

THE YEAR OF THE MALE WATER DRAGON

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2012 is the year of the Male (yang) Water Dragon. The Chinese/Tibetan dragon is nothing like the western image we have of dragons as mythical fire-breathing beasts that must be destroyed by some brave knight. Far from it.

In Asia, the dragon is the premiere symbol of wealth, happiness, good fortune, and success ensured. Of the twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac, the dragon is the only animal with a foot in eternity, as this is a mystical beast. The other eleven animal signs are all worldly – dog, pig, snake, etc. Therefore the dragon is the original trump card in the Asian zodiac. There is no more auspicious or positive symbol than that of the dragon, which makes for 2012 being a good year.

While the 12-year cycle of the Tibetan/Chinese zodiac has only twelve animals (one for each year), its permutations when coupled with the five elements (Fire Dragon, Earth Dragon, Iron Dragon, Water Dragon, and Wood Dragon) number sixty, which makes for a sexagenary or sixty year cycle. In other words, the Water Dragon year last occurred in 1952. In China it is considered very auspicious to have a child born in the year of the dragon, with any of the elements, but especially with water.

The dragon has a fixed element, which is the element 'wood'. Since this is a Water Dragon year and 'water' grows wood, 2012 will nourish the wood and this traditionally points to a very successful year. The dragon also rules the spring season and therefore is full of energy and movement. And since this is a male or yang year, this suggests a year of real changes rather than stagnancy. In other words, stagnancy will be overcome in favor of fluid motion -- movement. There you have a quick overview of the Year of the Male Water Dragon.

On a personal note, years ago when I went through what for me was a very rough couple of years, I found peace in creating a series of tarot-like cards for astrology, including a card for each of the sixty animal-element combinations in the Tibetan/Chinese Sixty-year cycle. I include the one for the Yang Water Dragon here.

Although I am not really an artist, using simple graphic clip-art elements (and a little skill) I was able to bring enough feeling to creating these cards that they hold some meaning for me. Over those hard years I designed well over 10,000 of what I call Astro*Image cards, one for almost every possible astrological indicator, east and west. They were a way to keep sane. Just sharing that with you.

So Happy Male Water Dragon Year!