

THE YEAR OF THE SLEEPING DOG
(FIRE DOG)
CHINESE NEW YEAR 2006
29 JAN 2006
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Happy New Year, Everyone!

Get out your fireworks, put on your finest silk robes, book the yum cha at your favorite Chinese restaurant and be ready to dance with the dragons—It's time for the Chinese New Year once again! As we bid a fond farewell to the Year of the Rooster Crowing at Noon, we say hello to the Year of the Sleeping Dog (the Fire Dog). Well, perhaps 2005 will not be remembered with that much fondness, but it did have its share of magical moments for people. Then again, we saw some instances of the most profound dysfunction and bad timing/presentation, because timing and presentation are the special features of the Rooster Crowing at Noon. In this letter we will look at the year that was in the Chinese sense, and then go into a full description of the year to come. If we want to get a real peek at what is going on subjectively in a given time period, then the Chinese charts say more about the subjective side of things than Western charts do. The Western chart for the start of 2006 in the West will apply from a mundane perspective. With the Chinese chart, however, we will be able to get a glimpse of the higher energies that will be conditioning us in the year to come—a look at what is going on behind the veil, so-to-speak.

The year of the Wood Rooster (the one just-past) will be remembered as a very turbulent year by many people from a psychic perspective. It started out with us reeling from the aftershocks of the Sumatra Tsunami, then it steadily progressed into a litany of disasters. There were many plane crashes, the Katrina disaster, presidents and world leaders falling from grace, a rising insurgency in Iraq, the second-warmest year on record, wild weather (even though there was no El Nino), a stagnant stock market, the death of John Paul II and the institution of a new Pope, revolutions in central Asia, the London and 2nd Bali bombings, the quiet introduction of the surveillance society in the US, and wild fires at the end of the year. The demonstration of the qualities of the Rooster Crowing at Noon were amazingly exemplified in the lack of response to the Katrina disaster, a US administration that continually flounders under its own inept handling of public relations and its seeming disdain for the American public's opinion. On the whole, many people seemed to do things out of timing or character, and there were numerous personal anecdotes related to this author about similar occurrences in people's private lives. The refreshing 'Water of Rains and Springs' that was the combined element for the year literally came in torrents with the hurricane season in the Atlantic—but it did bring a refreshing healing is coming as a result of the public's disillusionment with many aspects of governments in power at the moment.

So, what will the Year of the Fire Dog bring to us? When I sat down to write this letter, I began by consulting the Plum Blossom I Ching oracle, a system that dates from the Sung Dynasty, and one that I have found to be amazingly accurate in terms of the subjective force behind events and their outcomes. The subject was: People's auspices for the year. The question put forward was:

“How must people conduct themselves to achieve the best outcomes for the Year of the Fire Dog?”

And, the answer was:

“A leader offers benefits to join with him, so he (in this case, the people) and the leader come to an agreement.”

As we will see shortly, this is a perfect answer for the Dog temperament, because the Dog is one that always works in a group fashion, and it is a sign that inspires and promotes cooperation and loyalty. We just have to be certain that we follow the best example of leadership and that we are sure of ourselves, too.

With the preceding point as a guiding principle, let us delve into the portents for the lunar year 2006. To begin with, this will primarily be a Yang year. In approximately half of the world, the Year will be totally Yang because the Hour Pillar changes every two hours. In a full day, all of the animal signs appear in the Hour Pillar. Yin and Yang are the great archetypal pairs of opposites in Oriental philosophy. Yang is the 'male' side, although neither Yin nor Yang has any gender attached to them. What this primarily means for the year is that it will be one that gives a firmer sense of structure, both in individual's lives and in terms of social structure. Yang gives form and structure, whereas Yin gives substance.

The Dog in Chinese astrology is a Yang animal. The general character of the Dog is one of fidelity and honesty. 'Dogs' are known for their sense of humor, their enduring friendship, their ability to listen and their great empathy with people. They are good and steady workers, as well as being very active and sporty. Dogs have a tendency to be quite conservative, however, and their inability to bend with change is one of their biggest failings. They will tolerate considerable hardship rather than change the status quo. Dogs are the champions of causes, and they can display considerable temper, but they are usually very forgiving. Family is very important to Dogs, and they are intensely defensive of kin and friends alike. The Dog is both a guardian and a scavenger and they do like to hold on to things and people. It is said that when a strange dog follows a person it is an omen of good luck. In all, the Dog is seen as being very auspicious astrologically.

