

## 2015 CHINESE YEAR OF THE SERIOUS SHEEP

OK, it's time to get serious!—time to read the riot act to that Horse who ran amok in our gentle, green pasture last year and upset our repose. Doesn't that Horse know that thoughtful attention to detail wins out over harsh and hurried actions? But, a horse is a horse, of course, of course, and no one can talk to a horse, of course—that is, of course unless the Horse is addressed by a Serious Sheep. Actually, you can talk to Horses, but they are mighty determined people! Never mind. Diligence brings its own rewards. So you have told us time and again. And now it is time to set things right again in our world. You are a fine friend and confidant, our salubrious, but Serious Sheep. We know and admire your example that wealth is achieved through hard work, and we know you are determined. But alas, patient one, not all of us have your penchant for ponderous purposefulness. Imperil scatters one's focus, we know, so perhaps you can show us a way to restore calm in our restive pasture. The Horse had his fun last year, but now it is time for a calmer approach.

### **The Sheep is gentle.**

You are the ultimate zodiac, and always who are less the Serious Sheep treaties, have seen but have also of revolutions. And anyone who tries to act unfairly to your back on a just find yourself Serious. You do like

don't you? So, take in a movie the midst of your negotiations, or go to museum, or even attend a race. Or maybe just sit quietly with your coffee and read the comics or a human-interest story in the paper while you wait for your next round of power politics. You are also a person who knows when to take a break from things. Although you work hard, you know the balance between work and play. You're a champion, even though you are unassuming. So, it is time to rise to the occasion and put the world right again. You might be a Sheep, but there is nothing sheepish about you!

*By Malvin Artley, Astrologer*



### **The Sheep is kind.**

healer in the Chinese have care for those fortunate. But this player. The years of have produced many many social reforms, produced their share let that be a lesson to oppress the needy or anyone: Never turn Sheep, or you may face-down in the not always so to be entertained,

## HOW WILL YOU FARE IN THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP?

**The Rat:** Resourceful Rat, there has been much to report, given the events of the past year. Even though you may have felt a little strained by the forcefulness of events, you have managed to seize the opportunity and turn it into recognition for yourself and for people to come to know you as a reliable source of information. Congratulations! As it turns out, this year will be no different—just in a different sort of way. You can expand your horizons even further, given that Earth and Wood are the elements most in play for this year. Water, your natural element, when mixed with the earthy Sheep provides fertile ground for growth. Just be careful that you don't turn that ground to mud by over-exuberance or overwork. You can be a clever wordsmith, and you can aid in the work of the year greatly by the well-placed comment, the insightful article and the unassuming aside spoken to a friend or acquaintance at just the right moment. You are a natural at those things. Keep your ear close to a Pig this year if you want to hear the latest, for they are the confidants of Sheep, and also your natural mate. For stimulating ideas, of course you can never go wrong with a Dragon, Snake or a Monkey—and the Snake will have the absolute juiciest bits of gossip for you. It looks to be a busy year again for you, but this time around you can relax and have a little fun at the same time!

**The Ox:** Obstinate Ox, why do people think you are so stubborn? We all know you are just a very determined and self-directed soul, but in this past year there has been quite a lot to bring out your stubborn side. But for this year, although the Sheep is your opposite, you also share the same element—Earth—unlike the Horse, who can bring out the most defensive side of you. Relax! This year will be a lot easier for you, and if you play your cards right, you may just find a Tiger or a Rabbit seeking your advice about finances, with whom you may well find a fruitful partnership. Take time to research your strategies, to evaluate what has happened in the past year and to see the next step ahead. You are such a careful planner. No one can fault you there. It is why you are ultimately successful. You have a friend in this Sheep—a slow and careful planner as well, and fond of hard work. Take advantage of this year and your plans will go ahead by leaps and bounds!

**The Tiger:** Tricky Tiger, you may have thought we didn't see you sneaking into the conference rooms through the back door last year, but the plans of the past year had your name all over them. You did enjoy your time in the sun last year, didn't you? It was quite a year for you, full of activity, daring initiatives and rough play. But now the tide has turned. What will you do? Oh, you had already planned for that? We should have known, but then stealth is your favorite game, right? The next years especially will be directed toward the public. So, we expect that in a few years we will see what you have really been planning, and that it will be quite exciting for us all. We know, though, that what has *really* happened this past year is that you have been quietly working behind the scenes to be sure that things go smoothly for everyone the next years. You are a formidable presence, and we all appreciate your work. We just wanted you to know that. This year and the next may not seem to be your idea of a good time, but there is much you can do to further your aims and help others out at the same time. The Serious Sheep is your kin in many ways, both of you sharing Wood as the element. This should be a creative year for you. Talk to Rabbits and Pigs for inspiration. Get out and play with Dogs and Horses. You need the physical release. And all the while, quietly put your plans in place. When the Dog comes around again in a few years you will be out in the sunshine again!

