



SEVENTH EDITION

INCLUDES UPDATED
FORECASTS

The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes

THEODORA LAU
& LAURA LAU

"This book has stood the test of time."
—*Prediction* magazine

The Handbook of
CHINESE
HOROSCOPES

Seventh Edition

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Calligraphy and Illustrations by Kenneth Lau

 HarperCollins e-books

For Miles, Dean, Rachel and Lauren

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The Origin and Nature of the Lunar Signs

The Chinese lunar calendar originated with Emperor Huang Ti, who introduced the first cycle in 2637 B.C., the sixty-first year of his reign. A complete cycle of sixty lunar years is made up of five twelve-year cycles. The seventy-eighth sixty-year cycle, the one we are currently in, started February 2, 1984, and will bring us into the next millennium, ending in the year 2044.

The appointment of an animal sign to each of the twelve years is attributed to a legend about the Lord Buddha, who had summoned all the animals to come bid him farewell before he departed the Earth. Only twelve showed up and, as a token of his appreciation, he named a year for each animal in the order of its arrival. First came the Rat, then the Ox, the Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and, finally, the Boar. The animal that rules the year of your birth is said to exercise a profound influence over your life. Hence, the Chinese have coined the saying, “This is the animal that hides in your heart.”

There is also a secondary animal that hides in your heart—your ascendant sign. In the lunar calendar, the day begins at 11 P.M. and the twenty-four hours are divided into twelve sections of two hours each. Each section is again ruled by one of the animal signs (see Table 5). As in Western solar astrology, the sign which rules the time of birth is the ascendant and helps shape the personality. This birth hour influence can be very strong. For example, an aggressive Sheep person may prove to have been born between 3 and 5 A.M., in the hours governed by the Tiger; on the other hand an uncharacteristically quiet Rat person was probably born between 9 and 11 A.M., the hours ruled by the introverted Snake.

During the complete sixty-year cycle, each of the animal signs (also referred to as the twelve Earth Branches) is combined with the five main elements: Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth (see Table 2). These five elements are further divided into active and passive sides (or stems). The active side is identified as positive—yang, or male; the passive—yin, or female. The Rat, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Monkey and Dog (the odd-numbered signs) belong to the positive yang. The Ox, Rabbit, Snake, Sheep, Rooster and Boar (the even-numbered signs) are negative yin (see Table 4).¹

Besides the element assigned to a year, which changes continuously (see Table 2), each of the twelve Lunar Earth Branches has a fixed element and season (see Table 4).

The only element missing from Chinese astrology that is featured in the Western horoscopes is Air. However, the Air element is prominently utilized in the Chinese art of feng shui and is loosely referred to as the “feng” or *wind*. Air is universally described by the Chinese as “qi” or the life force.

The ideal natal chart based on Chinese horoscopes should contain all the elements. For example, let us say a person was born in the year of the Fire Rat, 1936. The element of that year is Fire and the Rat sign has Water as its fixed element. Our subject was born in the month of the Tiger (see Table 7) whose fixed element is Wood. Finally, the time of birth was between 5 P.M. to 7 P.M., the hours of the Rooster whose fixed element is Metal. Since the Earth element is automatically generated by the four others, this native’s elements are considered to be “complete or balanced.”

Element deficiencies in the natal chart should be remedied. In China, the usual way to do this was to compose a name for the child which contained the character of the missing element.

The division of the sixty-year cycle into five smaller twelve-year cycles is also significant. Twelve was the age when childhood was considered over, since adolescence begins with the teen years. Someone who had completed two twelve-year cycles was usually married and a parent. At thirty-six and forty-eight, most people were, respectively, raising a family and preparing for the third generation. In the context of the Chinese lunar cycles, the charming Western custom of naming children after grandparents is more meaningful than we realize. If the grandparent is sixty years older than his or her namesake, then the lunar calendar will have come full cycle—both persons will have been born under the same animal sign and under the influence of the same element of the year. In China and Japan, one's sixtieth birthday was a very special event and celebrated with as many family members as possible. If a family had four generations under one roof or at a banquet, it was considered a great blessing.

