Arabian Knights

“Keep your friends close - hold your enemies closer. - Arabian Proverb

This position features one of the oldest mating patterns in the game of chess - the Arabian Mate.

In the position on the right it is Black to move.

Answer below.

Ward Farnsworth has some nice examples of the Arabian Mate on his Predator at the Chessboard website.

According to Ward’s site, "The Arabian mate dates back to at least the 1400s and probably much earlier; the three pieces involved in it have moved the same way since well before that time."

He is referring to the King, Knight and Rook, which are the three pieces involved in the checkmate pattern.

Here is the complete game:

[Event "ICC 5 0"]
[Site "Internet Chess Club"]
[Date "2009.07.28"]
[Round "-"]
[White "ITurnYouOn"]
[Black "B-Wall"]
[Result "0-1"]
[ICCRResult "White checkmated"]
[WhiteElo "2038"]
[BlackElo "2085"]
[Opening "Reti opening"]
[ECO "A04"]
[NIC "QP.11"]
[Time "02:21:46"]

You can play through this game here: http://tacticstime.com/?page_id=2051.

**Answer:**

39... Nf3+ 40. Kh1 Rh2# is an example of an Arabian Mate

Happy Tactics!

Your Friend,