

2011 - THE CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE IRON RABBIT

“ ‘The time has come,’ the walrus said, ‘to talk of many things: of shoes and ships - and sealing wax - of cabbages and kings.’ “

Lewis Carroll, author, photographer, mathematician, Rabbit

There is something quite magical about our friends the **Rabbits**. They are **social and great conversationalists**. They are **the alchemists and healers of the Chinese zodiac**. The most unassuming of types, they are always very much aware of what goes on around them, especially when it comes to people's motives. The Rabbit's great sensitivity and easy-going nature often conceals a very clever and deft mind. You never know what they are thinking. The Rabbit in the Four Pillars grants one the ability to divine the social scene and the prevailing consciousness of the public. As such, they make brilliant actors and politicians, for the Rabbit can take on a role very well. Thus, they can appear as a sort of everyman, with whom the public easily identifies and empathizes. Dreams are especially important to them and their dreams can be quite prophetic, for **the Rabbit is a prophet and a seer if their insights are given heed**. Rabbits find the mysteries of love to be a great turn-on. Love can be a quest for them, the magical alchemical formula that will transform their life. The Rabbit is exemplary of yin Wood. They like 'inner space' and can create huge mental vistas. They are very good at visualization and they are usually quite visionary.

As for the year ahead, lest one believes the Rabbit to be meek and retiring, a look at past Iron Rabbit years reveals a different story. **Rabbits are fighters for the underdog and are very brave in the face of danger**. Typically, one sees uprisings against social injustice in such years (1951, 1891, 1831, 1771) and with the state of the world at the moment we can see that may well be the case this time around, too. Iron Rabbit years also produce great inventors and some very life-changing inventions – the first commercial computer, the first electric transformer, the microphone and the typewriter, the patenting of radio, the transistor, the kinoscope, the first thermonuclear (H-bomb) test, the first long-range AC power lines and the first LP record (remember those?). Unfortunately, there tend to be **great floods in such years**, too, as well as rail and sea disasters. Metal feeds water in the Five Element system, so expect to see more extremes of weather, such as the Great US Blizzard of 1891. At the same time, a great many good things will come of this year, too, and one would expect that in the arena of social reforms and great inventions. **This will be a year that ushers in a period of great change, and sets the scene for 2012**. Who knows what this year will bring? If you want an idea of what, let your imagination roam free and remember the words of Lewis Carroll:

“Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!”

Rabbits get along well with Pigs, Dogs, Snakes and Oxen. They get along most famously with Sheep, and most infamously with Roosters and Rats. The best months of the year are February, April, June and January (2012). The more difficult months are August and December. The best month for love: June. The best months for business: October and November.

Malvin Artley, Astrologer

HOW YOUR SIGN WILL FARE IN 2011

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



RAT: O clever Rat, there are times when it seems the best-laid plans just do not bear fruit, and this year may well be one of those. However, if you can befriend a Rabbit, or especially a Dragon or Monkey this year, then some of those plans might just well bear their fruit before too long. This is a year where the thinking signs (and you are one of the best) should take their cue from the Rabbit and dream of great and clever things. The element of this year feeds you and there will be much for you to uncover. You are a natural at research and Rabbit times (like this year) are a benefit, even though they may seem at odds with you. Secret plans and communications will suit you well this year. If you can hitch a ride with a rising start through your considerable charms then you may well find yourself in an enviable position in the next two years. The best months for you are April, May, August, November and January. Take a vacation in March and July – especially in June. Sometimes there is nothing more to be done than just to sit back and enjoy watching everyone else's business!



OX: Well, you can never be blamed for a lack of persistence, our stalwart friend. Oxen have a friend in Rabbit years, and you should be able to make some of your plans that you have been nursing along for some time finally begin to pay off. Find a Rabbit or Snake and get those finances straightened out. Your natural friend, the Rat, can help with some of those ideas that just do not seem to work out. And, if you really want to put your best foot forward, put on your shopping gear and make the way into the shops for some retail therapy – but let them dress you! You are a great friend, dear Ox, but dress sense and presentation is not your forte. That is the Rooster's best game. This is the year for you to be inspired and to pay close attention to those niggling hunches and surreptitious conversations you just 'happen' to hear. It is time to think a little bit out of the square. Your best months are March, May, December and especially September and January. In February, April, July and October it may be best for you to retire and study. A good book and a warm fire or companion never goes astray in that regard. You can be the best of company, you know?