It is interesting to note that countries are formed under lunar signs as well—and their activities, choice of allies and form of government will display qualities common to their lunar birth sign. China, for example, was formed anew in 1949, the year of the Ox. True to form, she has progressed largely through her own hard work and the dedication of her people. In a given year, China will have different fortunes than, say, France, born in 1958 (the Fifth Republic), a Dog; or Canada, born in 1867 (British North American Act), a Rabbit; or colorful Hong Kong, born in 1842 (the Treaty of Nanking), a Tiger. Japan and Germany were formed anew in 1945 under the industrious Rooster, and Israel was born in 1948, the year of the innovative and progressive Rat. And is it a coincidence that America, born 1776 the year of the Monkey, is renowned for her inventiveness, communication skills and leadership in commerce?

While the Soviet Union was born following the communist revolution of 1917, the year of the Fire Snake, it was reborn as the Russian Federation in December of 1991, the year of the Sheep.

How to Use This Book

To get the most out of this book, you must study not only the animal of the year in which you were born (see Table 2), but several other factors as well: your ascendant—the lunar sign that rules the hour of your birth (see Table 5); the Western sun sign corresponding to your moon sign (see Table 7); the element of your birth year (see Table 2) as well as your sign's fixed element (see Table 4); and the animal that rules the month of your birth (see Table 7). By integrating all these factors and assessing their effects, you should discover—if you don't already know—the person you truly are. And by analyzing the horoscopes of others, you may discover the people they truly are as well.

Besides being able to understand your total self, you may be able to predict the course and nature of your personal and professional relationships in any given year. The knowledge gained by analyzing your horoscope may also shed light on why you dislike certain people, while with others you have an almost instant rapport.

The section in each chapter on how a particular sign fares over different years, as well as the marriage combinations and the compatibility tables, serve as general guides only. The assumption in these sections is that we are dealing with pure or strongly dominant lunar signs. For instance, a Snake born during the hours of the Snake is a "pure" sign. However, a Dragon born during the hours of the Rabbit will usually maintain his more "dominant" Dragon characteristics. On the other hand, a Sheep born during the hours of the Tiger may display the "stronger" Tiger traits of his ascendant sign and

could be compatible with a Dog, which would not normally be the case according to the compatibility tables.

That is why when consulting the marriage combinations and compatibility tables, you should keep in mind other factors in the horoscope that may affect the relationship. For instance, most people display a strong affinity for persons born under their ascendant, even if that sign is the most incompatible with their own birth sign. Thus, a Boar lady born during the hours of the Snake may get along extremely well with Snake persons, even though the compatibility chart shows that a Snake is the worst possible partner for a Boar.

When a person is born during the hours of the sign most incompatible with his birth sign, it is often very difficult (even for experienced fortune readers) to predict what traits are most likely to come to the fore. Take, for instance, a Rooster born during the hours of the Rabbit. He may turn out to be an extremely shy Rooster secretly harboring grand designs and lofty ambitions, or a loquacious one who is shrewd, diplomatic and strictly noncommittal in spite of all the noise he makes. Needless to say, such persons are usually complicated in nature and volatile in temperament. A sure way to determine which sign dominates such a person is to observe the lunar signs of the people he prefers to work with or is attracted to. He will probably be drawn to persons with a close affinity to his ascendant, even if they do not match his birth sign.

Although persons with conflicting ascendants and birth or month signs do experience more inner conflict and possess a great many opposing traits, it is my observation that such people often turn out to be excellent mediators and intermediaries. This is because they understand how opposite sides think and work and so, consequently, they make the best go-betweens. Such persons excel in bridging the differences between signs which otherwise could not get along together. The world would be a poorer place without these invaluable middle men!

Basically, Chinese lunar horoscopes depict a kaleidoscope of relationships which are based on the interaction among signs or combinations with the highest likelihood of success. Working out variations with high affinity or the least possibility of discord has proven effective for the matchmakers who were indispensable in Chinese society. Success was considered synonymous with good or workable relationships. Everyone had to have “guan xi” or special relationships in order to get things done.

In other words, who you know or have good relations with is more important than what you know. It is relationships that open doors for us. Relationships bring us in contact with people who can effect changes in our lives or make us part of a bigger, better team. Relationships foster synergy and symbiotic relationships. Relationships help us manage the unmanageable. Relationships bring the unreachable within our grasp and foster ties that were previously impossible. Relationships are influence. It may sound simplistic, but in the end, everything boils down to good, working, harmonious relationships. Society cannot exist without them. In the final analysis, we are all social animals.

