well in a true run contest.

With hindsight, as contemporary of Variety Club, Gimmethgreenlight, and Jackson, the decision to keep Divine Jet to sprinting appears understandable. On the other hand, maybe he could have aimed higher, over more ground, as his half brother Divine Jury had done – he upset the favourites in the Dingaans and SA Classic in a short career which ended after that last win, rated MR 109, three less than Divine Jet...

Aim high.

To illustrate the point, travel back along Divine Jet's female line. You'll hit on the imported mare Heliotrope, full sister to the filly Fragrant View who was bought as a yearling for 240 guineas. Making mockery of her purchase price, Fragrant View showed topclass form on the track, and at stud produced Chester Vase winner Summer Rain, and classic placed daughter Alpine Bloom (TFR 123). Summer Rain was by Precipitation, also the sire of Derby and St Leger winner Airborne, a half brother to Fragrant View and Heliotrope. Airborne (bred on a free service to his sire) was a maiden winner from five starts prior to entering the Epsom Derby, which he won at 50/1. Talk of aiming high!

Heliotrope's grandam Hellepoint was a full sister to the dam of Prince Rose, the latter bought as a foal in England for a mere 260 guineas and exported to Belgium. Prince Rose won 16 of his 20 starts in Belgium and France, defeating most of the best horses of his time. He made his mark at stud, too, siring Princequillo, Prince Bio, Prince Chevalier - shades of Divine Jet's sire Jet Master, who was bought as a foal for 15k...

The sisters Fragrant View and Heliotrope both went through the sale ring in December of Airborne's Derby year. Fragrant View as a 5yo mare for stud fetched 8500 guineas, Heliotrope as a one-time winning 2yo went for 5200 guineas – sizeable amounts for that time. Heliotrope failed to produce a live foal, and five years later found her way to South Africa, having been covered by Phideas.

Whatever her problems at stud in UK may have been (she had one recorded dead foal by Pink Flower,

and her Phideas cover did not give a foal), she did better in her new surroundings, getting five in a row. They included multiple stakes winner Hyacinth (sent to stud as a sire), his full sister Poinsettia (both by Giafar), and their half sister Fleur (by English sprinter Ranjit). Poinsettia got stakes winner Ranjos (by Ranjit) and full sister Magnolia, who established a useful line. Fleur took the cake, though, as ancestress of a major Gr1 family, pioneered by Mordaunt Milner. We concentrate on two of her daughters, Miss Terese and Miss Forsythe, both by Preamble, an English stayer.

Miss Forsythe produced Cape Guineas runner-up and sire Man Of Property (Royal Prerogative) and SA Oaks winner Serena (Jan Ekels). Serena was sent to the USA, and made her mark with Broadway Flyer (Theatrical). Broadway Flyer, with a Timeform rating of 121, won the Chester Vase, ran second in the St Leger and subsequently won and placed in Gr1 in the USA. Aim high!

Miss Terese has two notable daughters by Persian Wonder, SA Oaks and Natal Oaks runner-up Avila, and Permission, who raced without winning.

There are repeated sire-names among the high-class performers in the female line. Let's see what the pedigrees show in terms of kin-breeding, starting with the imported Heliotrope. She's a daughter of Panorama, and kinbred 2x1, as her dam Bouquet and Panorama's dam Happy Climax are close kin.

On to Heliotrope's daughter Fleur, who is by Fairway stallion Ranjit (full brother to another good

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for Divine Jet could include

- multiples of descendants of La Troienne, often through Buckpasser and close relatives
 - widespread incl Lassie Dear (Al Mufti, Captain Al, Mambo In Seattle, Duke Of Marmalade, A P Indy, etc); Best In Show (Northern Guest, El Gran Senor, Redoute's Choice; Atso); National Assembly; Danehill; Capture Him; Complete Warrior; Qui Danzig; Quick Turnover; Seattle Slew (A P Indy, Mambo In Seattle, Sail From Seattle, Ashaawes, Bezrin, etc); etc.
- Fort Wood (and sons Elusive Fort, Dynasty, Horse Chestnut) and other descendants of Change Water/Fall Aspen (Kabool, etc.)
- Graustark/His Majesty (Caesour, Danehill; etc.)
- Toulouse Lautrec (Hawaii, Crusade, Hobnob)
- female line descendants of Jinnipet (through Candida, Fiesta, Rosary)

sprinter, The Yuvaraj, who became champion sire in Argentina). Fairway links to the kin-breeding in Heliotrope, as he's close kin to both Happy Climax and Bouquet.

The mating of Fleur to Preamble (as in Miss Forsythe and her sister Miss Terese) gave kin-breeding through Preamble's grandam Overmantle to both Happy Climax and Bouquet. Preamble's 3rd dam Arabella is even closer kin – she and Bouquet have the same sire, Buchan.

Following the fortunes of Miss Terese, she got Avila and Permission by Persian Wonder. The latter's sire Persian Gulf is half brother to Precipitation, sire of Heliotrope's Derby winning half brother Airborne. It is noteworthy that Ranjit's grandam Jury is very close kin to Double Life, dam of Precipitation and Persian Gulf. This contributes to the close kinship of Persian Gulf and Miss Terese in Permission and sister Avila.

Precipitation, not an overly common duplicated element in pedigrees, appears in the female line of Serena's sire Jan Ekels, and in the female line of Theatrical, sire of Serena's highclass son Broadway Flyer.

Where From Here

Match the old with the new. Mares with Preamble and Persian Wonder in their make-up will be interesting, as will be background lines of Buchan, Precipitation (the latter in Serena's sire Jan Ekels, and in Theatrical, the sire of Serena's son Broadway Flyer).

More recent generations also show repeats of the same names. Let's see.

Al Mufti, as sire of Divine Nymph (Divine Jet's dam), of sisters Royal Approval and Royal Fantasy. Al Mufti is sire of Captain Al, who got 2015 Gr1 placed 2yo Redcarpet Captain (inbred 2x3 Al Mufti). Champion filly Cherry On The Top is by Tiger Ridge, whose dam Weekend Surprise is half sister to Al Mufti. This is the Lassie Dear female line, which is well represented in South Africa.

The dams of Royal Approval, Royal Fantasy, and Cherry On The Top are by Fort Wood. The most recent bright light in the family is Divine Jet's half sister Flying Fiona, who won on debut as a 2yo in 2015 at odds-on – she's by Dynasty, son of Fort Wood. The dam of Redcarpet Captain is by Kabool, whose dam is half sister to Fort Wood. Kabool's sire Groom Dancer is by Blushing Groom, also the sire of Jallad – who got Gr1 Divine Jury and the dam of Gr1 Martial Eagle, as well as stakes placed Judge Jupiter and Judged Excellent.