In addition to an animal sign, each year, month, day or hour also has one of the five Chinese Elements attached to it, along with a basic polarity (Yin or Yang). As stated, this is the Year of the Fire Dog. It also has a more poetic name, which is 'The Sleeping Dog'. Fire is the Element most associated with spirituality in Chinese philosophy. It defines a temperament that is refined, scholarly, professional, highly intuitive and inspirational. The Sleeping Dog is one that must take rest when it is needed, for 'even a well-oiled machine needs a rest every now and then'. The Year sounds pretty good already, if these factors alone are anything to go by. Each of the Four Pillars also has a Combined Element associated with it, which in this case is called 'Rooftop Slates' (Earth) for the Year Pillar. The essential meaning of this is that "anything securing the future is justified". We should be clear, though, not to read a negative connotation into that description. Essentially, this means that if an outcome is desired, then all *ethical* means should be used to guarantee its success, although there will always be those people who try to bend the rules. Rooftop Slates is a symbol indicating that this year one should work to provide shelter against storms, security for family and friends, and to lay things away in storage for the future and to use whatever means necessary to do so. This gives us a basic sense of what this Chinese year is all about, then, so now we have the background. How that will work out is shown in the interaction between the Year Pillar and the other three Pillars, as follows.

We noted before that this will be a very Yang year. The driving force behind the Year Pillar is found in the Day Pillar, which in this case is the Earth Horse. There will be powerful personages and small groups (Horse) working behind the scenes this year to manipulate people and situations toward their own ends. We could say this sort of thing happens all the time anyway, and it does, but it will be much more pronounced this year. The established powers in the world have taken a bloody nose in 2005 due to disasters in public relations and scandalous behavior by people lower down in those administrations (the legacy of The Rooster Crowing at Noon). This sort of thing has been quite noticeable in the US and the UK and those administrations are seeking some way to

bolster their flagging power bases. They can feed off the collective, however, because Fire feeds Earth in the Chinese system (Dog=collective in this case).

The reading for the Earth Horse (Horse in the Stable) is of interest. It means that “there are problems in unfamiliar situations and it is better to remain close to home and to tend issues there”. There is also a strong desire to protect one’s self and property under this influence. So, those people behind the scenes will be working hard to keep things concealed and to ‘watch the back door’ as events unfold throughout the year. There is a rising tide of public opinion—especially in the US—to bring the troops home from Iraq, for example, so situations and stories will be engineered to keep public opinion toward staying the course in the war on the one hand, and of bringing them home on the other. The Horse as an animal can be quite manipulative when outcomes warrant it.

On the other side of the coin, there will be some powerful citizens to appear on the world stage that will challenge the powers in place [“a leader offers benefits to join with him”, from the oracle] . This is represented by the Earth Horse, too. On the whole, we will see the special interests making a firmer play for the favor of government agencies in 2006. It will be very interesting to see if the rich and powerful make concerted moves to shore up their financial and power bases. Powerful people and governments of all persuasions will vie for influence and power in a way that has not been seen for some time. All governments in the world are represented by the Month Pillar, which is ‘The Tiger Leaving the Mountain’ (again, a powerful animal). The public will have a great deal of control over governments, however, since Fire rules Metal (the Tiger is a Metal Tiger in this chart). The public will control through its voting capacity and through its dissent against unpopular decisions on the part of governments. It is a relatively balanced chart from the Chinese Elemental point of view, so the Year will be a rather interesting one from a political perspective as all parties involved jockey for position—especially with congressional elections looming in the US.

Commerce will suffer this Year. There is no Water in the chart except in East Asia and Australia. Water rules commerce and communications to a large degree. Mining and chemical works will suffer this year for the same reason, because Water rules both of those sectors. Asian and Australian economies will fare better than most other economies in the world this year. Many service staff will get the golden handshake. Metal is under stress in the chart and Water as a Chinese Element is non-existent in most areas of the world in the chart for the year. On a happier note, farmers will benefit somewhat in 2006 because they will find a lot of support from the public. Here in South Australia we are already seeing this in a crisis with local egg farmers. People are rallying and buying the local product, although it will be a long road. All of the professions will thrive this year. Fire rules all the professional classes, and we will see some rather interesting dynamics with the legal profession exercising checks and balances over the governments of the world. The time to watch for that is from April through August. That will be the most effective time for grand juries and royal commissions into matters of state.

