

Lunar Year of the Rooster

Trees of fire announce the virtuous Rooster Flowers of silver reveal Abundance and Peace

In the Chinese lunar calendar, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster. In the Chinese version of this couplet, the initial characters of the two sentences are “Ding” and “You” respectively, indicating that this lunar year is the year of Ding You. The expression “trees of fire and flowers of silver” means that during the Chinese New Year the atmosphere is cheerful and warm, with bright decorations and countless activities.

The first sentence in the Chinese version does not mention the rooster explicitly, replacing it instead with the expression “Five virtues”. According to chapter two of “Hanshi waizhuan” (an old collection with over three hundred stories and anecdotes related to “Shi Jing”, a Classic of Poetry), the rooster symbolizes five virtues: the red crest represents “being educated”, the foot with a spur represents “fighting ability”, his talent for combat represents “courage”, calling others to share food with them symbolizes “benevolence”, and being able to stay awake all night in order to announce the right time at dawn represents “credibility”. The rooster is considered, therefore, as an “animal of five virtues”. In the first sentence in the couplet, the expression “trees of fire” is used to announce the arrival of the lunar year and the spirit of these five virtues.

In the second sentence of the Chinese version, the term “year of You” is used to match with the “year of Ding” and the expression “flowers of silver” corresponds to “trees of fire” in the first sentence. The Chinese version of the couplet refers to “three ascents” in harmony with the “five virtues” of the initial sentence. According to “Hanshu Shihuo zhishang”, the expression “three ascents” literally means “three harvests” in just one year, that is, the year of the rooster will bring good harvests and will consequently be a year of “abundance” and “peace”.

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~ About the “Five Roosters” ~

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 it is calculated by “Heavenly Stems”, the rooster’s nature for the Five Elements is as follows:

“Fire Rooster”:	<i>Dingyou</i> Year	(<i>Ding</i> belongs to Fire)	2017, 1957
“Wood Rooster”:	<i>Yiyou</i> Year	(<i>Yi</i> belongs to Wood)	2005, 1945
“Water Rooster”:	<i>Guiyou</i> Year	(<i>Gui</i> belongs to Water)	1993, 1933
“Metal Rooster”:	<i>Xinyou</i> Year	(<i>Xin</i> belongs to Metal)	1981, 1921
“Earth Rooster”:	<i>Jiyou</i> Year	(<i>Ji</i> belongs to Earth)	1969, 1909

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

“Fire Rooster”:	<i>Dingyou</i> Year	<i>Dingyou</i> – fire from mountain slope	2017, 1957
“Water Rooster”:	<i>Yiyou</i> Year	<i>Yiyou</i> – spring water	2005, 1945
“Metal Rooster”:	<i>Guiyou</i> Year	<i>Guiyou</i> – sword edge metal	1993, 1933
“Wood Rooster”:	<i>Xinyou</i> Year	<i>Xinyou</i> – wood of pomegranate	1981, 1921
“Earth Rooster”:	<i>Jiyou</i> Year	<i>Jiyou</i> – highway earth	1969, 1909

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

“Fire Rooster” – The Fire Rooster is a fighter. He likes to take up challenges, has a strong sense of justice and likes to help the weaker; he can control his time, is punctual and is faithful to his word; he is very dedicated to his work, and fights for what he believes; he has talent for investing and managing his money; he reaches professional success and makes fortune easily.

“Wood Rooster” – The Wooden Rooster is sensitive and kind. Family and affection are always a priority when making decisions; he is self-confident and joyful, likes to be with his friends and knows how to create a harmonious atmosphere both among friends and co-workers; he makes fortune easily, and is crafty when looking for new sources of income.

“Water Rooster” – The Water Rooster is a natural-born artist. With the appearance and the pride of an artist, he appreciates beauty and has high demands on this regard. He is intelligent and sensitive, sentimental and popular; he is lucky with money and has multiple sources of income.

“Metal Rooster” – The Metal Rooster is as righteous as a judge. He has good reasoning ability and a high moral sense in his judgements; he endures when under trials, never gives in when facing difficulties; he makes fortune easily and his efforts always bear fruit.

“Earth Rooster” – The Earth Rooster is a natural leader. He looks impressive, but is sociable and popular among friends and acquaintances; he has the ability and the will to solve problems and difficult situations; he has numerous professional and financial successes, especially at his job.

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