

Sophia Gustavsson, DK , describes here how she found the solution to the competition question:

I started by downloading the software Stellarium, then I tracked the Moon to see if it was getting closer to Venus and the Pleiades. When I saw they were as close as they could be, I took the date and saw it was the 3-4 april.

First, I thought you asked me to measure the distance between Earth and Alcyone and the Moon and Alcyone. But then I learned that you asked for the angle, not for the distance. In Stellarium they have a tool where you can measure the angle between Stars and planets, so I used that.

For the last question you asked me to find other occasions where the Moon, Venus and the Pleiades meets. This was hard and took very long time. I had to walk through every single day in Stellarium and pause it when it happens. Maybe I was lazy, but I only found one day. 😊

The very best regards, Sophia Gustavsson

The jury of the competition did not at all call it 'lazy'.

On the contrary.

She earned the following certificate:

Certificate

Sophia Gustavsson

Has won first prize in the race of Young Astronomers to discover a unique and long-forgotten Lunar-Planetary Rendezvous alongside



the Seven Sisters in the constellation Taurus.

Sophia has successfully lifted the veil over the all-too brief, but breathtakingly beautiful sojourn of Venus and Luna near the dancing maidens on the evening of

March the Fifth, 1543 BCE



and will be duly decorated with the insignia of the **Order of Nebra**.

The Jury of our little Competition thanks you most warmly for enabling us to gaze into such a remote past, and we hope you will be watching the skies (may they be clear!) this year (April the third and fourth) and every eight years to follow until 2060, when Venus will adorn herself each spring with those glittering stars, once believed by lovers of myth to be her wedding dress.

On behalf of the jury and the Section for Mathematics and Astronomy at the Goetheanum

2020-03-30

John Meeks

Søren Toft