

2009 - THE CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE OX



Welcome to the **Year of the Earth Ox (Ox in the Shed)**. Following on from the great changes we have seen in the year just passed, the Year of the Earth Ox represents a year of rebuilding and establishing new foundations – ones which will carry us securely into the future. In this year we all need to be mindful of conflicts between business and family. Oxen are revered in China as they represent building steadily and for the future. Some very good outcomes can be produced this year, although there will still be changes and reversals of direction. Those changes will be planned this time, however and as the dust settles we may well see the financial sector rebuilt upon much more solid foundations.

The general outlook is that things are in their proper place now and outcomes will be positive and assured in the long-run. Any plans put in place last year will slowly and steadily build if they were based upon sound ideas, for the Ox will not tolerate shaky foundations or slipshod thinking. We have all seen what that has brought us, especially in finances.

Generally speaking, this will be the year of the financial sector, and the Ox has a lot to commend in terms of getting it back on track and firmly. Following is a monthly breakdown of the Chinese Year.

Malvin Artley, Astrologer

THE YEAR OF THE OX MONTHLY FORECAST



26 Jan-24 Feb *Fire Tiger (Tiger in the Forest)* This is the time to be working behind the scenes. You achieve your greatest success through a sure sense of yourself coupled with the fine strategic mind. This is the month for putting strategies into play. You are able to blend into any situation and thus keep your true abilities concealed. You can be quite good at pulling strings without people even knowing. This is a month for reshaping of resources.

24 Feb-26 Mar *Fire Rabbit (Rabbit Dreaming of the Moon)* Your dream life is apt to be active and lucid this month. With a little practice, you will be able to recall your dreams in great detail and in so doing it is possible for you to create new realities. Thus, you can be the artist of your destiny. Your dreaming takes on a magical quality this month. It is a month for reshaping of resources.

26 Mar-24 Apr *Earth Dragon (Dragon of Pure Virtue)* This is a month to adhere to high ethical standards. It is impossible to ignore any wrongdoing. Fight for the underdog. As long as you strive to keep to your highest virtue, your life will eventually bring its rewards. It is a time to stand up for others even when it causes you a distinct disadvantage. The earnest use of resources reaps benefits this month.

24 Apr-24 May *Earth Snake (Snake of Happiness)* This month, find the happiness that must come from within. Your mirth will be infectious if you can find the true joy in your life. You would be the envy of those whose lives are weighed down with the affairs of the world if you can do that. Realise that happiness does not require material wealth. The earnest use of resources reaps benefits this month.

24 May-22 Jun *Metal Horse (Palace Horse)* Duty and responsibility are the catch-cry this month. Even in the humblest of circumstances you may come into contact with important people. Perseverance will pay off later in the year. You may have to deal with the debris of someone else's industry this month.

22 Jun-21 Jul *Metal Sheep (Lucky Sheep)* Fortune smiles on the kind and gentle souls. This is a month for making friends with people and leaving a quiet, but significant, impact upon them. People will remember you, and great gains can be made by putting yourself out in the world. You may have to deal with the debris of someone else's industry this month.



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21 Jul-20 Aug *Water Monkey (Elegant Monkey)* This is the month to enjoy or acquire the finer things in life. It may cause a strain on your budget at times, but your charming and graceful manner ingratiates you to people of influence. It is the month to show your unique sense of flair. Be careful not to look down your nose at people. You are able to endow life with its finer qualities this month. There is a need for determined and ruthless action in certain areas of your life.

20 Aug-18 Sep *Water Rooster (Barnyard Rooster)* This month you seem to have a knack for sensing the next steps ahead. You may find many inner qualities about which people know very little. Watch out for any superficiality in your nature. Nobody likes a showoff, but you do have a lot to offer when all is said and done. This month there is a need for determined and ruthless action in certain areas of your life.

18 Sep-18 Oct *Wood Dog (Guard Dog)* Guard your thoughts well this month and keep your mind occupied with something constructive. An idle mind breeds all kinds of distracting phenomenon. On the other hand, watching one's thoughts too much short-circuits one's creative potential. A fine balance of alertness and repose must be struck if you are to reach your highest potential. This is the month to spot the next latest and greatest thing, trend or person.