Modern society has created all kinds of new names for relationships. Business management calls them “networking.” Connecting with the right parties is the major aim. The link-up of a network or networks is essential to making it in today’s corporate world. We are all encouraged to send emissaries to feel out the competition or to get some feedback on the likes and dislikes of others before making any move. Lobbying is a way of life in the American Congress. When relations break down, we resort to arbitrators to work out our differences before it is too late. Whether we are busy mending broken fences of friendship, building new communications bridges, making new connections to other networks or simply expanding our sphere of influence, we are employing the basic principles

of trying to establish good relationships.

The knowledge acquired in this book should help you to both make and maintain good relationships. It may enable you to dismiss the occasional crankiness of your Dog boss, and deal with the changeable and capricious mind of a Horse client, the domineering but expansive ways of a Dragon friend or the serene but skeptical attitude of a Snake.

You may be surprised to find that your local handyman, who is capable of fixing everything, was indeed born in the year of the dexterous Monkey, and that your slow, sure and conservative banker just happens to belong to the year of the reliable Ox. Again, you may be more patient with that annoying associate who is always the first to complain and cry wolf, when you discover he was born in the year of the Sheep. And you may laugh to learn that the business colleague who wears such atrocious ties was born in the year of the flamboyant Rooster.

Perhaps after reading this book, you may believe enough to listen to the wise counsel of the Snake, look for sympathy from the gentle Sheep, go along with the clever schemes of the Monkey, have fun with the ever-youthful and carefree Horse, rely on the Rabbit's good taste and unerring diplomacy or depend on the strength of the indomitable Dragon. You may get your way by humoring the critical Rooster, reasoning with the fair-minded Dog, joining forces with the optimistic Tiger or bargaining with the indefatigable, cost-conscious Rat. It's up to you to use the knowledge gained to make life easier and more productive for yourself and others.

As a final note, I'd like to point out that although the Western calendar—which is based on the movements of the sun—is more consistent and easier to follow, the East's lunar calendar is more accurate in registering the changes in the seasons and the growth of all life in the universe. Chinese farmers originally used the calendar as an almanac for selecting the most favorable days of each year to sow and reap their crops. And, long before modern science developed ways to forecast the weather, the Chinese relied heavily on the horoscope to predict their rains. (This holds true even at the present time.) Gradually, over the years the calendar began to be consulted for such things as the most auspicious days to visit the barber, start building a home, get married and, of course, to figure out when to hold the numerous Chinese festivals. An authentic lunar calendar contains all the Do's and Don'ts for each day of the year, down to the most favorable and unfavorable hours of each day. This complete calendar/almanac is still published yearly in Hong Kong and Taiwan. It requires a special technical knowledge to interpret it, but no self-respecting fortune teller would be found without it.

I have written this book based on my own research and empirical observations and theories. Chinese horoscopes have endured through countless generations.

I hope my interpretations will serve to bring you new insights into a subject rich in self-analysis, understanding of others and acknowledgement of the value of compromise and cooperation.

Dear Readers:

It's hard to believe that you are holding the seventh edition of The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes. This edition I wrote with my daughter, Laura, who has been my student of Chinese astrology since she was little. We're happy to continue to share our Chinese culture from generation to generation in our family. Our newest book, Wedding Feng Shui, will be released around the same time as this latest edition of The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes. Since The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes was first published, the number one question asked in fan mail has been on the topic of picking an auspicious day to get married. We touch on this topic in the section "Choosing Dates by the Lunar Almanac." Wedding Feng Shui covers the topic more completely, offering auspicious dates, advice and ideas for how to approach your wedding

planning, from compatibility based on your Chinese zodiac sign to weaving Chinese cultural traditions and symbolism in creative ways into your wedding day.

We have also built out our web presence recently and hope that we will be able to have more active discussions and interaction online with readers. Please visit us at www.chinesehoroscopeshandbook.com to learn more about Chinese horoscopes, learn other aspects of Chinese culture and stay in contact.

