The Year of the Rabbit

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2011 is the Year of the Golden Rabbit, which begins on February 3, 2011 and ends on January 22, 2012. The Rabbit is the fourth sign of the Chinese Zodiac which consists of 12 animals signs. The Rabbit is a lucky sign. Rabbits are private individuals and a bit introverted. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are reasonably friendly individuals who enjoy the company of a group of good friends. They are good teachers, counselors and communicators, but also need their own space. According to Chinese tradition, the Rabbit brings a year in which you can catch your breath and calm your nerves. It is a time for negotiation. Don't try to force issues, because if you do you will ultimately fail. To gain the greatest benefits from this time, focus on home, family, security, diplomacy, and your relationships with women and children. Make it a goal to create a safe, peaceful lifestyle, so you will be able to calmly deal with any problem that may arise. Not many people know that the Rabbit is the symbol of the Moon, while the Peacock is the symbol of the Sun, and that together, these two animal signs signify the start of day and night, represent the Yin and Yang of life. It is said that anyone making supplications for wishes to be fulfilled are certain to get what they want... and in the Year of the Rabbit, the wish-granting aspect of the Sun and the Moon combined is multiplied. The Moon is YIN and this is the Yin of Heaven, signifying magic. Thus on each of the Full Moon nights of this year, go out into your garden to gaze into the Full Moon and visualize plenty of Moon dust and Moon glow flowing into you, filling your whole body with bright white light and granting you fearlessness, love and courage. This will not only strengthen your inner "Chi" energy, it will also bring wisdom into your life.
People born in the Year of the Rabbit share certain characteristics: Keen, wise, fragile, tranquil, serene, considerate, fashionable, and kind. Generally, they are quite calm, do not exhibit aggressive behavior, and will avoid confrontation at all costs. When angry about something, they will approach it calmly and considerately, hardly ever raising their voice. And they are quite keen and pay close attention to the situations developing around them. They are intelligent and quick, and can talk themselves in or out of most situations with no problem. The Rabbit is a symbol for mercy, elegance, and worship of beauty. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are kind, loving persons, and dislike any hostile act. They give others an impression of being frail-looking because of their gentle appearance. But, in fact they are strong-minded and have strong wills. They pursue their ideals all their lives in a precise and orderly way. They do things slowly and deliberately because of their cautious characters. There is no need to worry about their lives. They are nimble, clever and good at avoiding harm to themselves. They are talented and like artistic ventures, such as painting and music and are generally quite present in these worlds. They are also very hospitable, good hosts and warm-hearted companions. They never embrace others in public places. They know the art of saving face and giving consideration to the interests of both sides.
Chinese Zodiac (1-5)

1. RAT
(Yang, 1st Trine, Fixed Element Water): forthright, tenacious, intense, meticulous, charismatic, sensitive, intellectual, industrious, charming, eloquent, sociable, artistic, and shrewd. Can be manipulative, vindictive, self-destructive, envious, mendacious, venal, obstinate, critical, over-ambitious, ruthless, intolerant, and scheming.

2. OX

3. TIGER
(Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element Wood): Unpredictable, rebellious, colorful, powerful, passionate, daring, impulsive, vigorous, stimulating, sincere, affectionate, humanitarian, generous. Can be restless, reckless, impatient, quick-tempered, obstinate, selfish, aggressive, moody.

4. RABBIT
(Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element Wood): Gracious, good friend, kind, sensitive, soft-spoken, amiable, elegant, reserved, cautious, artistic, thorough, tender, self-assured, shy, astute, compassionate, lucky, flexible. Can be moody, detached, superficial, self-indulgent, opportunistic, stubborn.

5. DRAGON
(Yang, 1st Trine, Fixed Element Wood): Magnanimous, stately, vigorous, strong, self-assured, proud, noble, direct, dignified, eccentric, intellectual, fiery, passionate, decisive, pioneering, artistic, generous, loyal. Can be tactless, arrogant, imperious, tyrannical, demanding, intolerant, domineering, violent, impetuous, brash.

