

Lunar Year of the Rabbit

~ About the “Five Rabbits” ~

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 rabbit’s nature for the Five Elements is as follows:

“Metal Rabbit”:	<i>Xinmao</i> Year	(<i>Xin</i> belongs to Metal)	2011, 1951
“Earth Rabbit”:	<i>Jimao</i> Year	(<i>Ji</i> belongs to Earth)	1999, 1939
“Fire Rabbit”:	<i>Dingmao</i> Year	(<i>Ding</i> belongs to Fire)	1987, 1927
“Wood Rabbit”:	<i>Yimao</i> Year	(<i>Yi</i> belongs to Wood)	1975, 1915
“Water Rabbit”:	<i>Guimao</i> Year	(<i>Gui</i> belongs to Water)	1963, 1903

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

“Wood Rabbit”:	<i>Xinmao</i> Year	<i>Xinmao</i> – conifer wood	2011, 1951
“Earth Rabbit”:	<i>Jimao</i> Year	<i>Jimao</i> – earthen top city	1999, 1939
“Fire Rabbit”:	<i>Dingmao</i> Year	<i>Dingmao</i> – fire in furnace	1987, 1927
“Water Rabbit”:	<i>Yimao</i> Year	<i>Yimao</i> – grand river	1975, 1915
“Metal Rabbit”:	<i>Guimao</i> Year	<i>Guimao</i> – gold foil	1963, 1903

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 rabbit’s nature from the “Five Elements” is “Metal Rabbit”, so it becomes the main character of the five stamps.

“Metal Rabbit” – The Metal Rabbit is a kind of “moon rabbit”, which is “popular” among all rabbits. He has all characteristics for good interpersonal relationship: kind, warm-hearted and open, always likes a breath of fresh air for people contacting with him and making them comfortable and pleased. Since he has an initiative personality and is brave for love, he often exerts a special charm for the opposite sex. For this reason, it’s easier for him to gain the heart of his lover. Besides being popular and respected, the Metal Rabbit also has rich and extraordinary imagination and loves to be marvelous and outstanding.

“Earth Rabbit” – The Earth Rabbit is a kind of “domestic rabbit”, which is a member of the “ambitious” rabbits and has the adventurous and aggressive characteristics. He has a grand prospect for the future and strong enterprising spirit. He is meticulous and always has strong confidence for his work. With a frank, straightforward and confident personality, he seems to be proud and arrogant. However, as a matter of fact, the Earth Rabbit treats all people and things equally without discrimination, being amiable for both the rich and the poor.

“Fire Rabbit” – The Fire Rabbit is a kind of “wild rabbit” and a member of the rabbits “born to be leaders”. He has all features of a “big brother”: generosity, broad vision, the ability of picking the right person for the right job, charisma and great influence on common people. He is born to the leader. Since he is careful for everything and keeps a higher ideal and requirements than others, he often brings intangible pressure on people around him and gives them the feeling of a pretty remote figure.

“Wood Rabbit” – The Wood Rabbit is a kind of “foxy rabbit”. He is a “good actor” and can be called as a rabbit with two faces. He is clever and smart with plenty of ideas. He is good at covering himself and does not like to express the actual self. Though he shows an active and open appearance, the inner part is often calm and apprehensive. He likes a boisterous environment, is single-minded for love-related affairs and often has big emotional fluctuations. The Wood Rabbit can often get unexpected fortunes.

“Water Rabbit” – The Water Rabbit is a kind of “jade rabbit”. He is an “easy-going” rabbit who “purses peace and happiness only”. He has a mild personality, loves enjoyment and yearns for an easy life. He can get adapted in any environment. The Water Rabbit is passive and does not care too much for anything. Even in case of difficulty, he can keep calm and never embarrass himself. He does not keep any strong principle for things and is easy to be affected, but he also often meets noble and helpful persons.