You can also contact us via e-mail or by post at:

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Tables and Charts

1. THE LUNAR SIGNS FROM 1912 TO 2019

Rat	1912	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008
Ox	1913	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009
Tiger	1914	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010
Rabbit	1915	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011
Dragon	1916	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012
Snake	1917	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001 ²	2013
Horse	1918	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014
Sheep	1919	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015
Monkey	1920	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016
Rooster	1921	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017
Dog	1922	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018
Boar	1923	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019

2. The twenty-first century starts in the cusp of the Dragon and Snake years. Note: Please check your exact birth date against the more detailed listing that follows, since the years overlap between the solar and lunar calendars.

2. THE EXACT LUNAR YEARS FROM 1912 TO 2020³

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 18, 1912 to February 5, 1913

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 6, 1913 to January 25, 1914

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: January 26, 1914 to February 13, 1915

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 14, 1915 to February 2, 1916

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: February 3, 1916 to January 22, 1917

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: January 23, 1917 to February 10, 1918

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: February 11, 1918 to January 31, 1919

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 1, 1919 to February 19, 1920

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 20, 1920 to February 7, 1921

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: February 8, 1921 to January 27, 1922

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: January 28, 1922 to February 15, 1923

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 16, 1923 to February 4, 1924

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 1924 to January 24, 1925

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: January 25, 1925 to February 12, 1926

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: February 13, 1926 to February 1, 1927

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 2, 1927 to January 22, 1928

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: January 23, 1928 to February 9, 1929

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 10, 1929 to January 29, 1930

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: January 30, 1930 to February 16, 1931

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 17, 1931 to February 5, 1932

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 6, 1932 to January 25, 1933

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: January 26, 1933 to February 13, 1934

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 14, 1934 to February 3, 1935

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 4, 1935 to January 23, 1936

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: January 24, 1936 to February 10, 1937

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 11, 1937 to January 30, 1938

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: January 31, 1938 to February 18, 1939

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 19, 1939 to February 7, 1940

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: February 8, 1940 to January 26, 1941

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: January 27, 1941 to February 14, 1942

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: February 15, 1942 to February 4, 1943

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 1943 to January 24, 1944

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: January 25, 1944 to February 12, 1945

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: February 13, 1945 to February 1, 1946

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 2, 1946 to January 21, 1947

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: January 22, 1947 to February 9, 1948

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 10, 1948 to January 28, 1949

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: January 29, 1949 to February 16, 1950

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: February 17, 1950 to February 5, 1951

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 6, 1951 to January 26, 1952

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: January 27, 1952 to February 13, 1953

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 14, 1953 to February 2, 1954

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: February 3, 1954 to January 23, 1955

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: January 24, 1955 to February 11, 1956

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 12, 1956 to January 30, 1957

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: January 31, 1957 to February 17, 1958

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 18, 1958 to February 7, 1959

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 8, 1959 to January 27, 1960

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: January 28, 1960 to February 14, 1961

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 15, 1961 to February 4, 1962

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 1962 to January 24, 1963

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: January 25, 1963 to February 12, 1964

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: February 13, 1964 to February 1, 1965

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 2, 1965 to January 20, 1966

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: January 21, 1966 to February 8, 1967

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 9, 1967 to January 29, 1968

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: January 30, 1968 to February 16, 1969

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: February 17, 1969 to February 5, 1970

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 6, 1970 to January 26, 1971

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: January 27, 1971 to February 14, 1972

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 15, 1972 to February 2, 1973

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 3, 1973 to January 22, 1974

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: January 23, 1974 to February 10, 1975

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 11, 1975 to January 30, 1976

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: January 31, 1976 to February 17, 1977

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 18, 1977 to February 6, 1978

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: February 7, 1978 to January 27, 1979

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: January 28, 1979 to February 15, 1980

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 16, 1980 to February 4, 1981

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 1981 to January 24, 1982

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: January 25, 1982 to February 12, 1983

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 13, 1983 to February 1, 1984

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 2, 1984 to February 19, 1985

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 20, 1985 to February 8, 1986

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: February 9, 1986 to January 28, 1987

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: January 29, 1987 to February 16, 1988

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: February 17, 1988 to February 5, 1989

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 6, 1989 to January 26, 1990

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: January 27, 1990 to February 14, 1991

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 15, 1991 to February 3, 1992

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 4, 1992 to January 22, 1993

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: January 23, 1993 to February 9, 1994

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 10, 1994 to January 30, 1995

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: January 31, 1995 to February 18, 1996