In Chinese astrology the animal signs assigned by year represent what others perceive you as being or how you present yourself. It is a common misconception that the animals assigned by year are the only signs, and many western descriptions of Chinese astrology draw solely on this system. In fact, there are also animal signs assigned by month (called inner animals) and hours of the day (called secret animals).
Chinese Zodiac (6-12)

6. **SNAKE**
(Yin, 2nd Trine, Fixed Element Fire): Deep thinker, wise, mystic, graceful, soft-spoken, sensual, creative, prudent, shrewd, elegant, cautious, responsible, calm, strong, constant, purposeful. Can be loner, bad communicator, possessive, hedonistic, self-doubting, distrustful, mendacious, suffocating, cold

7. **HORSE**
(Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element Fire): Cheerful, popular, quick-witted, changeable, earthy, perceptive, talkative, agile—mentally and physically, magnetic, intelligent, astute, flexible, open-minded. Can be fickle, arrogant, childish, anxious, rude, gullible, stubborn.

8. **RAM**
(Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element Fire): Righteous, sincere, sympathetic, mild-mannered, shy, artistic, gentle, compassionate, understanding, mothering, peaceful, generous, seeks security. Can be moody, indecisive, over-passive, worrier, pessimistic, over-sensitive, complainer, weak-willed.

9. **MONKEY**
(Yang, 1st Trine, Fixed Element Metal): Inventor, motivator, improviser, quick-witted, inquisitive, flexible, innovative, problem solver, self-assured, sociable, artistic, polite, dignified, competitive, objective, factual, intellectual. Can be egotistical, vain, arrogant, selfish, reckless, snobbish, deceptive, manipulative, cunning, jealous, suspicious

10. **ROOSTER**
(Yin, 2nd Trine, Fixed Element Metal): Acute, neat, meticulous, organized, self-assured, decisive, conservative, critical, perfectionist, alert, zealous, practical, scientific, responsible. Can be over zealous and critical, puritanical, egotistical, abrasive, proud, opinionated, given to empty bravado.

11. **DOG**
(Yang, 3rd Trine, Fixed Element Metal): Honest, intelligent, straightforward, loyal, sense of justice and fair play, attractive, amicable, unpretentious, sociable, open-minded, idealistic, moralistic, practical, affectionate, sensitive, easy going. Can be cynical, lazy, cold, judgmental, pessimistic, worrier, stubborn, quarrelsome.

12. **PIG**
(Yin, 4th Trine, Fixed Element Water): Honest, gallant, sturdy, sociable, peace-loving, patient, loyal, hard-working, trusting, sincere, calm, understanding, thoughtful, scrupulous, passionate, intelligent. Can be naïve, over-reliant, self-indulgent, gullible, fatalistic, materialistic.
New Year’s Eve Dinner -
Traditionally, Chinese families would gather for a feast one day before the start of the Lunar New Year. This meal is known as "tuan yuan fan", or literally "Reunion Rice", rice being the main staple of the Chinese. It is also translated as "Reunion Meal" or "Reunion Dinner", since it is almost always eaten after nightfall as the last meal of the old year. This is one of the most important meals for the Chinese, and many Chinese living away from their homes would make special effort to attend this meal with their families, as the Chinese place a lot of emphasis on being reunited with their family members especially for this day. The reunion dinner should be eaten with all immediate family members present as a symbol of strength and unity in the family. Some Chinese make it a point to eat this meal also with their in-laws and extended family members. This is a time to renew and reaffirm family ties. There is usually an abundance of food prepared for this meal, even by poorer families. The Chinese believe that having an excess of food on the table symbolizes good fortune for the New Year, as it would bring excess wealth. Some families would make special effort to save up money throughout the year in order to prepare a good reunion dinner.

