

FALLING BIRDS; BIRD FLU AND MALARIA IN A ROMAN MOSAIC FIGURE

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ABSTRACT

The behaviours of birds on the fly; their hunt of snakes and their death on the fly, had interpreted by the bird-watching clerics for making predictions and to decide whether there will be peace or war. These predictions were used as instruments of shaping politics, even in 19th century Victorian era of England.

The first example known to death of birds on the fly was the warning to Alexander given by the clerics of Chaldean, who was planning to conquer Babel. The most significant reasons to death of birds on the fly are; poisoning, extremely hot weather, west Nile fever, yellow fever and avian malaria. The subject will be analysed through a Roman Mosaic which was made in 4th Century after Christ.

Keywords: Mosaic, Birds, Bird Flu, Malaria, Roma

INTRODUCTION

The events effective on society, also affects common knowledge and leave their Marks later on. In some occasions, these Marks can be seen on artefacts and they may reach today through centuries. Floor mosaics can stand for centuries. Resembling the ashes preventing deflation. Demolished buildings protect the floor mosaics lying underneath. This is how we can imagine the glamorous life from centuries ago.

This mosaic had decorated a Roman Bath in El Jem-Thysdrus Tunisia. It is in National Museum of Tunisia. Its size is; 113.3x125.7x4.8 cm (*Figure 1*; Bruce White took the Picture in 2005).

DEFINITION OF THE MOSAIC

While an owl wearing toga stands up, there are nine other birds, resembling crows; two are laying dead, two flying vertical a done flying horizontal. Roman military signs are at back. The top of the mosaic says "INVIDIA RVMPVNTVR AVES NEQVA NOCTVA CVRAT".

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The most significant reasons to death of birds on fly are; poising, extremely hot weather, west Nile fever, yellow fever and avian malaria.²

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Figure 1. Roman mosaic

The owl wearing Roman Toga and military signs represent Roman sovereignty and military power. The birds falling down represent rebels. The Latin wording represents "Even if the birds die on fly due to jealousy, the owl does not care". In Roman Culture, the owl of Athena- Minerva represents wisdom and intelligence.³ The enemies of Rome will die like a crow, just like the Israelis died during the insurrection occurred on Hadrian era.^{4,5} Ones becoming Roman citizen continue to live with their faith.

CONCLUSION

The mosaic founded around 300 After Christ, is indirect evidence to malaria epidemics. This evidence also confirms the following facts; the climate of Mediterranean was damper and hotter than today, even the ice caps were in a northern part than it is today, also there was malaria epidemics in the region during 4th century and Roman empire lost 20% of its population because of malaria.²

The indirect evidence can be stronger compared to direct evidence.

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