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 19, 1996 to February 6, 1997

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: February 7, 1997 to January 27, 1998

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: January 28, 1998 to February 15, 1999

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 16, 1999 to February 4, 2000

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 2000 to January 23, 2001

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: January 24, 2001 to February 11, 2002

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: February 12, 2002 to January 31, 2003

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 1, 2003 to January 21, 2004

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: January 22, 2004 to February 8, 2005

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: February 9, 2005 to January 28, 2006

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: January 29, 2006 to February 17, 2007

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 18, 2007 to February 6, 2008

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Rat

Exact Solar Dates: February 7, 2008 to January 25, 2009

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Ox

Exact Solar Dates: January 26, 2009 to February 13, 2010

Element: Earth (-)

Sign: Tiger

Exact Solar Dates: February 14, 2010 to February 2, 2011

Element: Metal (+)

Sign: Rabbit

Exact Solar Dates: February 3, 2011 to January 22, 2012

Element: Metal (-)

Sign: Dragon

Exact Solar Dates: January 23, 2012 to February 9, 2013

Element: Water (+)

Sign: Snake

Exact Solar Dates: February 10, 2013 to January 30, 2014

Element: Water (-)

Sign: Horse

Exact Solar Dates: January 31, 2014 to February 18, 2015

Element: Wood (+)

Sign: Sheep

Exact Solar Dates: February 19, 2015 to February 7, 2016

Element: Wood (-)

Sign: Monkey

Exact Solar Dates: February 8, 2016 to January 27, 2017

Element: Fire (+)

Sign: Rooster

Exact Solar Dates: January 28, 2017 to February 15, 2018

Element: Fire (-)

Sign: Dog

Exact Solar Dates: February 16, 2018 to February 4, 2019

Element: Earth (+)

Sign: Boar

Exact Solar Dates: February 5, 2019 to January 24, 2020

Element: Earth (-)

3. THE INTERACTION OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS

North

Water=Winter
guards the kidney
controls Fire

West

Metal=Autumn
guards the lungs
controls Wood

Center

Earth
guards the spleen
controls Water

East

Wood=Spring
guards the liver
controls Earth

South

Fire=Summer
guards the heart

4. THE ANIMAL SIGNS AND THEIR FIXED ELEMENTS,⁴ SEASONS AND STEMS

Stem	Sign	North (<i>Winter</i>)	East (<i>Spring</i>)	South (<i>Summer</i>)	West (<i>Autumn</i>)
-	Boar	Water			
+	Rat	Water			
-	Ox	Water			
+	Tiger		Wood		
-	Rabbit		Wood		
+	Dragon		Wood		
-	Snake			Fire	
+	Horse			Fire	
-	Sheep			Fire	
+	Monkey				Metal
-	Rooster				Metal
+	Dog				Metal

5. ASCENDANTS: THE TWELVE ANIMAL SIGNS AND THEIR HOURS

- 11 P.M. to 1 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Rat
- 1 A.M. to 3 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Ox
- 3 A.M. to 5 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Tiger
- 5 A.M. to 7 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Rabbit
- 7 A.M. to 9 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Dragon
- 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.: Hours ruled by the Snake
- 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Horse
- 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Sheep
- 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Monkey
- 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Rooster
- 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Dog
- 9 P.M. to 11 P.M.: Hours ruled by the Boar

6. THE MONTHS OF THE LUNAR SIGNS AND THEIR MATCHING SOLAR ASTROLOGICAL SIGNS

Have you ever wondered why Western astrological signs fall on odd days of the month instead of simply on the 1st or 30th? Looking into the lunar calendar, I found that it is divided into twenty-four sections which were originally used as a guide for agriculture. In matching the closest dates of these twenty-four sections or stems with the Western calendar, one finds that they coincide with the twelve astrological signs of the West. The twelve animal signs are also assigned a month in this calendar, so we can readily match Eastern lunar signs with Western solar signs.

The twelve animal signs or Earth Branches are also each assigned a month of their own in the lunar calendar. Thus, we can match a Western zodiac sign with its Eastern counterpart by the months each occupy.