New Year’s Eve: Firecrackers -
Bamboo stems filled with gunpowder that were burnt to create small explosions were once used in ancient China to drive away evil spirits. In modern times, this method has eventually evolved into the use of firecrackers during the festive season. Firecrackers are usually strung on a long fused string so it can be hung down. Each firecracker is rolled up in red papers, as red is auspicious, with gunpowder in its core. Once ignited, the firecracker lets out a loud popping noise and, as they are usually strung together by the hundreds, the firecrackers are known for their deafening explosions that are thought to scare away evil spirits. See also Myths above. The burning of firecrackers also signifies a joyful time of year and has become an integral aspect of Chinese New Year celebrations.

New Year’s Eve: A Billion TV Viewers -
CCTV (Chinese Central Television) Spring Festival Gala, usually referred to as the CCTV Spring Festival Evening, or directly referred to as "Spring Festival", is the China Central Television in the annual Lunar New Year’s Eve celebration held in the Auditorium of the Lunar New Year Gala. Spring Festival in the performance scale, cast, length of broadcast audience ratings at home and abroad, the total world record of China Association of hit variety show three world highest in the world, the world record of China Association of selected world’s most watched variety show; the world the longest variety show broadcast; the world’s largest variety show performers. Spring Festival of the art features: first, painstaking planning; followed by the focus on creative, well-built programs; third party well-known actors, artists gathered; Fourth, the party brings together various art forms of the Chinese nation the highest level of work. Must be recognized as an important development after 20 years of cultural events, the significance of the Spring Festival is a major influence is far-reaching. Spring Festival is the meaning of it as a TV show created a cultural miracle, completed a TV myth.
The Fifteen Days:

**Preceding days** - On the days before the New Year celebration Chinese families give their home a thorough cleaning. There is a Cantonese saying “Wash away the dirt on nin’ya’baat”, but the practice is not usually restricted on nin’ya’baat, the 28th day of month 12). It is believed the cleaning sweeps away the bad luck of the preceding year and makes their homes ready for good luck. Brooms and dust pans are put away on the first day so that the newly arrived good luck cannot be swept away.

Some people give their homes, doors and window-frames a new coat of red paint. Homes are often decorated with paper cutouts of Chinese auspicious phrases and couplets. Purchasing new clothing, shoes, and receiving a hair-cut also symbolize a fresh start. In many households where Buddhism or Taoism is prevalent, home altars and statues are cleaned thoroughly, and altars that were adorned with decorations from the previous year are also taken down and burned a week before the new year starts, and replaced with new decorations. Taoists (and Buddhists to a lesser extent) will also “send gods”, an example would be burning a paper effigy of Zao Jun the Kitchen God, the recorder of family functions. This is done so that the Kitchen God can report to the Jade Emperor of the family household’s transgressions and good deeds. Families often offer sweet foods (such as candy) in order to "bribe" the deities into reporting good things about the family. The biggest event of any Chinese New Year's Eve is the dinner every family will have. A dish consisting of fish will appear on the tables of Chinese families. It is for display for the New Year's Eve dinner. This meal is comparable to Christmas dinner in the West. In northern China, it is customary to make dumplings (jiaozi) after dinner and have it around midnight. Dumplings symbolize wealth because their shape is like a Chinese tael. By contrast, in the South, it is customary to make a new year cake (Niangao) after dinner and send pieces of it as gifts to relatives and friends in the coming days of the new year. Niangao literally means increasingly prosperous year in year out. After the dinner, some families go to local temples, hours before the new year begins to pray for a prosperous new year by lighting the first incense of the year; however in modern practice, many households hold parties and even hold a countdown to the new lunar year. After the dinner, some families go to local temples, hours before the new year begins to pray for a prosperous new year by lighting the first incense of the year; however in modern practice, many households hold parties and even hold a countdown to the new lunar year. Beginning in 1982, the CCTV New Year’s Gala was broadcast four hours before the start of the New Year.