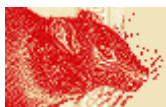
18 Oct-16 Nov *Wood Pig (Traveling Pig)* Find your mission in life and go for it! On the whole, your purposes are altruistic this month. You may find that you need to make certain pilgrimages during this time. You can find success through travel this month. It is the time to look for the trends that can take you forward.

16 Nov-16 Dec *Fire Rat (Field Rat)* There is more to this life than earning a living or collecting material things. Though it is often difficult to get motivated, a strong conscience and a sense of responsibility count more than thoughts of self. This month can bring great benefits and the restoration of health if you can find or renew your motivation.

16 Dec-15 Jan *Fire Ox (Lake Buffalo)* There are times in life when things become all too much and we have to alter our expectations. Escapism will not pay the bills or make for a happy life. This month can bring great benefits and the restoration of health if you can see new ways of doing things or dealing with people.

HOW YOUR SIGN WILL FARE IN 2009

Further in this document you can read about how to discover your sign, if you do not already know it.



RAT: Rats will fare well this year, as the Rat is a compatible sign to the Ox. Whatever the Rat started in 2008 will bear fruit this year. The Rat and the Ox are a natural pairing in the Chinese Zodiac and they form a very constructive relationship. Whatever the Rat begins, the Ox tends to carry on and complete. Keep going with projects. Even though there may be more changes or reversals this year, there is every reason to see things through, especially since your work is quite original and highly sought-after. Your best months are Rat, Dragon and Monkey months, although Ox, Snake and Pig months will be good months as well. Your worst month is the Horse, and Sheep and Rabbit months are the best ones in which to lay low.



OX: This is your year!—especially if you were born in 1949. Oxen can achieve great things through steadiness and persistence. Logical, practical, methodical thought is your best forte, and you work best when you are left to your own devices and can nut things out by yourself. You do not like being constrained or pushed by someone else's schedule. Oxen are often thought of as dull and slow, but you know better than most that rushing or pushing too hard only spoils the desired result. In love you are affectionate, but not what one would call a true romantic. However, there is a lot to be said for loyalty and steadfastness in relationships and you are a partner that goes the distance, especially when you believe in the goal. Your best month is the Rooster and other good months are the Rabbit, Rat and Snake. The worst months are Dragon, Sheep, Tiger and Dog.



TIGER: This is not the best of years for you, but you can still get a lot done, especially in the first month, which is your month. There is a tendency for a lot of quarrels when Tigers get together with Oxen because the Tiger wants to strongly put forward plans and the Ox is more reticent. This can be a frustrating year for Tigers. The Ox demands more transparency and loyalty than Tigers are often willing to give. The best approach for this year for Tigers is to get together with Horses and Dogs, make long-range plans and wait for a better time. This year has its own momentum and to fight against that will only bring you strife. Your best month is your own, along with the Horse and Dog months. The Pig month will also bring benefits for you. The worst months are those of the Monkey, Snake and Ox.



RABBIT: The year of the Ox is always a good one for Rabbits. The natural intuition and gentleness of the Rabbit sits very well with the Ox and all sorts of contemplative, healing work is favored for you this year. An excellent judge of character, you are able to see deeply into people and you can bring a lot to the table in the execution of the Ox's plans this year because of your ability to see the undercurrents of things and the secret motives of people. Spend a lot of time with family and friends this year and enjoy long conversations and loads of reading. Your best month is the Sheep, and the Pig, Dog, Ox and Snake months will be times of good fellowship and work as well. Your worst months are those of the Rat and the Rooster.



