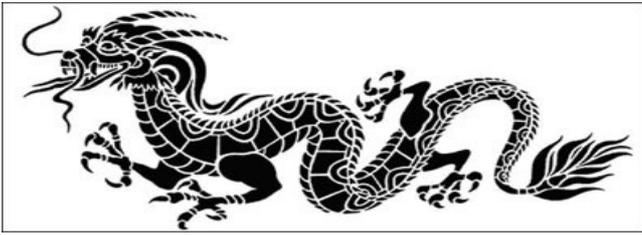


Welcoming the Yang Water Dragon



Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the year of the Yang Water Dragon! Although the Chinese Lunar New Year falls on January 23rd this year it marks the start of the **lunar** year only and should not be mistaken for the commencement of the solar year on which the **feng shui calendar** is based. This is always February 4th, except for leap years (this year for example), when it is taken as Feb 5th. **Thus in 2012, the feng shui year begins Feb. 5th.**

The incoming year is the **Yang Water Dragon** and augers to be an *interesting* and maybe an even more tumultuous year than 2012, at least for the environment. Perhaps not as turbulent politically as the Yin Metal Rabbit was, especially in light of the events that have unfolded across North Africa and the Arab world, but unfortunately, we can expect continuing turmoil both for the environment and the world's economy. With parliamentary elections due in the USA, India, Taiwan, France, Egypt, Greece, and Australia and changes of leadership expected in China and Russia, **2012** can be expected to be a challenging year for political leaders as citizenry worldwide demand greater accountability on the part of their leaders. Let's take a look at some of the dynamics we can expect:

The Tao Te Ching states: 'Man follows Earth, Earth follows Heaven. Heaven follows the Tao. The Tao follows itself.' In assessing the influence of Heaven and Earth over Man, the Chinese *Xia* or Farmer's calendar is unique in that it shows both a cosmic or heavenly factor and an earthly or temporal one. The heavenly aspect known as the *Heavenly Stem* is made up of the 5 elements in their yin and yang forms there are thus ten of them. The *Earthy Branches* are also made up of the five elements in both yin and yang form but with the added distinction of there being four earth elements, each acting as seasonal interstices. These twelve earthly branches are associated with the four seasons but are more easily recognised as the twelve animals of the

Chinese zodiac. When drawn up, the *heavenly stem* sits on top of the *earthly branch*. In analysing these heavenly and earthly factors at work at any given moment in time, we draw up the following four sets or *pillars* of information: Year, Month, Day and Hour. Thus we can say the year 2012 is one of Yang Water sitting on top of the Dragon.

Yang water gives an image of the ocean or large quantities of moving water. Being yang, it is seen as fast moving, impulsive; sweeping things along with it like a strong ocean current, pressing, inexorable. This suggests not only natural forces of water but also tides of change, the potential for social and political restructuring, albeit demanded rather than that offered freely. Since the emotion associated with water is fear there may be a general feeling of trepidation as events unfold. Money is metal element and in order for money to move, fire is needed. In **2012**, the element of fire is completely absent, hence, we can expect there to be a general feeling of fear or trepidation, especially about the economy.

The Dragon of course, is a favoured animal by the Chinese and has none of the fearsome reputation of its European counterparts. The Dragon as the spring/summer interstice in the *Xia* calendar is of earth element. Dragons in feng shui are symbols of powerful, active earth energies. Thus with the Yang Water Dragon we have the image of the ocean sitting on active land. From this image it is easy to surmise that one effect during the year may well be flooding, land slides, even tsunamis. Another factor associated with Dragon years is major earthquakes. In fact, some of the most deadly quakes recorded have occurred in Dragon years and hours: the 2004 Boxing Day quake is one such.

