

Lunar Year of the Horse

The honesty leads the Wooden Horse to a joyful year The energetic horse brings the year of progress and prosperity

In the Chinese lunar calendar, 2014 is the year of the horse, and the attribute of the “Heavenly Stems” among the Five Elements in this year is wood. The stamp designer uses wooden horse as the theme, which well represents that Macao is a tourism hot spot, just like a carousel that brings people joy and happiness, implying a joyful and harvest year.

In “Shuoyuan, Tancong” that written by Liu Xiang in Han Dynasty, it says “Silence avoids misspeaking; prudent and simple avoids making mistakes. The wooden horse is unable to walk, and it would not waste any feed; a fine horse runs for a thousand miles a day, yet the horsewhip would never be kept away from its back.”

This couplet, “wasting no feed” means incorruptibility and honesty, yet it brings happiness, “the endeavor of a fine horse” means a year of prosperity.

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Translation: NTC Communication & Translation Services

~ About the “Five Horses” ~

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

“Wood Horse”:	<i>Jiawu</i> Year	(<i>Jia</i> belongs to Wood)	2014, 1954
“Water Horse”:	<i>Renwu</i> Year	(<i>Ren</i> belongs to Water)	2002, 1942
“Metal Horse”:	<i>Gengwu</i> Year	(<i>Geng</i> belongs to Metal)	1990, 1930
“Earth Horse”:	<i>Wuwu</i> Year	(<i>Wu</i> belongs to Earth)	1978, 1918
“Fire Horse”:	<i>Bingwu</i> Year	(<i>Bing</i> belongs to Fire)	1966, 1906

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

“Metal Horse”:	<i>Jiawu</i> Year	<i>Jiawu</i> – metal in sand	2014, 1954
“Wood Horse”:	<i>Renwu</i> Year	<i>Renwu</i> – wood of willow	2002, 1942
“Earth Horse”:	<i>Gengwu</i> Year	<i>Gengwu</i> – earth at the roadside	1990, 1930
“Fire Horse”:	<i>Wuwu</i> Year	<i>Wuwu</i> – heavenly fire	1978, 1918
“Water Horse”:	<i>Bingwu</i> Year	<i>Bingwu</i> – water of celestial river	1966, 1906

The Macao Post adopted the “Heavenly Stems” calculation method to figure out the nature of the “Five Elements” in the seventh issue of the third series of Chinese Zodiac stamps “Lunar Year of the Horse”. This year, the horse’s nature from the “Five Elements” is “Wood Horse”, so it becomes the main character of the five stamps.

“Wood Horse” – The Wood Horse belongs to the “majesty” category. He is majestic in temperament, he makes prudent decisions, fearless and decisive in work style; he always has an acute and original insight, with rich imagination.

“Water Horse” – The Water Horse belongs to the “knight of love” category. He is affectionate and righteous, willing to sacrifice for others. Sentimental in nature, and always gets help from opposite sex. He tends to act with prudence, and his difficult problems at work can always be solved by meeting nobilities.

“Metal Horse” – The Metal Horse belongs to the “egocentricity” category. He does things on his own way. He is outspoken, kind-hearted and willing to help others. He is single minded in his career and relationship, also, he is calm and rational. Besides, he drives forward courageously and carries through to the end.

“Earth Horse” – The Earth Horse belongs to the “optimism” category. He is optimistic and generous to others; he is also cheerful and content with his lives. He is kind-hearted, with a sense of responsibility, impartial with no prejudice when dealing with matters; he often takes pleasure by helping others. Earth Horse is active by nature, dynamic and energetic.

“Fire Horse” – The Fire Horse belongs to the “king of horse” category. He is gifted the leading skill and highly competent, perseverance, fearless of any pressure and willing to face any challenge. Fire Horse is intelligent by nature; he has a passionate and enthusiastic personality.

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Translation: NTC Communication & Translation Services