

OUT WITH THE OX IN WITH THE TIGER:

Gong xi fa cai (*Happy New Year*) to the Year of the Yang Metal Tiger. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my readers, clients and friends who receive this newsletter, the very best for the coming year.

The time-honored Chinese method of marking time in the Xia or Farmer's calendar is a unique system that acknowledges both a heavenly (cosmic), and an earthly influence; incorporating the interplay of the five elements and is made up of the ten *Heavenly Stems* and the twelve *Earthly Branches*. The latter more easily recognized as the twelve animal signs of the Chinese Zodiac. This distinctive system, with its dual markers, one sitting on top of the other, is the essence of the Chinese Xia or farmer's calendar, and counts time in both feng shui and Chinese destiny analysis.

The Chinese Lunar New Year by contrast falls this year on the 14th of February and is when the Chinese as a community celebrate the coming of the New Year. Being a lunar observation, it changes year by year. The Xia or Farmer's calendar, and therefore, the feng shui year conversely, are solar based and always fall on the 4th of Feb.)

The Metal Tiger

This year the pundits are predicting that since the two elements that make up the year are Yang (strong) metal – a sword is the usual symbol - sitting on the wood of the Tiger - a symbol of equal ferocity. The year thus has the potential to be one of considerable violence. This is due to the nature of the interplay between the two elements being of the destructive cycle. In Yin Yang Five Element theory, Metal destroys Wood and therefore the relationship between them is one of conflict. This is thought to indicate the potential at least, for considerable conflict in the world arena of politics and international affairs.

However, the wood of the tiger is complex wood since the tiger is considered to be the seed of

fire element which follows. Thus the Tiger's wood is volatile. The last time we saw this mix, sixty years ago in 1950 the threat from nuclear weapons was very strong. So strong in fact that Albert Einstein warned world leaders of the dangers.

60 Years Ago:

1950, was the last time we saw a metal tiger mix and was the year of the outbreak of war on the Korean Peninsula; a conflict during which General Douglas Mac Arthur threatened to unleash atomic weapons against the enemy. Conflict started as early as Feb 11th that year with an attack on the French by Ho Ch Mihn's Viet Minh forces in Indo-China which would eventually lead to the Vietnam War. In March the USSR claimed to have developed its first nuclear weapon. There were also several accidents regarding nuclear weapons. 1950 was the year South Africa passed apartheid into law. In early October of the same year Mao Tse Tung sent his troops into Tibet.

Serious Threat:

Since the Tiger is also a *Traveling Horse* in the Four Pillars system of Chinese destiny analysis, the Yang Metal of the year is said to represent big weapons such as military tanks on the move. From this we can expect there to be at least the threat of conflict if not open clashes.

Personal Issues:

The Tiger forms a direct clash with the Monkey and so people born in years of the Monkey are advised to wear a pendant of a Pig throughout the year. As this is a serious clash those born in these years should also take care when traveling, especially driving. The Tiger also forms a clash with those born in the years of the Snake and these people too are advised to wear a pendant of a Pig. These are available from Abby at

Chase Point, Victoria Park Market. Ph: 302-2751.

Years of the Monkey are: 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, and 2004.

Years of the Snake are: 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, and 2001.

Anyone born after Feb 4th in these years should wear a pendant of the Pig for the next 12 months, until 3rd Feb 2011. Those born on either Monkey or Snake Days too can fall under the effects of this clash but as these are difficult to calculate in general terms. To be sure, a full reading of one's Four Pillars is best. Call me to arrange this.



Due to the fire aspect present in the wood element of the Tiger, it is being predicted that the economy will start to rebound after March. This is referring mostly to the stock market, although I personally doubt if the economy in the USA can be expected to bounce back at this early stage in Period 8.

On an Aside:

In this Period of 8 the dictum is that those locations with water to the southwest will prosper, while those with mountains to the northeast will support the people. The opposite obviously damages both people and the economy. Those of you who have wondered why the USA has been the centre of the international recession may be interested to pull out a map and check that the whole of the Northeast of that country is completely surrounded by water – from the Atlantic Ocean all along the coast up into the St Lawrence Seaway and the great lakes district. According to the feng shui dictum the country needs mountains here. Conversely, the southwestern states

thought of separation, resistance, or blame. Human children prefer dragonflies whose wings and bellies are as red as chili peppers. But the green grasshopper blends completely with the green grass, and children rarely notice it. It neither retreats nor beckons. It knows nothing of philosophy or ideals. It is simply grateful for its ordinary life.

Thich Nhat Hanh, Fragrant Palm Leaves



New Feature on Website - Travelogues:

I am pleased to say I now have a selection of mini travelogues on my website at www.fengshui88.co.nz These were written to a precise formula following an exercise in writing I once tried of scripting one hundred words a day for a hundred days; the idea being one of learning discipline and economy with the written word. Although they are not written in any particular order, I invite you to read them and should you feel so inclined, let me know what you think. Below is an excerpt from the Thai section.

ANNUAL CHECKS NOW DUE:

Obviously from the above, it is time for me to remind readers of the value of having your feng shui checked for the coming year. These annual checks help ensure that your feng shui is not only maximized but also that where any potential for trouble lies, it might be avoided in advance.

Please call me on: 09-6257-888 to schedule.

of the USA all about land along the Mexican border in the southwest.

This same dictum also helps explain from a feng shui perspective why both the Republic of Eire and Northern Ireland are currently suffering the economic downturn they are; the worst in the European community it seems. Once lauded as Europe's 'little Tiger' in reference to the apparent economic miracle unfolding there that seemed to mirror the Asian Tiger economies of Singapore, HK and Taiwan, neither Ireland nor Northern Ireland appear to be any closer to resolving their rapid fall into recession. Both Ireland and Northern Ireland's capital cities face water to the northeast with no mountains at all. To the southwest there are no ports and no significant bodies of water. Again, feng shui can be seen to be playing a hand in the fortunes of these two countries. Once the eyes have been opened, it's not so hard to find other examples.



QUOTE:

When a grasshopper sits on a blade of grass, he has no

'Nights in a Teak Wallah's House'

'Floating on delicate stilts amidst freshly swept gardens; their wooden shingles and roofs tapering, the old Teak Wallah's houses look like something out of Maugham. Glassless windows shuttered at night keep out bats and other unwanted nocturnal flyers while we sleep blissfully under mosquito nets. Gazing out the windows, I watch the villagers taking their evening bathes in the river. The patina of polished teak floor and walls glimmers red gold in lamplight. The heady scent of night flowers equaled momentarily only by the enticing aroma of dinner brought by smiling lads speaking in the caressing tones of Lanna Thai.'



QUOTE:

Nothing in the world is permanent, and we're foolish when we ask anything to last, but surely we're still more foolish not to take delight in it while we have it. If change is of the essence of existence one would have thought it only sensible to make it the premise of our philosophy.

W. Somerset Maugham

The Razor's Edge, 1943

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