TIGER: Tigers, even though your year is drawing to a close, there is no need to feel out of sorts, for the Rabbit is your natural partner in the Chinese zodiac. So, it is no time to climb into a tree and shut the world away. There is still a lot to be done! The strategy now is to persist in your plans, but work in a more sociable manner and a bit more behind the scenes. Put on your best schmoozing skills and grace the crowds with your considerable charm. It is time to purr instead of roar, but you are still an impressive force. You are the picture of the 'iron fist in the velvet glove' this year. Anything you want can be yours if you play your cards right! Your best months are February, June and October. The worst are May, August and January (take it low and slow those months). November can bring some pleasant surprises in business and love.



RABBIT: Rabbits, arise! This is your year! Come out of the burrow and bask in the sun! The Iron Rabbit is no shrinking violet and you can be as outrageous and daring as you like this year. You will be a surprise to all who know you. Clear out the cobwebs, do up the burrow, take a vacation, maybe go skydiving or power gliding. There is nothing to stop you this year, aside from your own inhibitions. Make a new potion or discover a cure for a tropical illness. The world will love you for it. In love, the world is your oyster, and you should have a few – dozen, that is. Don't be shy, now. It is not really your nature. In business, go for the big meetings and do not be afraid to state your case. People want to hear what you have to say, and your ideas flow thick and fast this year. Your best months are February and March, with May, October, November and January being mighty fine, too. You may want to temper your enthusiasm a bit in September and December. July is the month to meet your soul mate. Can there be a bad month for you this year? Dream the impossible dream and make it come true. It is your time in the sun, waskily wabbit!



DRAGON: Dragons do not like anything without fire and a bit of intrigue, but this year will sometimes draw a big yawn from you. Rabbits are not known for flamboyance, which is your natural state, but they can muster some good goss every now and then, so keep your ears open. What to do, what to do? It is a good time to find those Monkey and Rat friends of yours and cook up a good scheme. The Rabbits will wonder what you are up to, and you can keep them guessing. The, when next year rolls around and it is your turn in the Sun you can roll out your exhibition and be just oh, so impressive! Really, you *are* an impressive sort! Your best months are April (your own), August, September and December, with May, July and November being not too shabby, either. Take that vacation to New York or Paris in October or January (or Rio if you don't like the cold). You will be so ready for a vacation in those months!



SNAKE: Well, after last year's carry-on, you would be about ready for some serious time in the shops, O stylish one. Snakes had a hard go of it last year, but the next few years will be a lot better for you. So, chin up and redecorate the house, or buy a new wardrobe – what the hey, why not both!?! You deserve it! Rabbit years are kind to Snakes and you love the intuitive grasp of things and mysterious notions that Rabbits always seem to have. It should be a good year in business and love for you, not anything too grand, but enough to keep you interested. Just a hint: there *will* be plenty of interest happening this year, so get out the tea set and get ready for plenty of goss and the odd friend to drop by with the latest. You can use the new décor as a ruse to get them there. It is a great year for you to plan, so catch up with your Ox and Rooster friends, make those business plans and get ready for next year as a platform to launch your schemes. You can compare notes with the Rooster on wardrobe details and the Ox with whether or not you are being sensible about it all, not that you necessarily care all that much. There is just so much going on! Your best months are May, September and January (especially for business), with March, April, July and December being quite good as well. The time to stay indoors and enjoy your new trappings is February and November.



HORSE: Fiery steeds, there is not much to hold you back this year. It is a year that will feed you and reward you unexpectedly. Although the intuitive is note of the year, you are spurred to action in a big way. The year and its element suit you to a 'T', as did last year's and you will feel a bit freer than you did in years of recent memory. It is time to look for greener pastures and wide open planes. All hail! The wicked years of the Rat and the Ox are dead and buried! It is freedom at last for you, and no one feels the bit more strongly than do you. Get out there, be active, feel strong, feel confident. You have every reason to celebrate this year. Run free with a Dog and a Tiger. Take that mountain trek or take up a new sport or enterprise. Inaction is death to you. We expect great things from you this year, but of course, you plan to exceed those expectations anyway, don't you? Your best months are February, June, July and October. The one where you want to go explore unknown reaches of Antarctica or climb some mountain in the Andes is December – away from all the madness.