The Dragon is also known as the *Gate of Heaven* and once opened is likely to bring with it some rather mysterious and strange events such as a heightened interest in and sightings of the 'supernatural'; UFOs and other such phenomena. However, one peculiarity of the years of the Dragon is that what are referred to as Noblemen, helpful forces in otherwise precarious circumstances fail to appear. This means that larger numbers than usual are likely to perish in natural disasters. The 9/11 World Trade Centre attacks occurred during the hour of the Dragon and as we know there were few survivors in comparison to the fatalities. The recent and very tragic hot air ballooning accident in Carterton also occurred during

the hour of the dragon, and as we know there were all too sadly, no survivors. This being Period 8 and harmful to younger children, it is to be expected that young ones are likely to suffer the most in any such future events. Time will tell.

The flying star at the heart of the flying star grid for the year is 6. This star is related to the father, senior males and is deemed to be a challenge to their authority and status. From this we can deduce that older male statesmen, presidents, prime ministers, CEO's and the like, are expected to see their authority challenged and even denied. (Saddam Hussein fell from power in a 6 centred year, Osama bin Laden died in a 6 centred month and both the French and Chinese Great Proletarian Cultural Revolutions happened in Periods 6). Happily, it is not thought that the energies of the year will be as violent and conflict riven as those of the last two years.

There are some warnings for the year:

Those born in Dragon years (2002, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940, 1928, 1916,) need to wear a pendant of a Rooster.

Anyone born in the years of the Dog are in Clash against the Grand Duke for the year and also should wear a pendant of a Rooster. Years of the Dog are: 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946, 1934 and 1922.

Those born on days or hours of the Dragon or Dog may also need to wear a pendant of a Rooster. I will give free checks on these up to 24th Feb. Anyone wishing to check should e-mail me **prior** this date.

against all who demand conformity from the common man; schooling his acolyte instead to think for himself and to defend the right to independent thought against all who would deny it him. *'Time Out'* said of it: "True democracy could not exist without Christopher Hitchens and his ilk."

One of his most controversial books was his incontrovertible indictment of Henry Kissinger as war criminal in *'The Trial of Henry Kissinger'*. This book is a must read for anyone even the least bit interested in modern history and/or the Vietnam War. For all who ever read William Shawcross's earlier, seminal *'Sideshow'* in which he uncovered the appallingly callous and illegal activities of Nixon and Kissinger in conducting their murderous agenda in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam; or Robert Dallek's equally incriminating *'Nixon and Kissinger: Partners in Power'*, have long wanted to see Kissinger brought to justice. In *'The Trial of Henry Kissinger'* Hitchens dismantles the ex Secretary of State's elaborately and very deviously cultivated public persona, nailing the old croc's backside to the stake of perdition with irrefutable evidence of Kissinger's guilt. Evidence that to this day he has never been able to refute, evading the courts like the plague as he does. It was Hitchens as much as anyone who demonstrated that until Kissinger is tried openly, America cannot claim the moral high ground in its fight against human rights, totalitarianism and the perfidy of the interference in smaller states by bigger ones. Soldier of truth to the end, we are unlikely to see his like

Annual Feng Shui Talk

Invitations to this year's Feng Shui Talk are being sent out with this. The evening will be held again at Stardome Observatory & Planetarium 670 Manukau Road, One Tree Hill Domain, Royal Oak, Auckland at 7:15 pm on Thursday Feb 16th.

This is an invitation only event and so if you would like an invitation, please e-mail or call

Time for Annual Checks

Clearly, from all of the above, it's time to check your feng shui for the coming year. If you haven't yet booked your annual audit and want to have your homes or work places checked, **please book now**, the earlier the better as this is the busiest time of year for me and can take a bit of fitting everyone in before the end of February. Remember, the feng shui year begins on the 4th February this year.

Obituary

Christopher Hitchens 1949 - 2011

The world has lost a great orator, writer, intellectual and polemicist in the figure of Anglo-American Christopher Hitchens. Amongst his many wonderful works are: *'Letters to a Young Contrarian'*, in which as patron, he inspires an imaginary protégé to fight

again in this lifetime.



Christopher Hitchens

QUOTE:

To those who wanted to pray for him Hitchens would respond: *"By all means. You pray for me and I'll think for you."*

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