

Beware the Rat in December:

There are just a little over two months remaining in what, as predicted, has proved to be a very turbulent year of the Horse. However, December, the month of the Yang Fire Rat, promises one final blast of fiery turmoil. The Heavenly Stem of Yang Fire sitting atop the Earthly Branch of the Rat sees conflict between the two; suggesting we can expect further instability in international affairs in December. Added to this is the Clash relationship between the explosive Fire of the Horse and the Water of the Rat month. This Clash has lasted all year but will be particularly strong in December. The clash between the month of the Rat and the year of the Horse is a serious one, and those who fall under its influence need to take extra care between Dec 7th to Jan 6th, when the month finally ends. Those under clash are anyone born on either a Horse or Rat Year, Month, Day or Hour. Such people need especially, to wear a pendant of a goat through December. These same people were advised earlier in the year and ought to have had on the pendant of the goat throughout the whole year anyway. Horse Years are:

1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014

Horse months are between: June 6th and 7th July

Rat Years are:

1936 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008

Rat Months are between: Dec. 7th and 6th Jan.

Days need to be calculated individually. Rat hours are between 11pm and 1am and, Horse Hours are between 11am and 1pm. Furthermore, December will also see the doubling of the Flying Star 4 into the Centre. This means there is a doubling of the Monthly Star 5 in the Northwest, the same as the Annual Star 5. This forebodes trouble in areas that can be described as the *Northwest* during December. With the explosive nature of the Fire/Water mix, one cannot discount nuclear disasters from this. I will be keeping an eye on developments around the Sinjar Mountains of North-western Iraq especially, during December.

Restaurant Review:

On a somewhat more cheerful note, I have been lucky enough to dine out recently at a new and very exciting little eatery at the top end of Dominion Rd. There has long been a shortage of quality Vietnamese restaurants along Dominion Road and newly opened *Peasant* at 191 Dominion Rd (on the Corner of Dominion Rd and Onslow Rd), is changing that. Owned and operated by two young brothers, John and Simon Yip, the two lads welcome guests with

big, infectious smiles, their enthusiasm being about as addictive as their food. I really recommend their scrumptious pork belly with tamarind sauce, smoked quail egg and fresh green apple salad, or their skate wings with dill, turmeric root, vermicelli, watercress and peanuts. Yum! The Fish buns starters make a great entree as does the pork stuffed squid. For mains try their *confit* of duck. I've set my heart on the banana leaf pork terrine for my next visit. The service is friendly and attentive without being at all cloying. Each time I've visited, the place has been impressively abuzz. The decor is upbeat, funky even; check out the black and white family photographs of old Vietnam. Mostly though, it's the great food and their air of enthusiasm for the venture that John and Simon exude that make it a great addition to Dominion Road's growing Chinatown. Visit and tell them you heard about them from me. Oh yes, and try the *Jardin de Fleur* tea!

Quote

'I have examined all the known superstitions of the world, and I do not find in our particular superstition of Christianity one redeeming feature. They are all alike, founded on fables and mythologies.'

Thomas Jefferson

The Burning of the Books:

With the world's media full of the mindless faith-based horror of Isis, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, and Hamas, all avowed fundamentalist Moslem groups, reading accounts of their senseless mass rapes, multiple beheadings and countless other atrocities, including their forced conversions; one is immediately reminded of the insanity of the Spanish Inquisition, German National Socialism or the Ku klux klan. Not that any of these ever had a monopoly on bigotry or savagery. Alas, neither Christianity nor Islam have a monopoly when it comes to imposing their ideologies on non-believers. I am reminded of the long term results of such insane bigotry almost daily in working in my own field of classical feng shui. Amir Aczel, author of *The Riddle of the Compass, The invention that changed the world*, explains: "Unfortunately, much knowledge about feng shui and the compass, which could have helped us greatly in understanding Chinese culture, has been lost forever. This happened because of the interference in Chinese affairs by a foreign entity - the church. The Jesuits, who exerted control in China in the early seventeenth century, prohibited the reading of books on many subjects, including feng shui, and Jesuit missionaries went so far as to order

that books on these topics be burned. Thus many immensely valuable Chinese books fell prey to the conflict between Western ignorance and Chinese learning.