**The Rabbit:** Restive Rabbit, feeling trampled underfoot? Can't quite seem to regain your equilibrium? This year will be balm to your psyche. This Sheep carries your native Wood element, and creativity is again on the horizon for you! The Sheep is a sister to you and you always feel appreciated and calm in her presence, which is just the thing you need to regroup your energies. This will be a good year for you to have a look ahead, to spend time with loved ones and to work on those magic potions of yours. The Sheep needs your insight now. Find a Pig to complete the triangle and the three of you can do much to ease people's tensions and to bring about a greater sense of equanimity. Next year will find you extremely busy and creatively engaged. Take advantage of this time to be certain that everything is in place and well thought out. Next year you will happy you did. What worlds will you travel to this world in your mind's eye? What visions will you see? We can't wait to hear about them in the year to come!

**The Dragon:** Daring Dragon, what a roller coaster this past year was, right?! Oh, but you did enjoy the ride. There is nothing quite like the adrenaline rush of the more dangerous rides in life. And you do like the shock value of it all. But now it is time for a different type of excitement—the type that comes from seeing just how much people can change, yourself included. What? There is nothing wrong with you? You are happy the way you are? We didn't say anything was wrong with you. It's the old ways of doing things that need to change, the ways that no longer work for people. This year will be an opportunity for you to try on another face. You do like a good challenge, right? If you want to see what is new on the horizon, spend time with Monkeys and Rabbits. Challenge a Rooster to a debate if you want to test the mettle of things. Dare a Dog to champion a cause. Goad a Sheep into action, if you *really* like a little danger. You might be eccentric, Dashing Dragon, but you do have a social conscience. Use your abilities with the avant-garde to be an inspiration for positive change. If you do so you will find next year to be one of the most fulfilling you have had in a long time. You never know—this year might just be the most fun you ever had!

**The Snake:** Savvy Snake, where have you been hiding? Oh, we see—on the back of a Horse! Well, come down from your mount and put your skills at intelligence to good use now. We know some of your brothers can play both sides of the fence, but you have insight to what has been happening that we need to build a more cooperative atmosphere in the halls of power. Now, we know you have been on an intelligence gathering operation this past year, right? And that you would never think to be involved in some shady dealing that would only benefit you at the expense of everyone else? We didn't think so. Good! Now, we need you to talk with your Ox and Rooster friends (quietly, of course) and start initiatives that will promote dialog and settle the dust that has been kicked up in the past year. Your skill at the subtleties of diplomacy will be a true boon this year, and if you choose to pursue that path you will find yourself very well placed in the years to come. You can be quite the confidant and you have profound insight into human nature. Put it to good use and in a couple of years you will find yourself very well placed, indeed!

**The Horse:** Harried Horse, it has been a busy, yet productive year for you. Now it is time to rest and turn your mind toward more inward pursuits. Let the Sheep work out the details of the initiatives you started last year. You were very effective in implementing your plans, and they have brought about the desired results. Now you need to pull back and take stock of what has happened—and others do need a rest! You are both a formidable friend and foe and you have made your point. A vacation to a spa or a sabbatical in the country is just the ticket for you this year, so you can recharge yourself for the next two years. You can again be a powerful player next year and after next. Don't burn yourself out before they even start! Find

the company of Pigs and Monkeys for ideas, and have fun running around with Dogs and Tigers. The odd Dragon may just give you the inspiration for your next great initiative. We know the word ‘rest’ is not in your vocabulary, but acquainting yourself with it will do you no end of good!

**The Sheep:** Solemn Sheep, why so somber? Although the last year may have been upsetting in many ways, the world needs your care and your steadiness now. This is no time to be staid. Look around you and see who is in need. There are more than a few causes that need to be addressed, right? The pace of change has been quick and strong, but now we want your steady hand, your sedate outlook and the wisdom that years of work for others have brought to you. Social welfare will be big on the agenda this year. There are people who want to roll back years of progress in that regard. Are you going to allow that? We should think not! Now, Rabbits will be able to see into the future for you this year and give you just the elixir you need to heal public ills. Speak with Snakes and see where you can find the funding you need for your causes. Opine with a Pig and get the full story of what has happened, for they know all the undercurrents of the power plays that have taken place. Find an Ox and get an idea of how steadiness wins the day. Most of all, rally people to the cause. There is strength in numbers, and that is a lesson you have learned all too well. You may look all soft and gentle, but looks are deceiving. You are a real force in this world. Stand up and be counted!

**The Monkey:** Masterful Monkey, we know your year is just around the corner and that you are already miles ahead of us in thought about what you will be doing then, but we need your considerable skills here and now. You found much to excite you when the year of the Horse galloped into your life. And now you may be feeling a little bored, thinking that this year may be all about pastoral pursuits and family business—(yawn)—but how wrong you would be! Aside from the domestic front, some very interesting technology is about to appear on the world stage. Or did you have a hand in that already? It doesn’t matter. This year may well give you the creative spark that makes you the wonder child of the zodiac when it comes to things technical. And, if you hook yourself up with a Rooster you will make a formidable team in the years to come, especially if a Snake and an Ox are also involved. We can’t wait to see what you have dreamed up this time!

