



Chinese Zodiac

中国十二生肖

The Chinese system of Astrology is by far the best known. Though it has its origins in China, it is in fact used throughout most of Asia. Almost everyone is familiar with at least some aspects of it – though most know only the animal signs which make up the so-called earthly Branches.

The Chinese calendar is a Lunar calendar based upon 12 Lunar months of 29 or 30 days, plus an intercalary 13th month added every three years to keep the Lunar calendar relatively in line with the Solar year. Each year begins with the first New Moon in Aquarius.

The Hsia calendar was the official calendar of the empire of China until the revolution of 1912 AD.

According to Chinese legend the calendar was invented approximately 4700 years ago (103 Taurus - 2697 BC) by the astronomers Hsi and Ho at the order of the legendary Chinese Emperor Yao.

At first the calendar was used to regulate the agricultural and ritual year, but over time it came to be used for divinatory purposes as well. By the time of the Tang Dynasty (218 – 507 Pisces / 618 – 907 AD) the process of calendrical divination had become formalized and been written up in a definitive treatise available throughout China.

The present year (Year 2 Aquarius / 2002 AD) is the year 4700 in the Chinese calendar (running from 12 February Year 2 till 31 January Year 3). It is a year of the Horse, specifically the War Horse, ruled by the Element of Water.

The Chinese calendar is composed of two parts: the 10 “Heavenly Stems” and the 12 “Earthly Branches.” Each year is governed by both an Earthly Branch and a Heavenly Stem, which form a combination. This is not normally mentioned on the placemats we mentioned earlier, but is an extremely important detail. Both the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches run through their sequence and repeat, but because they have different lengths they do not form the same combination but rather a series of five variations over the course of a sixty year cycle. This sixty year cycle forms a “century” after a manner of speaking, and traditionally the Chinese reckoned their history in sixty-year cycles just as the West used centuries.

Both the Heavenly Stems and the Earthly Branches are important in many other aspects of Chinese thought as well, much like the Planets and Signs of western Astrology whose applications also go far beyond horoscopes.

The ten Heavenly Stems are Chia, Yi, Ping, Ting, Wu, Chi, Keng, Hsin, Jen, and Kuei. The Heavenly Stems are associated with the Five Elements of Chinese thought in groups of two, and may be regarded as Yin and Yang expressions of each Element. Chia and Yi are associated with Wood. Ping and Ting are associated with Fire. Wu and Chi are associated with Earth. Keng and Hsin are associated with Metal. Jen and Kuei are associated with Water.

The Earthly Branches are the twelve animal signs which make up the Asian zodiac. Each animal sign rules one year, and is influenced in that year by one of the Elements. These are Rat (Tzu), Ox (Ch'ou), Tiger (Yin), Rabbit (Mao), Dragon (Ch'en), Snake (Szu), Horse (Wu), Sheep (Wei), Monkey (Shen), Rooster (Yu), Dog Hsu, and Pig (Hai).

Sheep is also sometimes termed Ram, or Goat.

Each of the 12 animal signs appears 5 times during the 60 year cycle, in a slightly different form depending upon its Elemental influence for that year.

Below follows a discussion of the 12 Earthly Branches, as well as the 5 variations caused by their interaction with the 12 Heavenly Stems during the 60 year cycle. The corresponding years ruled by each sign are provided in parentheses, and have been given in Gregorian rather than Correllian dates for ease of calculation. The qualities described pertain to both the year itself, and also those born in it.

Remember that the Chinese year begins with the New Moon in Aquarius, and so the first month or so of the Western year is considered part of the previous year in the Chinese system. Thus we see that the Blv. First Elder Gloria was born in 1527 Pisces (1927 AD) which was the Year of the Fire Rabbit/Rabbit Watching the Moon –but as Blv. Lady Gloria was born on 1 January, she was actually a Fire Tiger/Tiger in the Forest because the Year of the Rabbit had not yet begun (it began 2 February that year).

It should be noted that to do a proper Chinese horoscope involves not only the year of birth, as westerners sometimes think, but also additional elements such as the month, day, and hour. Because the months in question are reckoned by a Lunar calendar and thus change each year, we will not comment on them as the calculations necessary to convert a birthdate from the Western Solar calendar to the Chinese Lunar calendar are too much to include here. This is also true for the days, because they are dependant upon the Lunar months they fall in. However we will comment upon the hours.

