

2013 - THE CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE BLACK SNAKE



Gong hei fat choi! Can you keep a secret? Do you love a good story or bit of intrigue, or perhaps a good mystery? If you do, then welcome to the Year of the Black Snake: *the year when secrets will be whispered and mysteries will be revealed!*

Historically 'Black Snake' years are ones of financial milestones, when countries change leaders, when shadowy figures put play to their plans and when civil disobedience moves people to greatness and into the annals of history. This year perhaps you might like a little goss and biscuits with your Boston Tea Party, or maybe find a vaccine for a dreaded disease while you go through the recipe books, or conjure plans for a starship engine while you change the oil in your car, or even hatch a plan with your banker to save the world from financial collapse when you go for that home loan. It's possible, you know? When the Black Snake comes calling there is an epic story in the making, and this year will be when the stories we tell our grandchildren will take place. History has been written large when we have seen the 'Snake in the Field' as lord of the year.

The Snake is subtle, yet refined; subdued, yet shrewd; calculating, but full of grace; reserved, yet powerfully sensual. If you want to know how to add that touch of class to an idea, find that line or hue that is the difference between crassness or art, how to make those financial books look the best in order to ensure that promotion or bonus goes through, or even how to deal with the big dogs with finesse and without them even knowing it, then seek advice from your friend and confidant, the Snake. When the Snake is coupled with Water (which it is this year), then the qualities of the Snake produce amazing results. Water is the element that guides a Snake to greatness and it makes our Snake friends more open, communicative, powerfully psychic, the most careful of planners and the best of confidants. In short, the Black Snake is outstanding in whatever field of life they choose, and this year of the Black Snake looks set to be a most memorable year indeed. So, dust off those old plans you have had stashed away in the cupboards of your mind. It will be a year for careful and patient work, but when it is time to launch your ideas, people will marvel at the artistry of your efforts. That idea some people may have thought was crazy or would never work may well write you into the next great chapter in the history books!

Malvin Artley, Astrologer

HOW YOUR SIGN WILL FARE IN 2013

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



Rat: You are in your element this year, friend Rat. Snakes and Rats share a common interest – they love a good story line. So, if you have had something that you have thought about writing for a while now, this is the year to do so. Rats are the natural journalists of the Chinese zodiac, and you can excel in that this year if you so choose. And, if you really want to see your plans prove successful, then team up with an Ox and a Pig. The key to love this year for you is communication and imagination. It is said the greatest sexual aid is the mind, and this year exudes sensuality. Perhaps a juicy romance novel is in the works if love is not a problem for you. Sharing it with that special someone may well set off the fireworks! In work you are considered and cautious, but there is a lot to be said this year for keeping your friends close and your enemies closer, and for not giving away your secrets, of which you have many. The key for you this year: write and correspond. You will never be so happy that you did. Break out the address book or the little black book and see whose address jumps out at you. They may hold the key you are seeking!



Ox: Have your finances been a bit of a bear? Have your plans not been working out or are you stuck in the bureaucratic mire? Does security seem to have been on the train that just left the station – without you? Fret not, our dear Oxen. The Snake may just have an answer for you. Snakes and Oxen are brilliant with the finances, and when they get a Rooster involved, well, the sky is the limit! Water, as this year provides, is your money element, too, so never mind all those folks who say it will be a long road to financial recovery. You have the wherewithal to do some really solid and stunning work in the financial sector this year. In love, you are sometimes loathe to do it, but you need to take time to smell the roses and share your plans with trusted loved ones. Trust can be a problem for you, but this year will show you who can really be counted on to get things done. There is no need to fear, for love can come this year. In work you are solid as always, but it is especially important for you now to begin building your networks. They will be important for you in the immediate future and down the track. The time to move is now!



Tiger: What lies in wait for us this year, shrewd Tiger? When times seem hard one may think that the qualities of a Tiger – fearlessness, ability and power - are needed to push plans through. Alas, this is not your year to stand in the spotlight. But then, you know very well that rewards come to those who can stalk in patience, stealthy Tiger. Traditionally Tigers and Snakes do not get along, since the Tiger is very direct and Snakes prefer the subtle approach. This year favors you in a way, though, since Water enables you to grow and unfold your considerable power and potential. You see, you do share a common trait with Snakes: you work very well behind the scenes, and this year will find very favorable avenues for you to do so. In love it is a year for intimate time in your den, not spent on the prowl for new conquests. In business it is in your best interest to gather those friends around who are true assets and begin to build for launch time, for next year.