Lunar Sign: First Rat

Solar Sign: Sagittarius

Corresponding Dates: 22nd November–21st December

Lunar Sign: Second Ox

Solar Sign: Capricorn

Corresponding Dates: 22nd December–20th January

Lunar Sign: Third Tiger

Solar Sign: Aquarius

Corresponding Dates: 21st January–19th February

Lunar Sign: Fourth Rabbit

Solar Sign: Pisces

Corresponding Dates: 20th February–20th March

Lunar Sign: Fifth Dragon

Solar Sign: Aries

Corresponding Dates: 21st March–19th April

Lunar Sign: Sixth Snake

Solar Sign: Taurus

Corresponding Dates: 20th April–20th May

Lunar Sign: Seventh Horse

Solar Sign: Gemini

Corresponding Dates: 21st May–21st June

Lunar Sign: Eighth Sheep

Solar Sign: Cancer

Corresponding Dates: 22nd June–21st July

Lunar Sign: Ninth Monkey

Solar Sign: Leo

Corresponding Dates: 22nd July–21st August

Lunar Sign: Tenth Rooster

Solar Sign: Virgo

Corresponding Dates: 22nd August–22nd September

Lunar Sign: Eleventh Dog

Solar Sign: Libra

Corresponding Dates: 23rd September–22nd October

Lunar Sign: Twelfth Boar

Solar Sign: Scorpio

Corresponding Dates: 23rd October–21st November

7. LONG AND SHORT LUNAR YEARS AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE LI CHUN

Short lunar years are made up of twelve months of twenty-nine days each.

Long lunar years or “leap” years have thirteen months of twenty-nine days each.

Because the lunar month is shorter than the solar month by one day, every twenty-nine months, an extra month is added to that year to create a lunar leap year.

The first day of spring in the Gregorian calendar is termed the *Li Chun*, the “eyes of spring” in the

Lunar Almanac. When Chinese New Year comes before the Li Chun, it is said the year has seen the first day of spring. If the lunar year begins after the first day of spring and terminates before the next Li Chun on the following year, then such a year is said to be a “blind” year. Often, a lunar year may begin after the first day of spring on the solar calendar, which is usually on the 4th or 5th of February but it could catch up on the following year and end after the first day of spring, giving it the symbolic “eyes” of spring, which is considered by the Chinese as a sort of hindsight—and better than no sight at all. To be truly “blind,” a year must miss the first day of spring at both its beginning and at its end. Blind years are generally not auspicious for getting married or starting a business.

Special Section

UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE ELEMENTS

A fundamental part of Oriental philosophy is the relationships and interactions among the five basic elements of which the universe is composed: Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth. Each of these is divided into *conductive* and *controlling* relationships. These elements are interdependent. Each is controlled by another while contributing to the existence of a different element (see Table 3).

CONDUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

From Metal we get Water

Metal is usually represented by the Chinese symbol for gold, but in this context metal indicates a vessel or container for holding liquids, so we can say that metal traps water. In another sense, metal is the only element that will change into a liquid when heated to a high temperature. And when it resolidifies, the metal is in a much purer state.

From Water we get Wood

Water here means the rain or dew that makes plant life flourish, producing wood in the process. Wood is dependent on water for life and growth.

From Wood we get Fire

Fire cannot exist by itself, but is produced by burning wood. Also, fire is generated by rubbing together two pieces of wood.

From Fire we get Earth

Symbolically, fire reduces everything to ashes, which become part of the earth again and will serve to nourish life.

From Earth we get Metal

All metal has to be extracted from the earth in which it resides.

CONTROLLING RELATIONSHIPS

Metal is controlled by Fire

Metal can only be melted and forged into something useful by the application of great heat.

Fire is controlled by Water

Nothing will put out a fire as quickly as water.

Water is controlled by Earth

Earth directs the flow of water. We dig canals to irrigate fields and build dikes to keep out water. Earth absorbs water and contains it.

Earth is controlled by Wood

Trees and their roots hold the soil together and draw nourishment from the earth. Without the helpful presence of wood, the Earth would erode or dissipate.

Wood is controlled by Metal

Even the largest tree can be felled by the metal blade of an axe. Metal cuts wood into useful pieces. We need metal to prune a tree's dead branches and help wood rejuvenate.

According to this philosophy, no one element can be called the strongest or the weakest. Like the yin and yang, they are forever interdependent and always equal in strength. They are eternally joined in the chain of life that brings about their existence. There is no power or struggle for dominance. Each has its own place and function.