Each Chinese hour is the equivalent of two western hours, and is ruled by an animal sign –the same signs which rule the years. They are interpreted according to the same qualities described above. A chart below tells which sign rules which hours.

11 PM - 1 Am	Tzu - Rat
1 AM – 3 AM	Ch'ou - Ox
3 AM – 5 AM	Yin - Tiger
5 AM – 7 AM	Mao - Rabbit
7 AM – 9 AM	Ch'en - Dragon
9 AM - 11AM	Szu - Snake
11 AM –1 PM	Wu - Horse
1 PM – 3 PM	Wei - Sheep
3 PM – 5 PM	Shen - Monkey
5 PM - 7 PM	Yu - Rooster
7 PM – 9 PM	Hsu - Dog
9 PM – 11 PM	Hai - Pig

RAT (TZU) 鼠



Ambitious, determined, persistent, marked by keen intelligence and strong emotional drives, Rat can also be quite charming and sociable.

*Rat does well in creative pursuits.
Prince Charles is a Rat.*

Chia Tzu –“Rat on the Roof”

(Years: 1864, 1924, 1984, 2044, 2104)

Highly intelligent but also impatient and easily distracted. Self-sufficient and great at starting new things, but poor on follow-through.

Ping Tzu –“Rat in the Field”

(Years: 1876, 1936, 1996, 2056, 2116)

Energetic, ambitious, and competitive. Careful and good with details, but demanding and sometimes impatient.

Mou Tzu –“Rat in the Storehouse”

(Years: 1888, 1948, 2008, 2068, 2128)

Pleasant, socially adept, and optimistic. Adaptable, but insecure with matters of affection. May be over protective of loved ones.

Keng Tzu –“Rat on the Beam”

(Years: 1900, 1960, 2020, 2080, 2140)

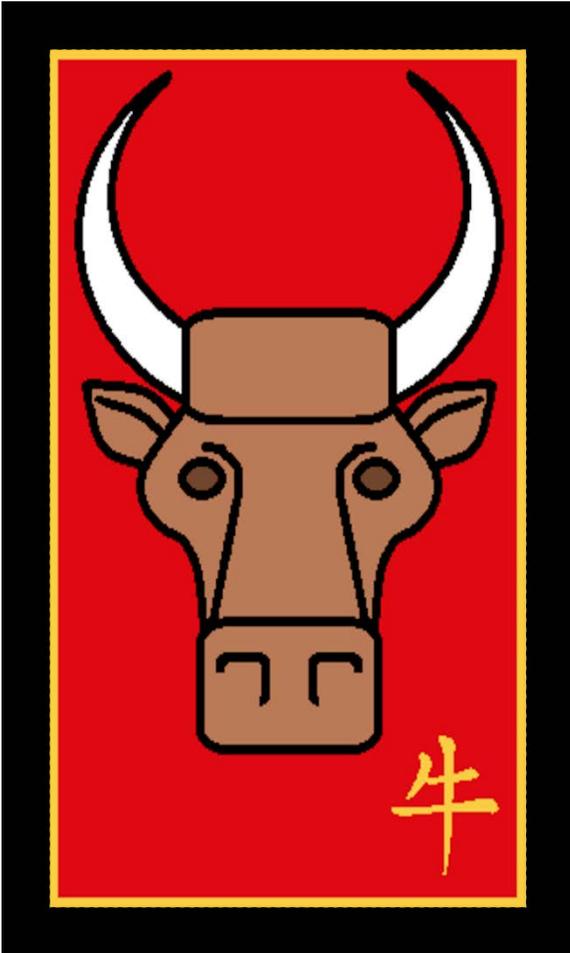
Strong organizational skills, good judgment, and common sense. Loyal and dependable, supportive of others. Strong willed, and able to see below the surface of situations.

Jen Tzu –“Rat in the Mountains”

(Years: 1912, 1972, 2032, 2092, 2152)

Energetic, responsible, and self-reliant. Too often keeps problems to self.

