

AL GEMALI

(Israel)

Al Gemali (AHL geh-mah-LEE), meaning "On Top of My Camel", was choreographed by Moshe Eskayo and presented by him at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1971. The music for the dance was composed by N. Sharabi.

MUSIC: Na'arah IFC 1, Side 2, Band 3

FORMATION: Closed circle, face ctr, hands joined and down.

STEPS AND Walk*, Three-Step Turn*, Brush*

STYLING: Throughout the dance there is an easy bending and straightening of the knees.

*Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., San Francisco, California.

MUSIC: 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

4 meas INTRODUCTION

I. STEP ACROSS, TURN

- 1 Step R on R (cts 1, 2), step L across in front of R with slight bend of knees (cts 3,4).
- 2 Step fwd on R bending knees and pushing fwd through hips (ct 1); straightening knees, step in place on L (ct 2); close R to L, take wt (ct 3), hold (ct 4).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, reversing ftwork and moving to L (CW).
- 5 Raise hands to shoulder level. Step R to R (ct 1), step L behind R (ct 2). There is a slight up movement on the ball of the R ft on ct 1, and easy bend of knees on ct 2. Repeat action of meas 5 (cts 1, 2), for cts 3 and 4.
- 6 Bend L knee easily (ct &); straighten knee and touch R toe in front of L (ct 1); repeat action (cts &, 2); step R across L (ct 3), close L to R, no wt (ct 4).
- 7 Moving L, do one complete 3-step CCW turn, L-R-L (cts 1, 2, 3). Brush R in front of L with easy lift (ct 4).
- 8 Move to L with 3 walking steps R-L-R (ct 1, 2, 3); turning to face ctr, close L to R, no wt (ct 4).
- 9-12 Repeat action of meas 5-8, reversing ftwork and direction.

II. STEP ACROSS, TURN AND FACE OUT

- 1 Step R to R (cts 1, 2); step L across in front of R with slight bend of knees (cts 3, 4).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1), step bkwd on L (ct 2); step fwd on R and, with a push through the hips, turn to R on R to face outside of circle (ct 3); close L to R, no wt (ct 4).
- 3-4 Step L on L (ct 1); step R across in front of L (ct 2); step in place on L (ct 3); moving R do a 3-step CW turn, R-L-R (cts 4, 1, 2); close L to R (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II). Finish this action facing ctr of circle.
- 9-10 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 5-6, taking wt on final close of L to R.