Even in the human body, these five elements maintain their reciprocal relationships. In Chinese medicine and acupuncture, the elements rule the five major organs of the body. Metal is linked to the lungs, Fire controls the heart, Water is associated with the kidneys, Earth rules the spleen and pancreas and Wood is identified with the liver.

So when a Chinese doctor, herbalist or acupuncturist treats an illness, he has to keep these interrelations in mind. For example, when the Earth (pancreas) is affected, the Metal (lungs) are weakened, too. If the Water (kidney) malfunctions, then it cannot produce its counterpart, Wood. And consequently, the Wood organ, the liver, will begin to deteriorate.

METAL ELEMENT

Its color is white, season is autumn, weather is dry; it is associated with the sense of hearing and its body organ is the lung.

Positive Metal is the yang or active part; it can be identified as a sword which can cause bodily harm or a surgeon's knife which must cut to heal.

Negative Metal is the yin or passive side; it can be represented by a cooking pot, metal container, gong or other musical instrument, jewelry, work of art or any rounded metallic shape that is neither pointed nor sharp like a weapon..

People born in a year controlled by the Metal element will be as rigid and resolute in expression as their particular signs permit. They are guided by strong feelings and will pursue their objectives with intensity and little hesitation. Sustained by their convictions, they are capable of prolonged effort to get what they want. They are very success-oriented and determined.

These persons are not easily swayed or influenced to change a course once they have decided on it, even by hardships, drawbacks and initial failures. Whatever constancy and perseverance their native lunar signs contain will be greatly enhanced by the Metal element. But they do have trouble letting go

when situations become unfeasible and can be unreasonably stubborn about their fixations.

They prefer to handle their problems alone and will not appreciate interference or unsolicited assistance. They map out their own destinies, clear their own paths and set their own goals without outside help.

Although they may appear inflexible and coldly self-reliant, persons ruled by Metal can conduct electricity; their strong impulses and generative powers will be felt by everyone they come in contact with, thereby bringing about the changes and transformation they desire.

They have strong monetary and accumulative instincts and will use these traits to insist on having their own way. Often, they are unbending and opinionated and will break off a good relationship because others do not heed their wishes or conform to their will.

WATER ELEMENT

Its color is blue, season is winter, weather is cold; it is associated with the sense of sight and its body organ is the kidney.

Positive Water is a wave or moving current while negative Water is still or ebbing. Active or yang water pushes forward relentlessly and is a fearsome force to be reckoned with. Negative Water is the gentle rain or dew that nurtures and seeps into the soil. The positive can destroy, the negative nourishes.

People born in a year dominated by the Water element have a better than average ability to communicate and to advance their ideas by influencing the thoughts of others. Other people's minds are their vessels and help carry their creative ideas into positive action. They are basically ruled by sympathetic vibrations and convey their feelings and emotions to the best degree that their native animal sign will permit.

They have a knack for noticing things that will become important and can accurately gauge future potentials. They set things into the orbit they desire by prodding others and utilizing their talents and resources. However, they know how to be unobtrusive in their persistence and will never make others feel they are being imposed upon. In this manner, like their element, Water, they will be able to wear away the strongest rocks of opposition by their silent but unceasing efforts. Because these people would rather infiltrate than dominate, they will know how, when and whom to approach about any given subject. They have the talent for making people desire what they desire, thus achieving their goals in a sure but indirect way. They like to propel instead of compel others into motion.

Because of their awareness and flexibility, they are fluid like their element. In their negative states, such people tend to be too conciliatory and will take the easiest route open to them. At their worst, they will be inconstant and passive and lean too much on others for support. Thus, they sabotage their basic abilities. To succeed, they must be more assertive and use their immense power of persuasion to turn their plans into reality. Others would be wise to be guided by their intuitions.

WOOD ELEMENT

Its color is green, season is spring, weather is windy; it is associated with the sense of smell and its body organ is the liver.

The positive stem of Wood is the fir tree and the negative, the bamboo. Firs and pines are green a year round while the passive, delicate and graceful bamboo is dormant in the winter but still very pliable and adaptable, with a surprising resilience and strength. Positive Wood is also symbolized by live branches, negative Wood by the lumber used to build things. Seeds are considered negative;

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