Ox (C4H'OU) 牛



Sensible, cautious, and strong willed, Ox is extremely stable and reliable. Ox may be very intelligent and often shrewd, but as a rule is not especially creative.

Yi Ch'ou –“Ox in the Sea”

(Years: 1865, 1925, 1985, 2045, 2105)

Inquisitive and innovative, always learning new things. Charming, dependable and a good friend.

Ting Ch'ou –“Ox in the Lake”

(Years: 1877, 1937, 1997, 2057, 2117)

Sympathetic, humanitarian, and generous. Loves to help others and tends to put own interests last, but usually comes out OK.

Chi Ch'ou –“Ox Within the Gate”

(Years: 1889, 1949, 2009, 2069, 2129)

Hard worker, dependable, independent but works well with others. Honest to a fault and sometimes overly blunt.

Hsin Ch'ou –“Ox on the Way”

(Years: 1901, 1961, 2021, 2081, 2141)

Sensible, diplomatic, avoids conflict whenever possible. Pleasant, adaptable, handles others well.

Kuei Ch'ou –“Ox out of the Gate”

(Years: 1913, 1973, 2033, 2093, 2153)

Tends to be a late bloomer. Patient, perseverant, hardworking –pursues goals doggedly until they are achieved.

TIGER (寅) 老虎



Intelligent, courageous, and talented, Tiger is a natural leader. Ambitious and energetic, Tiger can also be restless or impatient. As a rule they are lucky, and though they are loving by nature, they are sometimes slow to trust and open to others.

Ping Yin –“Tiger in the Forest”

(Years: 1866, 1926, 1986, 2046, 2106)

Intelligent, quick-witted, easily bored. Confident and assertive, skilled in many areas. A loyal friend.

Mou Yin –“Tiger Crossing the Mountain”

(Years: 1878, 1938, 1998, 2058, 2118)

Strong willed, emotional, restless. Loves challenges but dislikes surprises. Prefers to be in control.

Keng Yin –“Tiger Descending the Mountain”

(Years: 1890, 1950, 2010, 2070, 2130)

Proud, moody, but gets over moods quickly. Energetic, generous, supportive of loved ones.

Jen Yin –“Tiger Passing Through the Forest”

(Years: 1902, 1962, 2022, 2082, 2142)

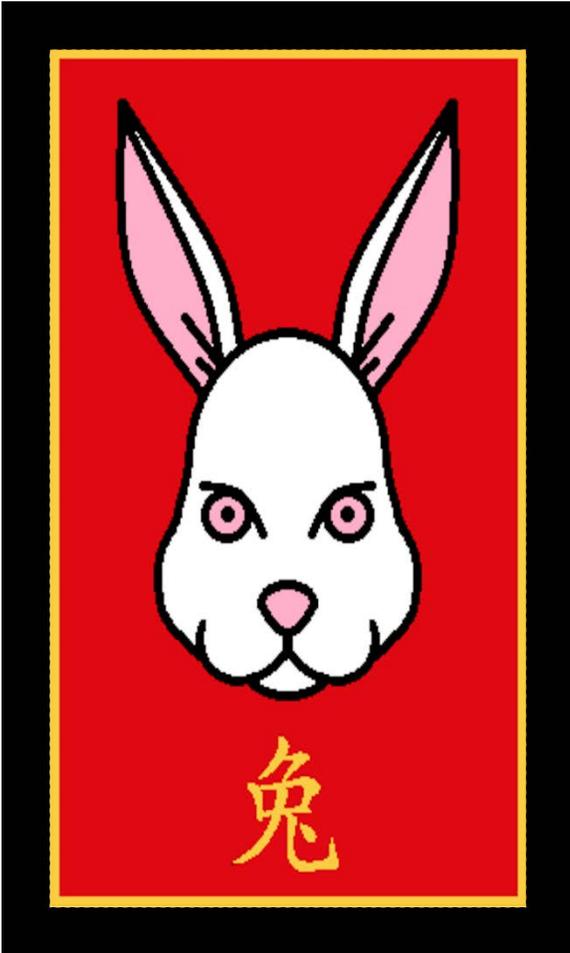
Responsible, deep-thinking, and sincere. Very outspoken, and “tells it like it is” -often to the chagrin of others. Takes duties very seriously.