DRAGON: Dragons are not favored so much this year. Dragons are the most flamboyant sign in the Chinese zodiac and their showmanship is frowned upon by Oxen. Always elegant and trendy and at the forefront of fashion, Dragons outshine their more reticent Oxen peers. This will not be a year for shows or flamboyance. Rather, it is a year for getting down to or back to work (as the Dragon is heard to groan!) Your best bet for this year is to find some unique niche within the workings of this year and to show the Oxen how it can be done with flair and style – without being too outlandish about it! Take your ideas from this year, because there will be some solid foundations laid in the months to come, and quietly plan for the future (if you can). In three years your chance will come again! Your best months are your own along with the Monkey, Rooster and Rat. Snake sheep and Pig months are the time to take things in their stride and just enjoy the ride. The most stressful months are those of the Ox and Dog.



SNAKE: Snakes will fare well this year. Being naturally more reserved, Snakes will know how to take advantage of the steady climb of the Ox this year and understand the strong sensuality that Oxen can exhibit very well. Snakes can be exotic like Dragons, but they show more reserve about it. Hence, the Ox has more appreciation for the Snake than the showy Dragon. Admiring subtlety and elegance of line, Snakes can add to the plans of the OX in a very powerful way and make those plans much more appealing to the public. Beware of schemes and scandals (Oh, how you love them, though!) for this is a year of straightforward and dedicated work. For best effect, seek out Roosters, who know how to deal very well with Oxen and with whom you blend very well, too. Your best month is the Rooster, with those of the Sheep, Rat, Ox and Dragon being very conducive to your plans. Your worst months are those of the Tiger and Pig. The month of the Rabbit may well find you supremely happy.



HORSE: This will be a year that brings up many fears for Horses.

Horses and Oxen generally do not get along, especially when they try to work together. The Horse is too forward and pushy for the Ox, who will not be bound to the Horse's schedule or like many of the Horse's plans, even though they may secretly wish they could be more 'Horsey' sometimes. Horses will do best this year if they will simply take a supporting role and just 'play the game', at which they are masters. Horses are team players and they could do very well this year if they do not mind being directed, but that is often too much for a commanding and demanding Horse. Put your fears aside this year, if you can. If not, face them directly and openly – the best and natural way for you. If you get frustrated with the slow pace of the Ox, seek out other Horses – better yet, Tigers and Sheep. Those two will bring a nice balance and camaraderie into your life. Your best months are your own and also that of the Dog. Your worst month is the Rat. You will have a new lease on life next year. Patience will pay off.



SHEEP: Ox years are not particularly easy ones for Sheep. Sheep

get very annoyed when they are told what to do and they avoid the advice of others. Like Horses, they are best in groups. There is a danger for Sheep this year in separating oneself from what is going on around them. Sheep are social and need the company of their peers. Sheep are very diplomatic, though, and you can make significant contributions this year if you use communication skills to bring people together to solve problems in the world and local communities, of which there is a great need. Seek the company and conversation of Rabbits and Horses. Dragons, Snakes and Pigs would not go astray either. They will bring you out of yourself in a year that looks set to be a lot of work and all-too-much trouble for a quiet and communal Sheep. Your best months are the ones just mentioned. Your worst months this year are those of the Rat and the Ox. Beware of conflicts in the month of the Rat – keep a low profile.



MONKEY: Monkeys are fairly non-plussed about things this year.

Last year was a big year for them – full of excitement, new ideas, change and a lot of movement. This year might seem to be a little boring for the agile and sometimes mischievous Monkey – a sort of anticlimax. Your good intellect and abundant natural ability could be a big bonus in helping solve problems this year, though. Let your able mind work toward solutions in the world and seek the company of Rats and Dragons when you get bored. They will help you recharge your creative batteries. Your best months this year are your own and those of the Pig, Rat and Dragon. Your worst month is that of the Tiger, but be careful in the month of the Pig, too. You may very well find yourself in or cause tears there is you offend the gentle sensitivities of the Pig or get too overbearing because of the supreme boredom of it all.



ROOSTER: This could be an excellent year for Roosters. The Ox appreciates the determination and confidence of Roosters. Having a shrewd business sense and precise attention to details, you fit in well with the purposes of the Ox this year. There is a big job to be done and your abilities are needed. Your stamina and vitality in business are just what the doctor ordered to help rebuild the economy and public confidence in the financial sector. Your high ideals and perfectionism will ensure the job gets 'done to a t'. Be careful not to take on too much, though and seek the council of Dragons and Snakes to help you polish your style – not that it really needs polishing! Your best months are your own and those of the Dragon and Snake. Projects and relationships may end in tears in the Dog month. Don't be pushy or arrogant then. You may face some arguments in the month of the Snake over differences in style, too. You Roosters don't have the monopoly on style, even though you are quite a package!