**The Rooster:** Refined Rooster, your skills as a presenter and spokesperson will be quite in demand this year. You may yet have rustled feathers from last year, since you don’t exactly get along with Horses, but now you need to preen yourself back into shape and offer what you do best—polished presentation. The Sheep need you this year. Answer the call, and over the next two years you will find yourself in the limelight. The world will be your stage. So, don’t stay all cooped up bemoaning the fact that things may not have gone well last year. Sidle up to a Monkey and get a feel for what they have planned for next year. Be the spokesperson for a social financial initiative or an ambassador for change and healing. The Sheep, Pigs and Rabbits will be more than happy to have you speak for them and present their ideas. Get inspiration from a Snake and an Ox, and you may well just find yourself very well off financially. Although the domestic side of you may want to be all clucky this year it is not a good look for you right now. We need your skills. It is time to rise and shine!

**The Dog:** Devoted Dog, you may have found this past year all-too-exciting, but now it is time to take a step back and let the diplomats have their day—the Rabbits, the Sheep, the Pigs and the Snakes. Not to worry. There is plenty to keep you occupied—a family that has missed you, friends to catch up with the latest of your adventures. They have been grand adventures, yes? Although you may not have seen things that way at the time, new vistas have opened to

you in the past year. Now you need to sit back and reflect on the year that was and see just exactly what was on offer for you, because next year you will be full of ideas yet again and the fires of enthusiasm will burn brightly in your heart. Dauntless Dog, you are quite the heroic one and we applaud your efforts. For this year, spend time with Tigers and Rabbits and formulate your plans for the year to come. Talk to a Rat and spin your biography. And, though you may not always agree with them, spend some time with your Earthy siblings—the Ox, Dragon and Sheep, for they have a lot to show you about yourself. Now, come have a coffee and tell us your stories!

**The Pig:** Practical Pig, you saw opportunity in the events of last year and you have started to make them work for you. But with the year of the Sheep, for which you feel a great affinity, it is no time to go all domestic on us. Use your considerable warmth and influence to make those opportunities blossom into something great this year. With your brother the Rat, you are one of the best storytellers of the zodiac. Make this work for you this year, for a new chapter is about to be written in world politics, and you are just the one to add the ‘family’ touch to the stories. And, you will be telling these stories for a long time to come. The creative wave is upon you—don’t let it crash over your head and drown your ambitions. Ride the wave instead to applause and renown. The Sheep is one of your favorite people, but this year is about getting down to business, not settling down with loved ones. Find inspiration in a Rabbit, who will be all aflutter with ideas this year. Hook yourself up with a Rooster for ideas about presentation, and you will go far toward achieving your goals this year!

**Wood Sheep Years:** 1775, 1835, 1895, 1955, 2015

**Sheep Years:** 1895, 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027, 2039

**Natural Element:** Earth      **Year Element:** Wood      **Combined Element:** Metal

**Famous events in Wood Sheep Years:** The enactment of the Riot Act, the American Revolution, the first US society for abolition of slavery, the first US colony to declare independence, Charles Darwin started his voyages, the Texas Revolution, Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales, Madam Tussauds Wax Museum, volleyball was first played, the Cuban War of Independence, the first: comic strip, US pro football game, rugby game, US Open golf tournament, commercial movie, McDonalds and gas-powered auto race in the US; the banning of racial segregation on transport in the US, the Warsaw Pact, establishment of the US Postal service, the MENTO and SATO Treaties, and PT Barnum’s Circus, to name a few.

**Famous Wood Sheep:** Mark Twain (author), Andrew Carnegie (industrialist), Rudolph Valentino (actor), Jack Dempsey (pugilist), Arthur Murray (dance instructor), Babe Ruth (not the candy bar), Carl Orff (composer), Gracie Allen (entertainer), Buster Keaton (actor), Juan Peron (politician), John Knudsen Northrop (aircraft designer), Paul Hindemith (composer), Basque Nationalist Party, George Burns (“Say goodnight, Gracie”), Eddy Van Halen (Runnin’ With the Devil), Nicolas Sarkozy (politician), John Grisham (an author with Time to Kill), Xu Bing (artist), Greg Norman (the Shark), Jeff Daniels (actor), Kelsey Grammer (tossed salad and scrambled eggs), Howard Jones (“What is Love?”), Steve Jobs (an Apple a day...), Glenna Headly (actor), Gary Sinise (actor), Bruce Willis (...with a vengeance), Moses Malone (baseballer), Reba McEntire Country singer), Angus Young (AC/DC), Dodi Al-Fayed (& Princess Di), Judy Davis (actor), Donatella Versace (fashion designer), Debra Winger (actor), Bill Paxton (actor), Olga Korbut (gymnast), Tommy Emmanuel (guitarist),

Willem Dafoe (actor), Billy Bob Thornton (actor), Iman (model), Yo Yo Ma (cellist), Bill Gates (a Word, Bill), Maria Shriver (terminated the Governor), Whoopi Goldberg (actor), Bill Nye (the science guy), Billy Idol (a nice day for a white wedding), Jane Kaczmerak (in the West Wing), Mel Gibson (Mad Max), Chen Kenichi (the Iron Chef), David Caruso (actor).

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