Chia Yin –“Tiger Standing Still”

(Years: 1914, 1974, 2034, 2094, 2154)

Cautious and slow to take action, but once committed a serious and determined worker and a loyal friend.

RABBIT (MAO) 兔子



Rabbit is caring and nurturing toward others. Rabbit prefers constructive action and so tries to avoid unnecessary conflict, but can be brave when confrontation is necessary –Rabbit may seem timid, but has big rodent teeth to bite with. Rabbit is often financially lucky, though not necessarily rich.

The Correllian tradition was founded in the Year of the Rabbit. The Present Correllian Chancellor Rev. Don, First Director Rev. Ed, and the Blv. Regent LaVeda are all Rabbits.

Ting Mao –“Rabbit watching the Moon”

(Years: 1867, 1927, 1987, 2047, 2107)

Great endurance and determination. Psychically receptive and tends to pick up feelings from others. Must be at pains to stay clear.

Chi Mao –“Rabbit Running Out from the Forest”

(Years: 1879, 1939, 1999, 2059, 2119)

Loves security, dislikes ambiguity or unfamiliar ground. Prefers clear-cut roles and clear expectations. Prefers to carry out decisions rather than make them.

Hsin Mao –“Rabbit in the Burrow”

(Years: 1891, 1951, 2011, 2071, 2131)

Prefers safe, familiar people and places –dislikes challenges or innovations. Very loyal, sincere and emotionally strong but guarded.

Kuei Mao –“Rabbit Running Into the Forest”

(Years: 1903, 1963, 2023, 2083, 2143)

Optimistic and lucky. Always looks on the bright side and takes advantage of situations, learning from them and turning them to the better.

Yi Mao –“Buddha’s Rabbit”

(Years: 1915, 1975, 2035, 2095, 2155)

Compassionate, honorable, devoted to justice. Well organized, determined, but modest and often puts others first.

DRAGON (CH'EN) 龙



Attractive, confident, proud and willful, Dragon usually gets its way. Determined and persistent, Dragons often succeed where others fail. This strong personality wins dragon both friends and enemies.

*Dragon is often associated with magic and psychism.
Abraham Lincoln was a Dragon.*

Mou Ch'en – "Yielding Dragon"

(Years: 1868, 1928, 1988, 2048, 2108)

Enigmatic and attractive, accommodating and compassionate. Often dominates situations by force of character but prefers to avoid conflicts.

Ken Ch'en – "Angry Dragon"

(Years: 1880, 1940, 2000, 2060, 2120)

Proud, dramatic, confident. Strong sense of self-worth but difficulty in handling other people's feelings.

Jen Ch'en – "Rain Dragon"

(Years: 1892, 1952, 2012, 2072, 2132)

Courage and strength of character. Determination. Often has problems to overcome early in life.

Chia Ch'en – "Happy Dragon"

(Years: 1904, 1964, 2024, 2084, 2144)

Just, honorable, good judge of character. Hard worker but devoted to family. Tends to keep work and family strictly separate.

Ping Ch'en – "Dragon Flying"

(Years: 1916, 1976, 2036, 2096, 2156)

Restless, energetic, loves variety and new experiences. Dislikes feeling caged in or held back in any way.

SNAKE (SZU) 蛇



Intelligent, deep-thinking, and insightful, Snake has a reputation for wisdom. Determined, methodical and fastidious, Snake is usually successful, and resents failure when it occurs.

Snake is jealous and possessive, and usually quite alluring.

John F. Kennedy was a Snake.

Chi Szu – “Fortunate Snake”

(Years: 1869, 1929, 1989, 2049, 2109)

Good judgment, insight, and understanding. Hard-working, careful, determined. Usually successful.

Hsin Szu – “Snake Hibernating Through Winter”

(Years: 1881, 1941, 2001, 2061, 2121)

Keen intelligence, curiosity, and originality –a love of new ideas and places. Dislikes boredom or sameness. Ambitious but scattered. Tends to have a hard start in life, followed by stability later.

Kuei Szu – “Snake in the Grass”

(Years: 1893, 1953, 2013, 2073, 2133)

Quick-witted, quick-acting, and adaptable. Keen judgment of people and situations. Tends to be bad with money due to over confidence in own abilities.