SHEEP: Can we ever get you out of the house, dear Sheep? It is a wide world out there and there are a lot of people who clamour for your help. Do you hear them? Good. Now that we have you outdoors, the kids are with friends, the animals can look after themselves for a while and we are bound and determined that you will have a some fun this year - and no, you are not allowed to worry about anything. The Horse will see to anything that comes up. Do you have your bathers and sunscreen? Are you ready to *relax*? Good. Here's the plan. Hook yourself up with a Dragon, Snake and/or a Pig and give yourself a makeover. Your family will *love* the results. Then do something completely out of your comfort zone. No, we don't mean buy the chocolate milk instead of the full cream – something more in the order of, oh, going out with the girls/guys and doing outrageous things (and yes, you have to let them decide what to do). You will never be the same, and that is a good thing. In other words, dear Sheep, sometimes one has to do for oneself instead of others – and this is your year to do so. Your best months are March, July and November, with April, May and June running close seconds. OK, you can go back and check on the house and kids in December and January. One does have to set aside some time for domestic things.



MONKEY: What can we say, agile Monkey? Last year was a real drag. There is no other way to describe it. Circumstances have you down? Things not working out? Well, you have a new lease on life this year. The Rabbit is more of a friend to you than the Tiger, though still not the best, but you are still in your element this year and you know exactly what to do with that, don't you? Search out your Rat and Dragon friends and have an executive planning session. There are plenty of ideas to choose from floating around this year and all it needs is someone like yourself to grab one of them and make it work. No one is better at that than you, right? You need the stimulation of the other two this year. You have had a lot on the boil, but too much marching in one place the last couple of years. The time for that is done. You enter a new cycle now, especially next year, and ideas people will win the day in those years. Hatch your schemes now, and the world will be an open book next year. All you need is the stimulation to bring it about. The best months for you are August, April and December, with November as a close second. Just write February this year off as an aberration. You will be glad you did.



ROOSTER: Have your feathers been a bit ruffled, brother Rooster?

Last year was not very kind, was it? Sad to say, this year will serve as a sort of ‘ghosts of Christmases’ to you, but the years to follow will be magical for you in many ways, so take this year as one of reassessment and planning. That is the best use of it. You are the master of presentation, but Rabbits care little for such matters. No, your forte is in business and politics, but this is not such a year for you. There is one saving grace, however: If someone needs a champion or mouthpiece for a cause, you are the one! So, keep your ears open and be ready to crow at a moment’s notice. There is revolution in the air and everyone loves a charismatic speaker in times like these. Rise to the occasion! Other than that, take this as a time to ruminate on ideas and as a time to hone presentation skills. You will need them over the next few years. The best months for you this year are September, April, May and January. The worst are March and October, when it might be best to relax and spend time with those of finer feather.



DOG: It has been a great year for our best friends, the Dogs. There has been plenty to contend with (Yes, you do like a good challenge, don’t you?) and much of interest, plenty to tell the family and friends about in

the years to come. The Tiger is a great friend of the Dog and there have been activities galore. Now, we can take things a little slower and share some quality time with people, which all Dogs love to do. There is not much better than a good story around hearth or fire, is there? Take advantage of this time with loved ones, because next year will seem daunting to Dogs, and friends and family are important in those times. You have done a lot this year and rest and communion is the order of the day now. Your best months are October, February, March, June and September. Take the family away or have that fishing trip with mates in April or January – maybe both months. You will be glad you did.



PIG: Last, but certainly not least, Pigs have to be the epitome of ‘lucky mud’ – and don’t you just know it? Last year was very good to you, and you find a natural mate in the Rabbit years. True, your best and most loyal mate

is the Dog, but Rabbits and Sheep hold a special place in your heart. This year really feeds you. It is a fantastic year for business for all Pigs and any plans that are put in motion for you this year are bound to succeed. It is a brilliant year for you to commune with kindred souls, your Rabbit and Sheep friends (Please remind the Sheep they are supposed to be having a good time!). Time with family, good times with friends, planning the next big deal, grabbing that next rental property – all are favoured for you this year. Grab it while you can. The two years after this one will not be so kind to you. In all, though, it is a big year for love and family, business and building for the future. The best months for you are November, December, February, July and August. The worst is May. Go on holidays that month – somewhere far away – but take the family with you.

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, last year as a whole was a sustaining year for you, since 2009 was an Earth Year. It was a year that 'fed' you and brought healing. In the month of the Monkey (a Water Month), however, your thoughts turned to projects and things that had been left undone.