

## Lunar Year of the Pig

### The bell tolls to announce prosperity The pearl shines with the arrival of peace

The Year of the Pig celebrated this year is at the intersection of two complementary treasures - the “Ji” stem and the “Hai” branch, where “Ji” is represented by the “Bell made for the Marquis of Ji” and the “Hai” is represented by a legendary, brilliant pearl called “Pearl Haiji”. The bell tolls to announce prosperity of the Year of the Pig while the glow of the pearl welcomes the tranquility brought by this year.

The bell refers to an ancient artifact of the Ji Kingdom (the Warring States Period), that was found in the excavated ruins of a watchtower in present-day Shouguang County (Shandong Province) and contains the inscription “Bell made for the Marquis of Ji”, as recorded in volume III of “Inscriptions on bells, tripods and bronze vessels from the Jigu Studio” by Ruan Yuan.

The luminous “Pearl Haiji” is part of the Chinese mythology, described in Jia Zi’s work “Persuasions” and referred to in the classic tale “Langhuan Ji” by Yi Shizhen: “Hebo invited King Yu to dine by the waters of the River and offered him “Pearl Haiji”. The pearl, suspended in the palace, shone like the sun in the middle of the night. Yu had a lot of fun during the banquet.”

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### ~ About the “Five Pigs” ~

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

“Earth Pig”:	<i>Jihai</i> Year	( <i>Ji</i> belongs to Earth)	2019, 1959
“Fire Pig”:	<i>Dinghai</i> Year	( <i>Ding</i> belongs to Fire)	2007, 1947
“Wood Pig”:	<i>Yihai</i> Year	( <i>Yi</i> belongs to Wood)	1995, 1935
“Water Pig”:	<i>Guihai</i> Year	( <i>Gui</i> belongs to Water)	1983, 1923
“Metal Pig”:	<i>Xin Hai</i> Year	( <i>Xin</i> belongs to Metal)	1971, 1911

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

“Wood Pig”:	<i>Jihai</i> Year	<i>Jihai</i> – wood of the plains	2019, 1959
“Earth Pig”:	<i>Dinghai</i> Year	<i>Dinghai</i> – soil of the rooftop	2007, 1947
“Fire Pig”:	<i>Yihai</i> Year	<i>Yihai</i> – fire on the mountain top	1995, 1935
“Water Pig”:	<i>Guihai</i> Year	<i>Guihai</i> – sea water	1983, 1923
“Metal Pig”:	<i>Xin Hai</i> Year	<i>Xin Hai</i> – gold of the jewels	1971, 1911

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

**“Earth Pig”** – The Earth Pig belongs to the “rich” category. He knows how to accumulate wealth and lacks nothing in life. Being faithful to commitments, he has a strong sense of responsibility and good fortune. Having a good relationship with friends and ability to make new friends, he can be considered a blessed person.

**“Fire Pig”** – The Fire Pig belongs to the “professional elite” category. He is, by nature, a successful professional with the potential to develop excellent skills. Very dedicated to his career, he is good at managing finances and maintaining good relationships and, therefore, his entrepreneurship will never be in vain and will always succeed.

**“Wood Pig”** – The Wood Pig belongs to the “brave” category. He has a direct and honest personality, and has a facility to be integrated very well in the community. He lives in a relaxed way and does not worry too much about money. Very determined to deal with his issues, he does not give up easily in the face of difficulties. In his own thinking, there is no room to retreat.

**“Water Pig”** – The Water Pig belongs to the “talented” category. Gifted with musical talents, he has a relaxed, peaceful personality, but he is a serious person. He is demanding but not persistent. In spite of his firm opinions, he does not often insist but is very persevering with some principles. An unexpected fortune is always awaiting him.

**“Metal Pig”** – The Metal Pig belongs to the “chivalrous” category. He has a generous and heroic personality in helping the needy. He is liberal and relaxed, with a heart of gold. He treats things with ease and does not follow fixed patterns. Being a kind and respected person, good fortune pursues him.

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