

Lunar Year of the Dog

The element earth conveys prosperity and peace The Dog brings abundance and tranquility

The Chinese lunar calendar is based on the system of ten heavenly stems (“Suiyang”) and twelve earthly branches (“Suiyin”). The year 2018 is the year of “Wu Xu”, being the year of the Dog as the zodiac sign. According to the books “Erya Shitian” and “Shiji Lishu”, the overlap of “Suiyang” and “Suiyin” emanates a unique “ganzhi” (stem and branch) and when “Tai Sui”, the god of age, reaches the position of “ganzhi”, he is personified.

“Tai Sui” on the fifth celestial stem “Wu”, rooted in the middle and is of the element Earth, is called “Chu Yong”. “Chu” signifies magnetic force and “Yong” signifies wetland where living beings procreate.

“Tai Sui” on the earthly ground “Xu” is called “Yan (inundation) Mao (exuberance)”. Following Li Xun (eunuch during the Han Oriental Dynasty), “all creations sprout from a secret place”, and it is to this sense which “Yan (covering, originally castration) Mao (growth)” is referred. However, in the expression “Yan Mao” mentioned in the book “Hanshu Tianwenzhi”, “Yan” has the meaning of “covering”, which is a more appropriate character for this idea.

In the first line of the Chinese couplet, the stem “Wu” is substituted by the name “Chu Yong”, while “Xu” on the second branch is substituted by “Yan Mao”. “Chu Yong” (“Wu”) belongs to the element Earth, and “Yan Mao” (“Xu”) to the signal Dog. Being the year of prosperity and abundance, the land is also going to enjoy peace and tranquility, without having much dereliction in the society.

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Translation: C&C – Translation Center, Ltd.

~ About the “Five Dogs” ~

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

“Earth Dog”:	<i>Wuxu</i> Year	(<i>Wu</i> belongs to Earth)	2018, 1958
“Fire Dog”:	<i>Bingxu</i> Year	(<i>Bing</i> belongs to Fire)	2006, 1946
“Wood Dog”:	<i>Jiaxu</i> Year	(<i>Jia</i> belongs to Wood)	1994, 1934
“Water Dog”:	<i>Renxu</i> Year	(<i>Ren</i> belongs to Water)	1982, 1922
“Metal Dog”:	<i>Gengxu</i> Year	(<i>Geng</i> belongs to Metal)	1970, 1910

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

“Wood Dog”:	<i>Wuxu</i> Year	<i>Wuxu</i> – wood of the plains	2018, 1958
“Earth Dog”:	<i>Bingxu</i> Year	<i>Bingxu</i> – soil of the rooftop	2006, 1946
“Fire Dog”:	<i>Jiaxu</i> Year	<i>Jiaxu</i> – fire on the mountain top	1994, 1934
“Water Dog”:	<i>Renxu</i> Year	<i>Renxu</i> – sea water	1982, 1922
“Metal Dog”:	<i>Gengxu</i> Year	<i>Gengxu</i> – gold of the jewels	1970, 1910

The Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau adopted the “Heavenly Stems” calculation method to figure out the nature of the “Five Elements” in the eleventh issue of the third series of Chinese Zodiac stamps “Lunar Year of the Dog”. This year, the dog’s nature from the “Five Elements” is “Earth Dog”, so it becomes the main character of the five stamps.

“**Earth Dog**” – The Earth Dog belongs to the “untamed” category. With an egocentric and erratic personality, he handles matters with persistence, consistency and meticulousness. He has a talent for art but without an aptitude for romance. He does not fight for fame, but he does not lack good luck.

“**Fire Dog**” – The Fire Dog belongs to the “hunter” category. He pursues his aspirations and plans to fulfill his goals. Prudent and firm, he never falters what he has been commissioned with. Although the quest for fortune is not his inclination, he is good at issues related to financial management and always attracts wealth.

“**Wood Dog**” – The Wood Dog belongs to the “fanatic” category. Scrupulous of justice, prudent, impartial, honest and reliable. Finds pleasure in helping people. Energetic at work and a thriving year is ahead of you.

“**Water Dog**” – The Water Dog belongs to the “loving” category. He has a very independent personality with a high self-esteem. He fulfills his obligations stringently and conscientiously. Good in planning his life and very prudent in his plans. In his endeavors for good financial management, wealth is not far from him.

“**Metal Dog**” – The Metal Dog belongs to the “ferocious” category. He chases his preys with audacity and courage. He derives his pleasure in helping people and by virtue of his high self-esteem; he prefers to do things on his own and does not like to be helped. There is much luck in profession and all will run well.

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