Li Ying-Shih, who was converted to Christianity in 1602, was a distinguished scholar who had amassed an impressive library with many books on divination and feng shui. He possessed important ancient manuscripts, which he had procured at great expense. These books no doubt had much information on China's civilisation and culture and very likely contained details about the invention and use of the magnetic compass in divination. It took three days to burn all of Li Ying-Shih's books. Even the carved plates used in printing such books were burned by the Jesuits - to ensure that the banned books would never be printed again. Thus the European ideal of "holy ignorance" closed forever the doors to knowledge about the origins of the greatest invention China has given the world."

From the perspective of those practising classical feng shui today, the long term result of such bigotry has been a tremendous loss to the world of important information regarding China's early sciences, particularly their contributions in the fields of magnetism and early astronomy. Today we simply don't know what was lost. *"Violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism and tribalism and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free inquiry, contemptuous of women and coercive toward children: organized religion ought to have a great deal on its conscience."* Christopher Hitchens

Dispelling Misperceptions:

With Xmas fast approaching and many searching for gifts to give, some will undoubtedly fall for the gimmickry of books that tout insights into Chinese Astrology for each of the twelve animal signs in the coming year of the Wood Goat. They should spend their money elsewhere. It's a common misperception about so-called Chinese Astrology that one can simply take the animal sign of the year of birth, better known as the *Earthly Branch*, and deduce from that alone, the person's character. It's time to put this particular nonsense to bed. The Chinese have, over millennia, developed numerous methods of divination, the *Yi-Jing/I-Ching* being the foremost of these. The *Four Pillars of Destiny* is one of two bodies of knowledge, often described as Chinese astrology; the other being *Purple Star* or *Zi Wei Dou*. In the case of the *Four Pillars of Destiny*, based on detailed data provided by an in-depth analysis of one's time of birth, there are in fact many intricate and fascinating layers to be discovered. Also known by the alternate name of *Ba Tzi*, literally, *Eight Characters*, a reference to the eight Chinese

characters laid out in four columns and used to delineate the precise moment of birth: year, month, day and hour; all eight, are required for a true and full assessment. These four columns provide two basic sets of information. The top layer, gives a cosmic or heavenly influence, while the lower provides a temporal or earthly. This comes from the Taoist world view of Heaven above, Earth beneath, Man in between. According to this matrix, all human life is directly affected by these two inter-related dynamics. Working from these four interconnected points of time, year, month, day and hour, two sets of interrelated data are derived. The top layer being the *Heavenly Stems* and the lower the *Earthly Branches*. Both are expressions of the five elements in either yin or yang form. In fact the *Twelve Earthly Branches* or the twelve animal signs of the Chinese zodiac, are simply vehicles for talking about the five elements in their large or small forms. When correctly understood, these four *pillars*, provide information regarding such things as personality, interpersonal relationships, (between the self, one's grandparents, parents, spouse, children, siblings, even one's colleagues. Properly assessed, they provide powerful and intricate data about one's life, relationships and destiny. Added to this original set of data, however, is a further, separate set of '*Luck Pillars*', each one for a ten year period. Therefore, in order to fully understand all the hidden dynamics influencing one's life at any given moment in time, we also need to analyse the 10 year '*Luck Pillars*' in conjunction with the *Four Pillars* of the Birth Chart. This means one must actually have all five columns of data (year, month, day, hour of birth **plus** the current '*Luck Pillar*'), if one is to draw a full and true representation of the life. Anything less and one simply cannot draw a full picture. Thus only all ten columns can provide a full 100% picture. Reading just one, the *Earthly Branch* of the year of birth provides only 10% of the full available data. I don't know about you but that sounds like a major short sell to me. Leave those books on the shelf. Better yet, treat yourself or your loved one to a proper, full *Four Pillars of Destiny* reading!

	Year	Month	Day	Hour
Heavenly Stem	戊 Earth + Wu	庚 Metal + Geng	戊 Earth + Wu	甲 Wood + Jia
Earthly Branch	戌 Dog Earth +	申 Monkey Metal +	寅 Tiger Wood +	寅 Tiger Wood +

A typical Four Pillars of Destiny Birth Chart, but without the accompanying 10yr Luck Pillar. We still only have 80% of required data. Any assessment based on the Year's Earthly Branch alone, provides only 10% of the information.

Wishing you all Season's Greetings and many sincere thanks for your ongoing support.

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