Rabbit: What visions appeared in your crystal ball last year, wizened Rabbit? Did things turn out as you had foreseen? Most likely, but now a new opportunity presents itself. This year is compatible with Rabbits, and the Water element feeds your creative juices, giving rise to all sorts of visions and ideas. Divination is the order of the day for our Rabbit friends. Perhaps an elixir of youth will come from that fertile imagination, or a cure for all sorts of maladies. Maybe you will be able to see the way through the financial mess in which the world finds itself. Inventiveness is the key for Rabbits this year, as well as a lot of quiet, inner time. In love it is a year for home and communications – passing down family stories, reading, time spent with little ones gathered ‘round or that special someone. In business it is best for you to work quietly and for the future. Your time will present itself in a few years, but there is much that could be done in the interim to ensure that your plans made now bear proper fruit later. Use that considerable insight you have to see what lies ahead, and if you know an Ox or a Pig, see what advice they may have for a plan of action.



Dragon: Now that you have roared onto the stage and your year has passed, what lies ahead for you, eclectic Dragon? Well, if you were afraid your time in the sun had come and gone for you, fear not, for the Year of the Black Snake is just the sort of vehicle you need to put polish on your presentation and to take things to that next level. If things worked out well for you last year, congratulations! You can only move upwards from here. If things did not go so well, then maybe our Snake friends might just have the missing something that you need to renew your plans and give the needed edge or inside info to make those dreams come true. In love you have played your cards and had a grand time doing so. Will this year be an anticlimax or an afterglow? Snakes love the afterglow, and if you have found that special someone, then consolidation is the key now, not more action. In business, scale it back and let the astonishment that was so ‘you’ last year in people’s eyes give way to the profundity of your expression that the Snake is bound to expose.



Snake: Now that the new year has dawned and the sunshine of the new day has warmed you into action, it is time to stop basking and get down to business, savvy Snake. When the world wants to know the latest fashion or the next trend in art, to whom do they turn? Why, you, of course! When the books don’t add up and when finances are in a shambles, who has the answers and the means through the morass? Well of course, it is you again! And when the world wants to know who is being naughty with whom, and what the latest goss about town is, who do we ask – all discretely, of course – right again! It’s the Snake! In love this year you are the perfection of sensuality, glamour and intrigue: elegance epitomized. Your charms this year are considerable and, should we say, almost irresistible. Be your gorgeous self and the lovers will fall at your feet. In business, no one knows finance like the Snake. You are truly in the moment now and your advice could not come at a better time. We could use all the financial advice we could get right now. Keep your words close to your chest this year, but not too close and the pearl in the oyster is yours – and you wear it so well!



Horse: Why so excited, noble Horse? We know why. With the year that just ended new adventures have abounded. Dragons and Horses share a love of new vistas. Now, with the year of the Snake it is time to put polish to your acts. We should expect only great things from our beloved Horses this year. Artistry is first and foremost the avenue of the Horse this year, no matter where in life you are found. Whether it is finessing a new venture, a great composition, a grand tome for the bibliophile or a masterpiece on canvas, it is your year to outdo even your greatest expectations. Water is the 'grandparent' of the Horse's normally fiery nature, meaning that this year, you Horses especially will find that self-control and inner guidance you need to put just the right touch on whatever it is you want to produce. Expect nothing flimsy or frivolous from a Horse. People usually either love you or find you hard to handle, but this year will endear you to all whom your efforts touch. Whether in love or in business, you will be a magnet that attracts only the best for you this year.



