

CANDIDATE NO. 2100202

ADVANCED TECHNIQUES EXAM

Q.12 FIXED STARS.

As one of the 4 Royal Stars of Persia, Formalhaut is regarded as the Watcher of the

South. Hence it was considered to be one of the 4 guardians of heaven. It is the brightest star in the Piscis Australis constellation, known as The Southern Fish.

Described in nature by the first century astrologer Manilius (394-409) as,

whoever at this hour takes hold of life will spend his years about sea- shore and river-bank: he will capture fish as they swim poised in the hidden depths; he will cast his greedy eyes into the midst of waters, craving to gather pellucid stones and, immersed himself, will bring them forth together with homes of protective shell wherein they lurk. No peril is left for man to brave: profit is sought by shipwreck, and the diver who has plunged into the depths becomes, like the booty, the object of recovery.

The name Formalhaut is Arabic for mouth of the fish. It is often depicted as a fish swimming upstream in the waters of the Aquarian water bearer. It is in the water section of the celestisial landscape, sharing it with the water carrier, the sea goat, the whale, the fishes, the river and the crane (Gillentine 2001) as well as the dolphin.

Formalhaut is simmlar to Venus and Mercury in its energy according to Ptolemy.

This gives it the connotation of being a fortunate star. Formalhaut is associated with power, fortune and eminence. It intimates great learning and an immortal name. It indicates hard labour and is looked at as an amplifier.

Formalhaut sits at approximately 3 degrees Pisces and is conjunct the natal Sun in the birth chart of Steve Irwin at 2 degrees 31 mins. Pisces. This links Steve's personal sense of self and creativity to the myth and meaning of this fixed star (Brady 1998, p.38). Also, as the Sun is the ruler of the 9th house, by connection Formalhaut will influence those areas of life pertaining to higher education, the law, ideals and beliefs, moral codes, long distance travel, the media, publishing, philosophy, sportsmanship and communication pertaining to the broadening of the mind (Parker J & D 2003, p. 87).

The communication and learning theme is further emphasised by the Sun's placement in the 3rd house. The speech, mental attitude and familiar environment are the domain of this house. As are early learning and young people.

Steve Irwin called himself a wildlife warrior and was passionate about the environment and conservation. He became known as the Crocodile Hunter and wrestled his first crocodile at the age of nine. After leaving school he went to far North Queensland and trapped crocodiles that were posing a threat to populated areas. He performed this service for free in exchange for taking the crocodiles back

to his parent's wildlife park. The park was ultimately passed on to Steve.

Formalhaut's influence of power and eminence on the 9th and 3rd house matters

can be shown through Steve being appointed ambassador for The Ghan passenger

train that runs from Adelaide to Alice Springs and then was extended to Darwin in

2004. He was also sponsored for some time by the Toyota car company. He was an

enthusiastic and prominent promotor of Australian tourism overseas. The

Crocodile Hunter TV series became an international hit and by 1999 and was being

broadcast to over 137 countries, with 500 million people watching.

The observation of the early astrologer Manilius about Formalhaut seems correct

in the life of Steve Irwin. The connection to rivers and the sea and the creatures

therein is obvious in this man's life. The protective shell that was described by

Manilius can be paralleled with Steve Irwin's discovery of a new species of turtle in

1997. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ship was named in his honour.

Sadly even his death in 2006 can be compared to the Manilius observation of

being like a diver plunging into the water to retrieve his bounty to become the

retrieved.

Bernadette Brady likens the fixed star Formalhaut to ideals and dreams (Brady

1998, p. 30). This is consistently seen with the life work and actions of Steve Irwin.

With himself declaring that My job, my mission, the reason I've been put on this planet, is to save wildlife. Steve lived and breathed his ideals.

