Cat fanciers

What's in a name?


"Are you an intriguing seductress or a first crusader? Do you avoid taking risks, or do you throw yourself into the fray on a whim? Do you confuse sexuality with love, or is it hard for you to move beyond friendship? Are you an emotional and sexual churlish, or do you have an all-or-nothing approach to your love life?" So starts The Name Book, a study of the meanings of names.

Called "Your key to understanding your personality," the book lists personality characteristics associated with names. Although many people will think it is another strange gimmick, this is serious business for the author, he believes that the repetition of the same syllables of a name will eventually influence the mind of the person who owns it.

The author's name, for instance, explains him as "...affectionate as a fine champaigne and scintillating as a diamond, with natural exuberance and a sense of humor that are delights to your friends and associates." It continues, "...it would not be surprising to find you in a little shop buying fortunes or reading the store. You put your incredibly spontaneous sensations to clever and cunning acts. Do you throw yourself into the fray or do you stay away from it?" It ends with a description of what you are described by: will, emotionality, activity, reactions, intuition, intelligence, affections, morality, health and stability, sensory, energy, and sociability.

To make up for any errors between the characteristics associated with a person's name and the person's true personality, the author explains how a person can be misnamed, probably because his name's "inescapable doesn't harmonize with that of the person himself." Sometimes giving characteristics for 7-8 names divided into "9 personality categories, the book explains the author's views on tomes ranging from astrological conception to relationships among people based on the resonances of their names. Many of these views are given without reasonable qualification and are rather unbelievable.

The responsibility of naming a child is a big one, according to the book. The author's name, he believes, is suggested to the mother through the inner vibrations from the fetus. "The mother should experiment with the names she is considering until she discovers that fundamental harmony which, for her, will stand the test of the name," he says. Comparing the process of naming a child to the research given to naming a product, he adds, "Shouldn't we consider the destiny of a child as being as important as the success of the latest 'shady day' miracle?"

Although many parts of the book are strange and it is even known, the book is enjoyable. Whether one's destination seems to fit or if it is way off the book and the idea of a relationship between name and personality is interesting.

Suzanne L. Horine

arts

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