**First day** - The first day is for the welcoming of the deities of the heavens and earth, officially beginning at midnight. Many people, especially Buddhists, abstain from meat consumption on the first day because it is believed that this will ensure longevity for them. Some consider lighting fires and using knives to be bad luck on New Year’s Day, so all food to be consumed is cooked the day before. For Buddhists, the first day is also the birthday of Maitreya Bodhisattva (better known as the more familiar Budai Luohan), the Buddha-to-be. People also abstain from killing animals. Most importantly, the first day of Chinese New Year is a time when families visit the oldest and most senior members of their extended family, usually their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents. Some families may invite a lion dance troupe as a symbolic ritual to usher in the Lunar New Year, as well as to evict bad spirits from the premises. Members of the family who are married also give red envelopes containing cash to junior members of the family, mostly children and teenagers. Business managers also give bonuses through red envelopes to employees for good luck and wealth. While fireworks and firecrackers are traditionally very popular, some regions have banned them due to concerns over fire hazards,
hazards, which have resulted in increased number of fires around New Years and challenged municipal fire departments’ work capacity. For this reason, various city governments (e.g., Hong Kong, and Beijing, for a number of years) issued bans over fireworks and firecrackers in certain premises of the city. As a substitute, large-scale fireworks have been launched by governments in cities like Hong Kong to offer citizens the experience.

Second day - Incense is burned at the graves of ancestors as part of the offering and prayer ritual. The second day of the Chinese New Year is for married daughters to visit their birth parents. Traditionally, daughters who have been married may not have the opportunity to visit their birth families frequently. On the second day, the Chinese pray to their ancestors as well as to all the gods. They are extra kind to all dogs and feed them well as it is believed that the second day is the birthday of all dogs. Business people of the Cantonese dialect group will hold a ‘Hoi Nin’ prayer to start their business on the 2nd day of Chinese New Year. The prayer is done to pray that they will be blessed with good luck and prosperity in their business for the year.

Third day - The third day is known as chi kou, directly translated as “red mouth”. Chi kou is also called chi gōu ri. Chi gōu means “the God of Blazing Wrath”. It is generally accepted that it is not a good day to socialize or visit your relatives and friends.

Fifth day - In northern China, people eat jiao zi (simplified Chinese: traditional Chinese:), or dumplings on the morning of Po Wu. This is also the birthday of the Chinese god of wealth. In Taiwan, businesses traditionally re-open on the next day (the sixth day), accompanied by firecrackers. It is also common in China that on the 5th day people will shoot off firecrackers in the attempt to get Guan Yu’s attention, thus ensuring his favor and good fortune for the new year.

Seventh day - The seventh day, traditionally known as renri, the common man’s birthday, the day when everyone grows one year older. It is the day when tossed raw fish salad, yusheng, is eaten. This is a custom primarily among the overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia and Singapore. People get together to toss the colorful salad and make wishes for continued wealth and prosperity. For many Chinese Buddhists, this is another day to avoid meat, the seventh day commemorating the birth of Sakra, lord of the devas in Buddhist cosmology who is analogous to the Jade Emperor. Chinese New Year’s celebrations, on the eighth day, in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada.

Eighth day - Another family dinner to celebrate the eve of the birth of the Jade Emperor. However, everybody should be back to work by the 8th day. All of government agencies and business will stop celebrating by the eighth day.

Ninth day

The ninth day of the New Year is a day for Chinese to offer prayers to the Jade Emperor of Heaven in the Taoist Pantheon. The ninth day is traditionally the birthday of the Jade Emperor. This day is especially important to Hokkiens. Come midnight of the eighth day of the new year, Hokkiens will offer thanks giving prayers to the Emperor of Heaven. Offerings will include sugarcane as it was the sugarcane that had protected the Hokkiens from certain extermination generations ago. Incense, tea, fruit, vegetarian food or roast pig, and paper gold is served as a customary protocol for paying respect to an honored person.

