

Welcome the Yin Water Snake

This year the Chinese Lunar New Year falls on February 10th 2013. This date 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 when it is usually taken as Feb 5th; although I ordinarily stick to the 4th for the placement of the annual remedies as it's easier to remember one single date.

This year will be the year of the **Yin Water Snake**. The element of yin water sitting on the fire of the snake means the two are in a conflict relationship as in the cycles of the Five Elements, water conquers fire, and so it suggests conflicts and disagreements, internationally and locally. However, being yin water, the most yin of all the Heavenly Stems, this indicates that there will be a hidden or covert aspect to any such conflicts. In such years, governments and those in authority, tend to want to keep such things hidden and covered up. There is an air of secrecy about events. Terrorists of course thrive in this kind of murky environment and so it is predicted we are likely to see an increase in terrorist acts and subversion. An example of such happenings can be taken from the assassination of John F Kennedy. He was shot 22nd November, 1963, a Yin Water Rabbit year. Theories of cover-ups and conspiracies surround his death to this day. Such is the secretive nature of yin water. Earlier, in 1897, in a previous year of Yin Water Snake, Mohandas K. Gandhi was to announce his first campaign of Civil Disobedience. The active passivity of such a philosophy is an excellent example of yin water at work.

The emotions that attend the element of water are kindness and fear or trepidation. Yin water can be likened to a tear drop or a fine misty rain. So it's not aggressive like its yang counterpart Yang Water. The fire of the Snake on the other hand is that of early summer, it is a rising and increasing fire. The emotion of fire is joy and celebration. This aspect of the fire of the snake, welling up or rising, means the year is likely to see rebellions and uprisings that due to the yin nature of the year, can take one by surprise.

Since the economy is tied directly to the element of metal (gold), and it takes fire to melt or stimulate movement in metal, we might expect at least some

beginnings of recovery in the economy this year. We are entering a three year period of fire cycle (Snake, Horse and Goat), and so it is postulated that this fire cycle will see something of a recovery in the world's economies over this three year period. Just how far this recovery will work has yet to be seen however.

One interesting aspect of the Snake is the similarity between that of a train and a snake. Both slither along the surface of the ground. The last time the Heavenly Stem of Yin Water appeared above the Earthly Branch of the Snake, sixty years ago in 1953, New Zealand suffered its worst ever train disaster. As a result of a devastating lahar from the crater lake of Mt Ruapehu, the overnight Wellington to Auckland express plummeted head long into the riverbed at Tangiwai on Christmas Eve. 151 lives were lost in that tragedy and it lives on in our national memory to this day. However, it may come as some surprise to New Zealanders that Tangiwai, terrible though it was, was not the only train disaster that week. In fact it was not even the only train disaster that day.

Half a world away in far away Czechoslovakia, that same day another express train slammed into another train standing still at a station platform. That accident killed almost just as many but the Czech government of the day quickly suppressed all details and at first denied there had even been an accident. Later they admitted there were over 105 deaths and 83 other casualties but the final figures remain uncertain, even now. In June of the same year, Vietnamese insurgents fighting French colonialism ignited charges against the pylons of a rail viaduct across a deep ravine in rural central Vietnam and sent a packed train plummeting to its end, killing over a hundred people in the ensuing carnage. Like their Czech counterparts, the French Colonial government in Vietnam never disclosed a full and reliable account of what had actually taken place, trying too to hush it all up. Such events can be an aspect of Snake Years.

The snake is one of four animals in the Chinese zodiac that form what is known as a Travelling Horse. These four animals indicate years when we can expect extra travelling and movement. Clearly they are good for tourism but with them go the connotation that there are also likely to be more accidents involving travel and modes of travel. Since the snake is similar to a train, we can expect extra

train accidents in the coming year, but since fire is related to the air travel industry, we can also expect accidents here too. More insights as to what we might expect to see happening in the coming year of the snake will be given at my annual talk. (See below)



Annual Talk February 15th 2013

I will be holding my Annual Talk on Friday 15th February, at the Stardome, Auckland's Observatory. **This year's talk will be slightly different.** For new clients, and anyone wanting a review of the basics of classical Chinese feng shui, I will be holding an early session. This will start at **18:00 sharp** and run for approximately 40 minutes. The Annual Talk itself will begin at **19:00**. Those attending are requested to be seated by **18:55** please. As this event is invitation only, please feel free to contact me for your personalised invitation. (See contact details below)

QUOTE:

"The day science begins to study non-physical phenomena; it will make more progress in one decade than in all the previous centuries of its existence."

Nikola Tesla

Time for Annual Checks

Of course, with all this talk of the New Year, it means it's time to check your feng shui for the coming year. If you haven't yet and want to have your homes or work places checked, please book your annual audits **now**. The earlier you book, the better, as this is my busiest time of year and it can take a bit of fitting everyone in before the end of February.

Remember, the feng shui year begins on the 4th February! The folk celebration of Chinese New Year is on the 10th of February this year and usually lasts for a week to ten days. For anyone wanting to wish their Chinese friends or neighbours a happy Chinese New Year and wanting to do it in style it's 'Gong xi fa cai' (pronounced gong see far chai) in Mandarin and 'Gong hee fat choy' in Cantonese!

QUOTE:

"Man will never be free until the last king has been strangled with the entrails of the last priest."

Nietzsche

'Year of the Dragon' Documentary soon!

I still don't have a date for when TV3 will run the 'Year of the Dragon' documentary but have been told

it's most likely to air in conjunction with Chinese New Year; so keep an eye out for it over the next few weeks.

QUOTE:

"The mind, like a parachute, doesn't work until opened!"

Frank Zappa

'Strange But True – Tales of Feng Shui'

My book *Strange but True- Tales of Feng Shui*, is about to be published and will soon be on sale through my website and selected bookshops. It offers a series of feng shui stories, all true, revealing not only accounts of my own experiences as a professional feng shui consultant but some feng shui perspectives seldom presented outside a feng shui class as taught in Asia. Here is an excerpt:

'Other train crashes that have occurred in relationship to the appearance of the snake are the Moorgate tube train crash in the UK on the 28th of February, 1975. This crash occurred at 8:45 am and so during the hour of the Dragon. There was a high death rate that day with 43 reported dead and 74 injured. For those who have read Chapter Thirteen, the significance of this crash and the one at Irk Valley occurring not only on a snake day but in the hour of the Dragon, will be better understood.

A head-on collision between two trains occurred on the 8th June, 1962 in Hermelen, in the Netherlands, and remains that country's worst train disaster to date. The two trains involved collided at relatively high speed at 9:20am, just 20 minutes into the hour of the snake. A total of ninety three people from both trains lost their lives. Remaining in the Netherlands and returning to the 1953 train accident at Wees; there had in fact been an earlier train crash at that identical place in 1918 on the 13th September in which casualties were even higher with 41 dead and 42 injured. This earlier accident had also occurred at 10:25am and thus in the hour of the snake. Although the year 2013, sees a return of the yin water snake, and marks sixty years since the dreadful events at Tangiwai that fateful Christmas eve, neither the month nor the day will share exactly the same Heavenly Stems or Earthly Branches. Nature's calendar moves on and with it the ever changing dynamics of Heaven and Earth with which man must learn to live. This is the way of the Tao.'

Review of My Services:

- Land and Site Pre-Inspections / New Building Advice
- Audits on Existing Buildings - Domestic and Commercial
- Four Pillars of Destiny Charts (Chinese Astrology)
- Public Speaking Engagements

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