DOG: Dogs are known to be quite resistant to change and therefore the changing Year of the Ox can be a disconcerting time for our canine friends. Dogs would rather suffer hardship and endure inconvenience than change. Still, there is a lot you can do by taking a leaf from an Ox's book, that is by finding your niche and working steadily towards a well-defined goal. If things get to be too much, seek out some Tigers and Horses and play some sport, or perhaps some Rabbits and Roosters and enjoy a good exchange of stories and ideas. You need to get out of your comfort zone a bit this year. You, too, are conservative like the Ox, but you should be careful not to let it work against you. There is always a chance that an old Dog can learn a new trick or two. Your best months are your own along with Tigers and Rabbits, Horses and Roosters. Your worst months are those of the Ox and the Dragon. Be careful in the Rooster month. Obstinacies and displays of temper are best put aside in that month.



PIG: This will be a bit of a so-so year for Pigs. You had your time in the Sun a few years back and now you can be content just to let life roll by and enjoy the company of loved ones and friends. It is a good year to work for future security this year. This should be your primary aim. You are a caring and industrious type and you can do well this year if you just throw your hat in the ring and get down to the business at hand, whatever that is for you. It would be a good year for you to make a pilgrimage or to travel in general. You will feel like you are on a mission this year. Look for the trends that can take you to the next step and assure your future and those of your loved ones. Your best months are your own and those of the Rat, Rabbit, Sheep, Tiger and Monkey. Your worst month is that of the Snake. You feel the Snake undermines you somehow. There could be upsets in the Monkey month, in which there is likely to be more change than is to your liking.

HOW TO FIND YOUR ANIMAL SIGN AND ELEMENT

Consult the following table to find the Animal Sign associated with your year of birth:

Rat Years	1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008
Ox Years	1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009
Tiger Years	1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010
Rabbit Years	1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011
Dragon Years	1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012
Snake Years	1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001
Horse Years	1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002
Sheep Years	1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003
Monkey Years	1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004
Rooster Years	1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005
Dog Years	1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006
Pig Years	1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

If you were born in January or February of your year, you will need to make certain of your animal sign, since you may have been born under the previous animal sign. To check this, go into *Solar Fire* and find the new moon of Aquarius for that year, which is the start of the Chinese New Year for that year. The same rule applies for the Element associated with a particular year. If you were born before 1936, simply add 12, 24 or 36 to your birth year and find your corresponding year in the preceding table. Use the following table to find the element for your year:

Wood	Year ends in the numbers 4 or 5
Fire	Year ends in the numbers 6 or 7
Earth	Year ends in the numbers 8 or 9
Metal	Year ends in the numbers 0 or 1
Water	Year ends in the numbers 2 or 3

For example, 1987 was a Fire Rabbit Year. Another example, 1906 was a Water Horse Year (adding 36 to 1906)

To see how your Year Element will fare for the Year and by the Month, consult the following table:

	Wood	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water
Wood	Excellent	Productive	Rewarding	Tensions	Sustaining
Fire	Sustaining	Excellent	Productive	Rewarding	Tensions
Earth	Tensions	Sustaining	Excellent	Productive	Rewarding
Metal	Rewarding	Tensions	Sustaining	Excellent	Productive
Water	Productive	Rewarding	Tensions	Sustaining	Excellent

For example, if you were born in a Metal Year, this year as a whole is a sustaining year for you, since 2009 is an Earth Year. It is a year that 'feeds' you and brings healing. In the month of the Monkey (a Water Month), however, your thoughts turn to projects and things that have been left undone. It is a time to produce something and will be the best month of the year for you to do that. Look at the key words for the month to see how that will best work out. Some Signs have a particular emphasis with the month at hand, and those signs are given a brief statement at the end of each month.