Tenth day - The other day when the Jade Emperor’s birthday is celebrated.

Thirteenth day - On the 13th day people will eat pure vegetarian food to clean out their stomach due to consuming too much food over the last two weeks. This day is dedicated to the General Guan Yu, also known as the Chinese God of War. Guan Yu was born in the Han dynasty and is considered the greatest general in Chinese history. He represents loyalty, strength, truth, and justice. According to history, he was tricked by the enemy and was beheaded. Almost every organization and business in China will pray to Guan Yu on this day. Before his life ended, Guan Yu had won over one hundred battles and that is a goal that all businesses in China want to accomplish. In a way, people look at him as the God of Wealth or the God of Success.

Fifteenth day - The fifteenth day of the new year is celebrated as Lantern Festival. Rice dumplings tangyuan (pinyin: tāngyuán), a sweet glutinous rice ball brewed in a soup, is eaten this day. Candles are lit outside houses as a way to guide wayward spirits home. This day is celebrated as the Lantern Festival, and families walk the street carrying lighted lanterns. In Malaysia and Singapore, this day is celebrated by individuals seeking for a love partner. Normally, single women would write their contact number on mandarin oranges and throw it in a river or a lake while single men would collect them and eat the oranges. The taste is an indication of their possible love: sweet represents a good fate while sour represents a bad fate. This day often marks the end of the Chinese New Year festivities.
New Year Tradition Must-Knows

Chinese New Year is full of ancient traditions and valuable customs...

Lion Dance and Parade
A great way to start a new year.

Red Envelope
Monetary gift for holidays.

Couplets
Pair of lines in meter in poetry.

Visiting friends and families
Hold your hands together when visiting.

Kowtow
Respect for the elderly

Red Poster of “Happiness” - upside down
The word “Happiness” hanging out.

New Year Paintings
Folk paintings for Spring Festival.

New Year’s Eve: stay up.
Waiting for the morning to come.

Firecrackers
For celebration, driving away the devils.
Guanyin is the bodhisattva associated with compassion as venerated by East Asian Buddhists, usually as a female. Chinese Daoists also revered Guanyin as an Immortal.

Died 219, Guanyu was a general and his deeds and moral qualities have been lionized. Guan is respected as an epitome of loyalty and righteousness.

The presence of the dead, the behaviour of the living and an influence on the future. Family ancestors must be worshipped and treated during holidays and special occasions.

God and Food that are a Must...

Nian Gao: sticky rice cake

Nian Gao, or Year Cake is a homonym for “high year”. Nian, meaning “sticky” is identical to “Year”, and Gao, meaning cake, is identical in sound to “high”. As such, eating Nian Gao has the symbolism of raising oneself higher in each coming year.

Fish

Another symbolic eating habit for new year is Nian Nian You Yu, meaning “Every Year Have Fish”. “You”, meaning have, sounds like “have” and Yu, meaning Fish, is identical to “Surplus”. So the whole thing is to wish to have “surplus” or abundance every year.

Jiao Zi (dumpling)

One kind of dumplings signify family reunion. It is a treasured moment where the whole family get together and prepare Jiaozi together, on the New Year Eve. Jiaozi, if crescent-shaped, is also a symbol for wealth and prosperity because of their resemblance to ancient Chinese money.
MASTEr LI KUI
MING & CHINESE ASTROLOGY IN 2011

Which year were you born?


Neptune Inverts

2011 is “Neptune Turbulence”. Neptune starts in May, and will lead a year of turbulence. Neptune administers human thinking and culture, inverted, can be panic and horror. Mercury inverts, leading the peak of uncertainties in summer. 2011 is the darkness before dawn, and is unfavorable year. We will see a more stable and calmer 2012.