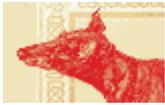
Sheep: "We're in the money!" What a great song lyric, and it is your song this year, our Sheep 'in the black'. Black is the color of the Water element, and it is your natural money element, so there is no time to waste. You are not averse to hard work, and this year will bring opportunities for you galore. Snakes and Sheep get along very well together, for they understand the ethic of working behind the scenes very well, and they both appreciate refinement in people. It is also time, if you are so inclined, to put your indelible stamp on any social causes you feel a passion for this year. No one does civil disobedience better than Sheep, except maybe for Dogs, and there are many heroes who can claim the Sheep as their major influence. Regardless of what you do this year, with due application, you can find great success. In love it is the perfect time for family or settling down with someone special. In work it is the reward that comes from making a stand, getting people together on the same page and working hard toward a worthy goal. No one sees a worthy goal better than a Sheep, and you, our friends, are just the ones to get people motivated this year. Whether you stand out in the flock or gather one around you, we will expect to be hearing great things from you this year!



Monkey: Lest you think opportunity has passed you by with the passing of the Rain Dragon, this is no time to get despondent or think the months ahead will be a bore, clever Monkey. There is much with which to occupy those able hands and fertile mind, as this year will inspire your imagination in ways you did not think possible. Now, we know you and Snakes do not normally get along the best, but Black Snakes are Serpents of a different color, and there is something oh, so subtle, there to grab your voracious curiosity. If curiosity killed the cat, it only goads a Monkey to greatness. Just what little secret has that Snake hidden in the field for you this year? Mystery is where Snakes and Monkeys excel and your natural Metal element will stimulate that Snake to reveal all if you can see your way to share a secret or two of your own. You have a way of making complicated things seem simple and the mysterious real, and this year may just see an unusual partnership come your way as a result of your finely-honed skills. In love your mind is your aphrodisiac, and this year gives wow factor to your ideas. At work you are skill epitomized.



Rooster: Are you still enjoying the spotlight, our star Rooster? How is the play of life going for you since last year started? Well, if you are still crowing, there is no need to stop. In fact, just keep doing what you have since the Rain Dragon graced your stage, and at year's end people will be throwing money instead of roses at your feet before the curtain comes down on the Year of the Black Snake. Snakes and Roosters are a natural match. What the Snake imagines, the Rooster gives voice, and this year will bring plenty of ideas for you to crow about. In love it is time for you to strut proudly with your loved one at your arm and extol the virtues and adventures of them and of love. At work you are the front person extraordinaire. No one does the lecture or presentation better than a Rooster, and with Water as your medium, this year gives polish and influence to your voice. So, step up on that podium or publish that book and wow us with your presence. You are no shrinking violet, rowdy Rooster. Stand up and be the voice!



Dog: Did last year's Dragon rain on your parade? Take heart for the clouds are about to part and the refreshing breeze is set to wipe away the mists. The Water Snake favors the Dog this year, and like the Sheep, you are in the money. 'Black' is the new 'green' for you now, if you get the drift, and it is time to take yourself out into the sun for some recreation and re-jigging. Wipe off the cobwebs and turn on that light bulb above your head. Your natural storytelling skills are in the forefront this year. In love you are the most loyal of the loyal, but it is time to change your spots. The 'black dog' of moodiness has no place this year. Set that tail to wagging, share your most intimate of thoughts with someone close and just watch how the rays of love will warm transform you, as well as the beloved. A little spin on the dance floor would be just the ticket. At work few can match your output when you are on. This is the year for sustained work, but if anyone can produce prodigiously, you can. Once you find that idea for success, never turn it loose until it comes to fruit. Through your natural doggedness, all things are possible for you this year!



Pig: We know all too well, our sometimes pugnacious Pig, that Snakes can make you feel just plain pugilistic. However, before you start thinking this may be the year for such feelings, you may want to step back and count your blessings, as the year to come may just well bring plenty of them for you. You see, Water is your natural element, and the Snake in the Field brings that to you. So before you go running off to trample that supposed vile and 'evil serpent', take time and listen to the considerable wisdom that Snakes can impart – and this one is wise indeed! You may not always like what you hear, but you do have a philosophical way about you, and Snakes appreciate the subtlety of philosophy. This, dear Pig, is the year to share your wisdom. Write that book, or go on a lecture tour, or enter into some kind of investigative study. It is the perfect year for it. You do love to trawl through the archives, do you not? In love you are the mentor and confidant this year. Share the deepest thoughts with those you love. At work, it is time for financial restructuring and for looking at the books – re-jigging the bottom line, which you do so well.

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 Water Year, for example (1982/3, 1972/3, 1962/3, etc.) then this year will feed you, meaning you should feel bolstered or stimulated by events this year.