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Chinese Astrology: 2018 'Year of the Yang Earth Dog'

'Dog is man's good friend who can understand the human's spirit and obey its master, whether he is wealthy or not. The Chinese regard it as an auspicious animal. If a dog happens to come to a house, it symbolises the coming of fortune'.

The Chinese New Year follows the lunar calendar and is celebrated on February 16th which is the second New Moon of the year.

Well, like the traditional western zodiac, the Chinese zodiac is made up of twelve signs (although the modern western zodiac has been updated to include a thirteenth). However, unlike the signs in the western zodiac, signs in the Chinese zodiac are not designated by the monthly positions of the sun and constellations, but are instead based on the yearly Chinese lunar calendar, which is determined by the movement of the moon. This rarely lines

up with the January 1st start of the new year on the Gregorian calendar that most of us use, so even though a baby might be born in the year 2018, they might not actually be born in the Year of the Dog, and some babies born in 2019 will have the dog as their sign.

The Year of the Dog began on February 16th 2018 and ends February 4th 2019, so any babies born between those dates will have the dog as their Chinese zodiac sign. This will be the first Year of the Dog in twelve years. 2018 is further designated as an Earth year, which is one of the five elements that are also cycled through in the Chinese zodiac.

An Earth Dog year only comes around once every 60 years. So if you were born between February 18th, 1958 and February 7th, 1959, this will be first time you will have been alive during a year that shares your exact birth sign. You will be extremely lucky if you live to see the next Earth Dog year in 2078. The twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac are all animals. The dragon is the only mythological animal, while the rest are creatures seen in nature. The signs are cycled through and repeated every twelve years, and the dog is the eleventh sign. Additionally, each year is designated by one of five earthly substances referred to as “elements,” which include gold (also called metal), wood, water, fire, and earth. 2018 will specifically be an Earth Dog year. 2017 was the year of the Yin Fire Rooster. It was a year of standing up for yourself, going after what you wanted and tuning into that feminine side. It had a fiery, fierce energy that really helped to create waves in our lives and around the world.

2018 brings more of a masculine energy with the year of the Yang Earth Dog. Yang energy is always external, rather than Yin energy which is more internal.

Even though we have this strong masculine energy in 2018, the element of Earth and the sign of the Dog is going to temper this and will help to create a gentle, fun-loving vibe throughout the year.

In Western Astrology it is also a very Earth-focused year, and it is interesting that this matches up in Chinese Astrology too. Earth energy is all about getting grounded, creating security, and finding your balance as you move forward. Earth energy is slow to move, however the movements are always calculated and always help you to get further ahead.

Under so much Earth energy, we may feel like we are not moving forward at all, but actually 2018 is one of the most pivotal years to laying the foundation and taking some of the biggest steps of your life. Even if it doesn't feel like you are doing much, the work laid down in 2018 is really going to set you up for many years to come.

Dogs are truly one of the most special animals. They are a true expression of unconditional love and are always present in the moment. Dogs have an amazing healing ability and have a strong sixth sense and intuition. These are all things that we can cultivate and embrace this year as part of our journey. They are honest, easygoing, and helpful to others. They are less likely to seek money and power and are more likely to try and make the world a better place. On the other hand, they may be critical, stubborn, and cold at times. Dogs can have difficulty communicating and may fall into pessimism when they feel doubt, but if they can live a good, quiet life, they will have a positive outlook. These personality traits also vary based on the lunar month of the year in which dogs are born, too.

What Are The Predictions For 2018, The Year Of The Dog?

In Chinese Astrology, the year of the Dog is associated with finding balance and getting organised. On one hand, you may feel called to act, to change, and to make headway, but on the other hand you may feel a need to rest, reflect and go within.

New industrial projects and developments in energy are predicted to be successful in 2018, while endeavours that are based on greed and individual drive will likely be rejected. Familial relationships will be of importance during this year. It's also a good time to make lifestyle changes, such as quitting smoking or starting a new business, though it may also be a time filled with short periods of loneliness or melancholy. That said, this could be a year of hope, filled with dialogue that helps cultures achieve solidarity and reject indifference.

Think of the energy of this year as being similar to how a dog behaves. You may be full of energy and raring to go, but then you also need your sleep! This duality is part of the nature of the Earth Dog, and is why this year may feel stop and go for many. In fact, it almost seems like this year is paving the way for the success and abundance that is to follow in 2019, with the year of the Water Pig.

Even though Dogs are seen as innocent, fun-loving animals, there is also a darker side to the year of the Dog. According to Chinese Astrology, the year of the Dog is also a time to tread carefully in business and when dealing with sensitive situations. This is because there could be a tendency to lash out, become overly attached or stubborn.

The Year of the Dog can also bring some reckless energy as well, and there may be havoc or chaos that you need to wade and sort through. The good

thing about the Yang energy present this year is that most issues and conflicts will be resolved quickly. With Yang energy, usually things are quick to rise and quick to fall when it comes to conflicts. All of the energy of the Earth Dog is going to make it the perfect time to take a “grass roots” approach to your life.

Studying, strengthening relationships or your career, spending time with family and connecting to your inner self are all going to be great places to focus your attention.

On a global scale, things may also feel up and down and chaotic this year especially when it comes to government structures. Even though things may feel all over the place, there is also the potential for many positive changes to be put into action too.

Seeing as it is an Earth year in both Western and Chinese astrology, you can be sure that Mother Earth is also going to be speaking up and we are going to have no choice but to listen.

Overall, the year of the Yang Earth Dog is a positive and harmonious year. It is a year where we will have to really honour the cycles of action and rest, create stability, and find that fun-loving approach to life no matter where it is leading us.