Lunar Year of the Tiger

Macao Post will issue the third series of the Chinese Zodiac, the "Lunar Year of the Tiger". It will continue to use the conceptual design of the previous two stamps, Lunar Year of the Rat and the Ox, to combine the different forms of the Tiger and the distinguishing characteristics of "Metal, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth", and to apply it to the stamps.

Macao Post

~ About the "Five Tigers" ~

There are two kinds of theories about the attributes of the Five Elements in each year: one saying is dependent on the "Heavenly Stems" while the other is based on the sound retainers of the Five Elements, which are calculated by "Heavenly Stems" and the "Earthly Branches".

If calculated by "Heavenly Stems", the tiger's nature for the Five Elements is as follows:

"Metal Tiger":	*Gengyin* Year	(*Geng* belongs to Metal)	2010, 1950
"Earth Tiger":	*Wuyin* Year	(*Wu* belongs to Earth)	1998, 1938
"Fire Tiger":	*Bingyin* Year	(*Bing* belongs to Fire)	1986, 1926
"Wood Tiger":	*Jiayin* Year	(*Jia* belongs to Wood)	1974, 1914
"Water Tiger":	*Renyin* Year	(*Ren* belongs to Water)	1962, 1902

If based on the sound retainers of the Five Elements, the tiger's nature for the Five Elements and their mnemonics are as follows:

"Wood Tiger":	*Gengyin* Year	*Gengyin* – conifer wood	2010, 1950
"Earth Tiger":	*Wuyin* Year	*Wuyin* – earthen top city	1998, 1938
"Fire Tiger":	*Bingyin* Year	*Bingyin* – fire in furnace	1986, 1926
"Water Tiger":	*Jiayin* Year	*Jiayin* – grand river	1974, 1914
"Metal Tiger":	*Renyin* Year	*Renyin* – gold foil	1962, 1902

The Macao Post adopted the "Heavenly Stems" calculation method to figure out the nature of the "Five Elements" in the third series of Chinese Zodiac stamps. This year, the tiger's nature from the "Five Elements" is "Metal Tiger", so it becomes the main character of the five stamps.

"Metal Tiger" – In discussing character, the "Metal Tiger" is a "Home Tiger"; his character is free spirited; he is a family lover; he prefers to stay at home rather than to go out, pay more attention to family matters rather than to work, not bother with people and the things around him, but he is also adored by his friends. If the "Metal Tiger" can work hard, building up wealth and a career is not a difficult job. The "Metal Tiger" is categorized as "Riding Tiger". Whether you believe it or not, the lucky numbers are: 12, 27, 31 and 35.

"Earth Tiger" – The "Earth Tiger" is a "Tiger with Great Ambition". He is a person with a spirit of exploration; he has ambition, is full of creativity, has self-confidence and pride in himself and is very generous. Because the "Earth Tiger" has good relationships with people, he always has a lot of influential people who help him. The "Earth Tiger" is categorized as "Violent Tiger". The lucky numbers are: 11, 27, 36 and 40.

"Fire Tiger" – The "Fire Tiger" is a "Leader Tiger". He is a good leader. He is knowledgeable, has a great heart, and is intelligent and skillful. He is purposeful and is eloquent, but may easily commit the common mistakes of a leader. He is proud and loves to be flattered. The "Fire Tiger" is a lucky tiger who also has the luck of wealth and health, and when he meets something bad he will turn ill luck into good. The "Fire Tiger" is categorized as "Hungry Tiger". The lucky numbers are: 12, 17, 28 and 39.

"Wood Tiger" – The "Wood Tiger" is a "Chivalrous Tiger". He likes to restrain the powerful and support the weak; to him honesty is pre-eminent. Stubborn and an individualist, he likes to take charge of the whole situation, not liking to be controlled by others. The "Wood Tiger" has the accidental luck of wealth and also has influential people to help him. The "Wood Tiger" is a "Fierce Tiger. The lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 15 and 32.

"Water Tiger" – The "Water Tiger" is a "Talented Tiger". He is especially strong in understanding art and can deal skillfully with everything related to art. He stands out from the crowd, and therefore can easily invoke jealousy in other people. Very high in self-esteem, he likes to come and go alone, being aloof from politics and material pursuits. The luck of the "Water Tiger" is half good half bad, if the human relationship can break through, it will also break through professionally. The "Water Tiger" is categorized as a "Young Tiger". The four lucky numbers are: 13, 19, 23 and 36.

Author: Lawrence Lei

Translation: Matrix Consultancy Ltd.