Wood is not strongly marked in the Year of the Fire Dog. Wood rules artists, professional technical workers (specialist trades) and electrical workers. Only New Zealand will have Wood marked to any great degree, making it the artist’s haven in 2006. Even so, times will be a little more difficult for the arts. Elsewhere we can look for governments to cut funding for the arts. We can look for this to be another hot year, too, since Fire is in the ascendancy. Vegetation will suffer and people would be well-advised to fill their houses and properties with artwork and verdure. It will be a brilliant year for anyone pursuing a professional or managerial career. The peak times for those areas are the spring and summer of the Northern Hemisphere. Governments will also have a tendency to roll back funding for environmental causes, as if it were not bad enough already. Metal (Month/governments) controls Wood (which does not appear in most Chinese charts for the New Year).

2006 will be a good year for construction and the bolstering of infrastructure, however. Earth rules such activities, and the constellation that rules the Day is the Horse. Since the Day represents the master controlling energy of any event or life, the Day Constellation is quite important as a background dynamic for the Year. ‘Horse days’ are usually not seen as good for anything but construction, so there will be an overriding emphasis upon that activity for the year. However, the housing market has been tipped for a slide in 2006. It will be a buyer’s market by the end of the year, so any construction will be focused largely upon public works. The implications for the Horse Day are for major emphases upon team activities and enterprises, the surfacing of deep-seated prejudices, tyrannical people appearing, revolutionary tendencies and difficulty in relating to the opposite sex, whichever one’s gender. All social functions are favored under such auspices, though, so 2006 will be a big year in sports.

If you want to see how the year will manifest in terms of character, we have only to look at the lives of some famous people. We commonly call a person’s animal sign by the animal shown in the Year Pillar, but the *true, inner person* is shown by the Day Pillar animal. Let us have a look at both types of ‘Dog’—the inner (Day) and the outer (Year). Some famous ‘Dogs’ in the Year Pillar are as follows: Brigitte Bardot, George Blake, Philippe I of Castille, Winston Churchill, Edward IV of England, Charles IX of France, Louis XI of France, William Porter (O’ Henry), Herbert Hoover, Horace Howe, Victor Hugo, Augustus S. Owsley III, Jack Kerouac, Sophia Loren, Curzio Malaparte, George McGovern, Thomas More, William H. Sheldon, Robert Silverberg, Robert Louis Stevenson and Charles XII of Sweden.

Some famous ‘Sleeping Dogs’ of international fame are as follows: Wilhelm Canaris, Agostino Chiqui, Bill Clinton, Steven Foster, George McClellan and Alexander Woolcott.

Famous Aussie ‘Dogs’ are Andrew Fisher, Andy Gibb, Barry Gibb, Barry Humphries, Bob Downe, David Oldfield, Deni Hines, Donald Eckersley, The Federation of Australian Astrologers, Gary Humphries, Glen Singleman, Ian Thorpe, Kamhal, Neil Kerley, Rosemary Hemphill, Sir Joh Bielke Peterson, South Australia, Tania Zaetta and Wolfgang Blass.

‘Dogs’ by the Day are: Brett Whiteley, Captain Charles Smith, the Crown Casino, David Helfgott, Dennis Dunstan, Greg Blewett, Jan Konrads, Jeff Kennett, John Williamson, Julie Nihill, Kylie Minogue, Maurice Gibb, Neil Kerley, Robin Gibb, Robyn Archer, Rowena Wallace, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Steve Bracks, Stuart O’Grady and Tony Roche.

Finally, we should be mindful of two background energies for 2006. First, there is a little-known system of divination that is a compliment to the I-Ching, the auspices which for the year read as follows: “Tetragram 9: Branching Out—The greatest things are accomplished with kin, not alone.” The Dog Year is all about community, finding kinship with others, with sharing experience and with fidelity and loyalty in our circles. Thus we can see that the tetragram just-mentioned is in perfect accord with the Year of the Dog. In the times to come we will know with certainty that the time for doing things alone—the days of the ‘rugged individualist’—are over. Secondly, the Nine Star Qi number and trigram (4 and Sun, resp.) point to the fact that major decisions will have to be made this year on many fronts. 2006 will be a great year of clarification in every area of life. Most especially, though, it will be a year dedicated to family, to the renewal of ties with friends and for a new look at old loyalties. The Dog is all about groups.