Ptolemy's Venus and Mercury blend of energies as a description of Formalhaut, can be seen in the way Steve Irwin was able to attract (Venus) the public and funding (Venus) for his causes. His undeniable talent for bringing his message (Mercury) to the masses was also seen. His manner of communicating (Mercury) and his charisma had wide appeal (Venus). Sir David Attenborough said of Steve Irwin in context of introducing many to nature, He taught them how wonderful and exciting it was, he was a born communicator (News.com.au 2006).

Formalhaut has been equated with the Archangel Gabriel, known as The Messenger, and whose influence pushes one into action that leads to beneficial results. Again, the mythology of Gabriel's equation to Formalhaut, can be superimposed on the life of Steve Irwin. An example of this is the conservation foundation he founded called the Wildlife Warriors Worldwide which became an independent charity.

Formalhaut has been given the connotation of inspiring lofty visions and clashing with the status quo to achieve the ideals held. If the dreams are noble and of benefit for the collective, those with this fixed star prominent in their chart will find

personal happiness. If they pursue their dreams for corrupt intent they will face a total downfall (Brady 1998, p.197).⁸³⁸ An example of clashing with the status quo may have been the controversy involving Steve holding his 1 month old baby when feeding a crocodile in 2004. This challenged the established view with his ideals.

The Persian god Zal is connected to Formalhaut. He was cast out to the wilderness

by his father when he was a baby for having white hair. His father Sam, a Persian king, had dearly wished for a son but felt disgraced by the pure white hair of the child. A bird, the Simorgh, swept the child up and took him to her nest to nurse with

her own fledglings. The child grew into a brave and noble youth under the Simorgh's

care. Dreams told Sam that his child was still alive so he went in search. High up on

a mountain peak Sam found his son. They reunited and Zal was revered as a brave

and noble warrior with a mammoth physique (Ferdowsi 1997, p.102).

The Simorgh is a gigantic bird like creature of Persian mythology and is a symbol of

divinity and wisdom. It is a messenger and if it alights on someone or casts a shadow above them, it indicates God's approval of that person to be a king and to represent the divine on Earth (Schmidt, 2003).

Zal was given his father's kingdom. Zal fell in love with beautiful Rudebah and

lost

his heart. The affair was to progress slowly as Rudabeh's father was from Babylon

and Zal sought approval to marry. It was eventually given as astrologers predicted

that offspring from the union would conquer the world. They wed and Rostam, the

great Persian hero, was duly born after Zal was directed by the Simorgh to perform

a caesarean on his wife, to bring the child safely into the world during a difficult birth.

The comparison of this myth and Steve Irwin's life can be drawn from such coincidences as Terri, Steve's wife, was the love of his life and from a foreign country. Steve, through a noble ideal to preserve nature and life, seemed to be guided by a divine mission and was then joined by his wife in pursuing this dream.

Their first born child, Bindi, is seen to be the one to carry on her father's inspired wildlife message. Just as Zal was directed to bring his first born into life for a divine

purpose. Steve, like Zal, took over his father's wildlife kingdom. Also just as Zal was

seen as a god and a king, so Steve Irwin was seen as larger than life with an

influence that was wide spread. Like Sam's white haired son Zal, Steve was

seen as Australia's fair headed favourite son, as described by Australian Prime

Minister John Howard upon hearing of his death, Australia has lost a wonderful and

colourful son. (The Australian, 2006).

The conjunction of Formalhaut and the natal Sun can even be shown to have an influence through Steve Irwin's death. In effect it gave Steve immortality as promised by Formalhaut prominent in the natal chart. The heart and soul (Sun) being pierced by a stingray barb in the water (Formalhaut) whilst being filmed (Piscean Sun) to educate the masses (9th house Sun rulership) through communicating his wildlife message (3rd house Sun). Thereby uniting the world in grief and awareness of his idealistic and noble world mission (Formalhaut) of environmentalism. Hence passing on the baton to his daughter as bestowed by the mythology of Formalhaut.

My life revolves around conservation. That is my work. That is my life and I'll die doing that. Steve Irwin 1962-2006.

word count 1537