

## Welcoming in the Year of the Yang Earth Dog.

As many have experienced, 2017, the Year of the Yin Fire Rooster was a tough year and its effects are still being felt. So now, many are now looking forward to 4th February and the start of the Year of the Yang Earth Dog. This begins with the start of the Chinese Solar New Year, whereas the Chinese Lunar Year starts on February 16<sup>th</sup>, this year. It's easy to get the two confused of course, but the year of the Yang Earth Dog actually starts, as do all feng shui years, with the Solar New Year, ordinarily 4<sup>th</sup> February. All Chinese astrological charts (4 Pillars of Destiny), and feng shui timings are calculated according to the Chinese Solar Year, **not** the Lunar. It's a surprisingly common mistake to find people thinking of themselves as having been born in the year of the next zodiac sign, when in fact they were born in the last; ie prior to 4<sup>th</sup> February of their years of birth. This happens most when Chinese Lunar New Year occurs early.

So, just what can we expect from this coming Year of the Dog. The Heavenly Stem, sitting on top of the Dog for 2018, is Yang Earth. This along with Yang Metal on the Dog signifies one of two years for the Dog that are known as *Days of Fai Kong* years. People born on days which are actual *Days of Fai Kong* are known to be particularly tough and resilient characters. This indicates a year ahead in which people will tend to be truculent and stubborn, displaying something of an all or nothing attitude. This does not bode well for political settlements of international disputes being worked out peacefully, over more belligerent means. Since President Donald Trump of the USA, is a strong earth man, and his favourable elements are metal and water, not fire and earth, it indicates that 2018, will be a difficult year for him and by extension, the country he leads.

Also known as the Gate of Hell, the Dog represents one of two aspects usually associated with the religious and spiritual. It is therefore said, that in years of the Dog, more people than normal will have unusual and/or spiritual experiences. The other animal sign associated with this kind of factor is the Dragon, referred to as the Gate of Heaven. Together

they are said to *open* the Gates of Heaven and Hell. When big disasters happen and these two are present, there are seldom many survivors; as with the attacks on the Twin Trade Towers. This is due to the Gates of Heaven and Hell being opened and no Nobleman, or what we in the West might think of as Guardian Angels, coming to rescue those caught up in the melee of such cataclysms.

Since the Dragon is the only animal of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs, that lives in the sky, it is said that when the Dragon comes, we can expect to see unusual things happening in the sky. At such times we can expect to see particularly vibrant sunrises, an increase in UFO sightings and in extreme cases, events such as those which occurred above New York's skyline on 9/11. The hour of the Dragon is 7-9am; the time of the attacks in New York that day. Conversely, the Dog is the only sign which digs holes, and in its natural state, lives underground. So, when the Dog appears, we find strange things occurring in the sky at sunset and underground. Examples of this are: Saddam Hussein being captured hiding in an 8-foot-deep hole in the ground at 8:30pm – during the hour of the Dog 7-9pm. (There is a lot more intriguing detail to the story of his capture in that Year (2003 Yin Water Goat, than just this one factor - but that will have to wait for another time.)



Saddam Hussein dragged from his hole during the Hr of the Dog.

The infamous Kaimai Tunnel collapse, here in New Zealand, in 1970, took place in a Dog Year and the tragic earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010, was on a Dog Day.

A full assessment of what we might expect from the Year of the Dog, will be given at my Annual Talk on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **ANNUAL FENG SHUI TALK:**

My Annual Feng Shui Talk will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Auckland Star-Dome Observatory. As space is limited, this is an invitation only event, designed primarily for clients and students. Should you want an invitation, please let me know. Please note: **No Door Sales**. This event is conducted in English only.

A separate Chinese Talk will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wanting details of either talk, please e-mail me at [fsc@fengshui88.co.nz](mailto:fsc@fengshui88.co.nz)

### **Quote:**

*'Your mind lay open like a drawer full of knives.'*  
Philip Larkin – Poet

### **Time for Annual Checks:**

For those of you wanting your Annual Checks done, please call or e-mail me as soon as you're ready to organise your appointments. There have been several early birds so far but as this is always a very busy time for me, the earlier you book the sooner I can attend to your needs.

### **Thoughts on New Year Resolutions:**

*'A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other'.*

Anonymous

As you might imagine, I've never been a great one for New Year Resolutions; I don't really believe in their efficacy. In part perhaps, because I never seem able to keep them going for the whole year; events and ennui often intervening in my initial good intentions. At some point, frequently by the end of January, or the beginning of February, they seem to just peter out or become irrelevant. Of course, some might say that just shows weakness of character on my part, and they could well be right. After all, who am I to argue? On the other hand, I have observed that the New Year is more frequently than not a period of great transition in our lives; not every year its true, but often enough for it be a worthwhile factor to take note of. It can be surprising to see just how many people's lives change between Christmas and the early weeks of February. I say Christmas,

because we here in New Zealand, as throughout the West, live in a country which has had its original end of year calendar sabotaged by a faux Christian festival. New Year follows; pushed back from its original observance at the winter solstice, and with it we make new determinations for the in-coming year. By contrast, the Chinese Solar calendar, observes the start of spring, and the New Year, at the mid-way point between the northern winter solstice and the northern spring equinox. It is in this halfway period when the energies of the year are transitioning from old year to new, and are most easily observable; and with them, the changes they manifest in our lives. With this in mind, and provided we have real insights as to what the incoming energies are likely to bring to us as individuals, we can make much better-informed decisions as to the direction our lives might be better taking in the coming year. Without these insights, I think making New Year's Resolution is a bit of a pig in a poke at best!

It also seems to me that instead of making resolutions to try and make ourselves better people, which surely, is a life-long obligation anyway, the New Year provides us with time to reflect on, and *plan* the directions our lives are best to take in the incoming year. It's this level of future planning that lies at the heart of understanding and applying the 4 Pillars of Destiny. This is why many Chinese people like to review their 4 Pillar's at this time of year.

On a lighter note the following two quotes may help throw some much-needed humour on all the angst that so often accompanies our making (and breaking), of New Year's Resolutions. Enjoy!

*'An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves'.* Bill Vaughn

*'New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time'.* James Agate

And for those of an evangelical turn of mind:

*'The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule.'* H. L. Mencken

**Happy New Year everyone!**

### **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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