

Connect

Network Newsletter January 2004

The Chinese Year of the Monkey (22 January 2004)

As this Chinese animal sign is the one with the most extraordinary nature, you can expect the unexpected! Events will seem to occur at astonishing speed and time will fly. Risks taken will require clear-sightedness to know when to stop and start thinking before acting. Expect muddle and anarchy all round with anything liable to happen. This year could see riots and barricades, revolutions or the overthrow of rulers taking place - although violence of any kind will not be tolerated for long.

The monkey is associated with mischief, misbehaviour and trickery. They are jokers at heart and like to play tricks on others! They are sociable creatures who are playful, likeable and obliging, and have the ability to laugh at themselves and their own misfortunes. So this year should be fun, sociable and pleasant for everyone. For those looking for love, they may find it easier to settle for the companionship of others. People may fall easily in love, but it could be a difficult time to find happiness as they may tire quickly of the object of their desires. It certainly won't be a boring year and the monkey will have its fun throughout!

This will be a year for intellectual pursuits, a thirst for knowledge, and a need for stimulation. Read plenty of books and articles to keep informed, be very observant and interested in a variety of things, and keep up-to-date with education and training, current affairs and cultural activities. Guard against being disorganised, slack or lazy. If running a business, pay attention to record-keeping obligations, noting the tiniest of details, and use careful advance planning unless projects are short-term.

Because the monkey has a creative, original and inventive mind this is a great period for technology and invention, and for launching new ideas and products (especially in the summertime). The introduction of new technological inventions will bring lasting benefits for everyone. It is imperative to action a clever idea or project straight away, as time does not stand still and interest in it may be quickly lost. Now is also the time for solving very difficult problems more easily and quickly, especially if dealt with as they crop up. Luck, skill, artful negotiation and opportunity will be the order of the day. For the intelligent and independent seeking their vocation in life, this year will augur well for them.

It is also worth noting that people may be more critical than usual this year, and may try to get away with being dishonest. Be less trustful, more diplomatic and charming, knowing just what to say and when. People will need to be sharp-witted and wary of others who may seek to fool or manipulate them. They may even require skill, cunning and impudence, as well as a talent for extricating themselves from the most difficult circumstances! But sometimes it can be difficult to get cross and not forgive cheaters!

Politics, diplomacy, industry and trade will succeed this year. We will see various associations and collaborations taking place, advances in science and complex technologies, development in enterprises of great scope, and the arrival of ingenious new inventions. News may be spectacular and bizarre but although these events will make it appear as if plenty is happening, very little will have any lasting significance. Business and financial matters will be highlighted. People will need to be smart and shrewd about their finances. Diversification is vital for investors - those who are careful will hedge their bets on every side.

The year of the monkey will bring plenty of surprises. It should start on a happy note, followed by a hectic, confusing, and frustrating time with plans going awry. But this will be tempered by unexpected delights, and the year should end on a calm note. This unpredictability is very much a feature of the monkey personality. In fact, the only predictable aspect of the year is its complete uncertainty. Don't rely on anything - even the most dependable may decide to alter course. But, for some, the year of the monkey will be a lucky one.....!

How Your Sign Will Fare in the Year Ahead

The Rat

An excellent year as rats' creative ingenuity and inventiveness come to the fore. This is a good time for them to think out their plans and put them into action, and when the labours of the past will bear fruit. At last, happiness and equilibrium return. It is also a good year for them for getting married.

The Ox/Buffalo

Quite a reasonable period for oxen, but they should try to move with the times. Changes may not be welcomed by them at first (oxen can't bear the unexpected and are frightened of change as they feel threatened by it), but the changes will eventually prove to be for the better.

The Tiger

Tigers think the time has come to throw all their energy into the furtherance of new and exciting ideas, but there may be some difficulties ahead. They should avoid getting involved in legal matters and remember that force will not achieve anything, while commonsense will.

The Cat/Hare/Rabbit

Cats won't be unduly worried or unduly impressed this year, but they should be prepared for hold-ups due to technical failures. Although the year has its

share of problems, the difficulties are with things, rather than people. Cats will be inclined to take the year as they find it, quietly waiting until it's all over.

The Dragon

There is an exciting time ahead for dragons. They should use the positive trends to achieve personal ambitions, particularly in a career. In fact, artistic dragons will have success. All dragons should be careful about what they put themselves forward for this year.

The Snake

Snakes will use their commonsense and intelligence to see that this year should not be taken too seriously, but will join in everything just the same to satisfy their curiosity! Practice is more important than theory, so snakes should try out their ideas before committing themselves and be prepared for petty obstacles.

The Horse

This year will be great fun for horses and a satisfactory year generally, with personal relationships highlighted. It will be a time for horses to play politics - but be careful to leave an escape route clear! They will make new friends, and treasured old friends will return.

The Goat/Sheep

There will be less attention on goats this year as their year is now over. This will be a reasonable year for goats with plenty of fun ahead, although progress may not be as rapid or smooth as they would like. They are not likely to be disappointed with the outcome and will have plenty happening at home to cope with.

The Monkey

As this is the Year of the Monkey, most will be jubilant of course! This is their year so they should make the best of it. Everything will go in their direction, so they should take advantage of the trends which lead to their success. The monkey will have plenty of fun.

The Rooster/Chicken

During such an unpredictable year, roosters will want the world to be the way they would like it, and may be inclined to talk about putting everything in order again! The year will see them poised on the threshold of a new life, so now is the time for them to use courage to lay foundations for that important step forward.

The Dog

Positive trends this year make up for some of the disappointments and missed opportunities of the past, and career prospects are greatly improved, if they put all their energy into new and exciting ideas. However, care should be taken not to rush in at the deep end, as they may retire with their tail between their legs!

The Pig/Boar

Pigs will do what they think is right with full enthusiasm, but should be prepared for disappointments. In business, they should be careful where they put their money. In romance, beware of

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being misled by flattery or promises, but things will take a turn for the better and suddenly life will seem wonderful again!

Happy New Year!