Take plenty of time for yourselves this year, and spend a lot of quiet, quality time, both alone and with loved ones. There is a lot of healing to be done and had in 2006, especially after the wild ride that was 2005. I hope your sojourn this year with family and friends brings you joy, wealth and contentment—as well as a lot of fun. Do try to get some rest in between all the parties, though!

Blessings,

Malvin.
26 Jan 2006

Hour	Day	Month	Year
Stem: 10 yin water	Stem: 5 Yang Earth	Stem: 7 Yang Metal	Stem: 3 Yang Fire
Branch: XII Water Pig <i>Pig in the Forest</i>	Branch: VII Fire Horse <i>Horse in the Stable</i>	Branch: III Wood Tiger <i>Tiger Leaves the Mountain</i>	Branch: XI Earth Dog <i>Sleeping Dog</i>
Combined Water <i>Ocean Water</i>	Combined Fire <i>Heavenly Fire</i>	Combined Wood <i>Hardwood</i>	Combined Earth <i>Rooftop Slates</i>

FOUR PILLARS ANALYSIS

CHART

Name: NEW MOON 29 JAN 2006
Date/Time: 29 Jan 2006, 10:14 pm (AWST -8:00)
Adjusted: 29 Jan 2006, 10:00 pm (LMT -7:45:40)

THE CHINESE CALENDAR

Solar Period (Fortnightly Festival Period): 24 Great Cold (N); Great Heat (S)
Solar Year: 2005
Solar Month: 12
Lunar Year: 2006
Lunar Chinese Month Number: 1
Ordinal Month: 1 [Intercalary Ordinal Month: 8]
Day of Lunar Month: 1 of 30
Hour of Day (Chinese Double Hour): 12
Lunar New Year: 29 Jan 2006 10:14 pm (CCT -8:00)
Li Ch'un (Start of the Chinese Solar Year): 4 Feb 2005 1:43 am (CCT -8:00)

THE YEAR PILLAR

Relates to:

Ancestors/ Social Groups/Extended Family

Stem: 3 - Yang Fire

Outgoing, vigorous, defined, warm; Lively, educated, agile, inspiring

Branch: XI - Earth Dog

Fidelity, honesty, humor, lifelong friends, steady worker (Sleeping Dog) - Take rest when it is needed. Even the finest machine will break if it is run too hard. Sleep can be a blessed thing.

Combined: Earth (Rooftop Slates)

Anything securing the future is justified

THE MONTH PILLAR

Relates to:

Birth Family/Parents/Aunts and Uncles

Stem: 7 - Yang Metal

Outgoing, vigorous, defined, warm; Progressive, vigorous, strong, direct

Branch: III - Wood Tiger

The embodiment of animal magnetism (Tiger Leaves the Mountain) - It is vital to face opposition to plans. There are always those who disagree, but the design is sound and it is time to act decisively.

Combined: Wood (Hardwood)

Valuable resources are put to good use

THE DAY PILLAR

Relates to:

The Self/The Partner (Branch)

Stem: 5 - Yang Earth

Outgoing, vigorous, defined, warm; Stable, intellectual, circumspect, centered

Branch: VII - Fire Horse

Tyrannical, revolutionary (Horse in the Stable) - There are problems in unfamiliar situations. It is better to remain at the home base and tend to issues there. Those who remain content in their familiar surrounds find eventual benefit.

Combined: Fire (Heavenly Fire)

It is imperative to protect one's self and property

CONSTELLATION OF DAY

Animal: Horse

The only good activity on this day is construction.

Day Indicator: F - Grasp

This is a day for staying indoors and being domestic.

9 STAR QI (CHINESE)

Year Number: 4 Yang Wood

Month Number: 6 Yin Metal

House Number: 3 Yin Wood

Trigram: Chen

TETRAGRAM

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Tetragram 9:

Branching out: Yin chi is strong inside, but weak without. The greatness of things cannot be impeded.

29 Jan (Nighttime):

The greatest things are accomplished with kin, not alone.