Predictions:

Snake is good for moving and travel, that enhances good luck; Goat is talented and destined for big rewards; Official positions are there for Tigers; Sex and flirts are strong for Rat; It is a very good year to start business for Horse; Unexpected income and gambling wins are reserved for Pig; Feng Sui works best this year for Tiger and Pig.

Numbers

The luckiest number is 57; the lesser lucky number is 43; 56 is for Fame and Fortune; sex-luck number is 49; the most-sick number is 5; 2012 is a very good year for Marriage in China.

Names

Name like Kitty or last name Ma (Horse) are good for business. People with last name Li, Jin and Zhi enjoy food excessively this year; last name Hua (flower) can invite sex problems, or even breast cancer.

Food: nine strange phenomenon

Eating Rooster enhances sex and business; eating fish enhance sex; eating spicy vegetables will invite law suits; eating goat meat benefit creativity; eating snake soup advances language skills; eating beef will enjoy peace of being alone and participate in religious gathering; vegetarian will have aids as an employer from Talents; eating pork more will have troubles; eating ducks and geese will bring illness.
Ten Happy Things for China in Rabbit

Predictions are also wishes. Feng Sui Master Jin Kui Ming wishes those predictions come true...

No. 1 Happy Rabbit
Clean government.
New Chairman in line Xi Jing Ping is a Tiger. Suppress corruption.

No. 2 Happy Rabbit
1,000 yuan note bill to be introduced. We must plant the seeds for Yuan's international status. No other reasons prevail.

No. 3 Happy Rabbit
Big advancement in Social Securities for the rank and files.

No. 4 Happy Rabbit
Chinese Yuan will appreciate accordingly.

No. 5 Happy Rabbit
It is a great year to start massively building subsidized housing projects for the people.

No. 6 Happy Rabbit
We will see policies by the central government to use Macau and its rich tax revenues in gambling industry to create the largest health care platform in China, and also promote Macau University to be the most elite university in China. Both investments are essential, as they provide jobs and create models for a modern China. Big surplus cash piling up in Macau produces an inexorable fate.

No. 7 Happy Rabbit
Law Contract Law must be postponed. It is definitely not the so-called “good draconian”.

No. 8 Happy Rabbit
China’s health care industry lacks behind and has too many defects. Let’s use Hong Kong and Macau’s strengths in this area to extend building more hospitals in China and Macau, alluring more talents from Hong Kong. Rabbit’s fate is good for implementing this policy.

No. 9 Happy Rabbit
Extending the building a more first class middle school and colleges, privately owned.

No. 10 Happy Rabbit
The value of Hong Kong should be treasured. Central Government is to find a way to learn from Hong Kong in its clean governing, international perspectives, rule and law, and training of its talents, which are lacking in both mainland and Taiwan.

Publisher’s Column

After Shanghai Expo and Beijing Olympics, China is facing a period of uncertainties in the next three years. Its leadership is moving towards a change of power; international relations powered by vast investments produces uneven results and China needs rest; key international players such as the U.S. and Japan lack seasoned politicians and this creates complications; domestic corruption and social disparity have reached a high point that can threaten the harmony and social stability; anti-China factions are abiding their time including those of independence movements and religious groups. Nevertheless, this author has the total confidence in the inevitable trend of advancement of modern China, the people’s talents as well as its endurance, which will help ultimately overcome those obstacles.

This newsletter is a humble effort in this monumental task. Its goal is to serve the mutual trust and interest of the U.S.A. and China. We are dealing with two most powerful economies, the most populated regions, and some of the largest land masses in the world. It is a mixture of the Modern and the Developing, the New and the Ancient, the West and the East, the Smartest and the most Subtle. I wish a new year brings a new chapter in this long journey. Thank you for supporting my ever-improving newsletter. Happy New Year 2011!

-Lloyd

Further Readings

http://www.123chinesenewyear.com
http://www.chinesefortunecalendar.com/NewYearDays.htm

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