Yi Szu – “Snake Coming Out From It’s Hole”

(Years: 1905, 1965, 2025, 2085, 2145)

Well-liked but self-effacing. Dislikes the limelight and shies away from attention –but sometimes resents the lack of it. Must learn to accept credit for achievements.

Ting Szu – “Snake in the Fishpond”

(Years: 1917, 1977, 2037, 2097, 2157)

Ambitious, courageous, determined. Decisive and single-minded, willing to do whatever is needed to achieve the goal.

HORSE (WU) 马



Horse is intelligent, hard working, and independent. Horse is perfectionistic and detail oriented, with good management skills, but hates to take advise or follow directions.

Horse often has many romantic misadventures.

Keng Wu –“Horse in the Palace”

(Years: 1870, 1930, 1990, 2050, 2110)

Honest to a fault, outspoken and sometimes tactless. Devoted to loved-ones, dedicated and selfless to the point of self-sacrifice.

Jen Wu –“War Horse”

(Years: 1882, 1942, 2002, 2062, 2122)

Energetic, independent and hard working. Stable, somewhat frugal, yet enjoys a good time. Keeps private life private and does not allow interference by others.

Chia Wu –“Horse in the Clouds”

(Years: 1894, 1954, 2014, 2074, 2134)

Loving, compassionate, thoughtful. Generous and charitable, with strong friendships. Optimistic and trusting in providence.

Ping Wu –“Horse on the Way”

(Years: 1906, 1966, 2026, 2086, 2146)

Enthusiastic and emotional, with many personal entanglements. Energetic and determined but often unfocused.

Mou Wu –“Horse inside the Gate”

(Years: 1918, 1978, 2038, 2098, 2158)

Intelligent, inquisitive, and wide-ranging. Warm-hearted, gentle, and helpful. Loved by many.

SHEEP (WEI) 羊



Sheep is sensitive, gentle, and creative. Sheep is adaptive and optimistic, avoiding problems through luck and flexibility, but tends to lack will power. Sheep is compassionate and caring, and known for consideration and good manners.

Hsin Wei –“Fortunate Sheep”

(Years: 1871, 1931, 1991, 2051, 2111)

Compassionate, trusting, and forgiving, sometimes to a fault –should sometimes be more cynical. Strong ideals but not always practical.

Kuei Wei –“Sheep of the Flock”

(Years: 1883, 1943, 2003, 2063, 2123)

Charitable and generous with both time and effort. Caring, and given to helping others. Yet also sometimes tactless or brutally honest.

Yi Wei –“Honored Sheep”

(Years: 1895, 1955, 2015, 2075, 2135)

Honest and hard working, successful and respected. Conscientious and well organized, a self-starter who resents confinement.

Ting Wei –“Lonely Sheep”

(Years: 1907, 1967, 2027, 2087, 2147)

Seeks to understand the reasons behind things. Can be moody, emotional, strongly effected by surrounding events. Less thought and more action will serve to steady the emotions.

Chi Wei –“Sheep in the Mountains”

(Years: 1919, 1979, 2039, 2099, 2159)

Honest and outspoken –but also charming and persuasive. Good at negotiation and debate, skilled in communication.

MONKEY (SHEN) 猴子



Intelligent, quick-witted, and charming, Monkey is strong on communication skills but sometimes given to gossip. Monkey is clever, inventive, and insightful.

Monkey is known for humor.

Monkey is a skillful deal-maker, and influences people readily.

Blv. Caroline High Correll founder of the Correllian Tradition, and Gerald Gardner founder of the Gardnerian Tradition, were both Monkeys.

Jen Shen –“Pretty Monkey”

(Years: 1872, 1932, 1992, 2052, 2112)

Sociable and out-going but moody. Seeks security but can be impractical –will sometimes spend more for a “bargain” than is saved by it.

Chia Shen –“Monkey in the Tree”

(Years: 1884, 1944, 2004, 2064, 2124)

Charming, witty, persuasive. Emotionally private, determined and steadfast.

Ping Shen –“Monkey Climbing the Mountain”

(Years: 1896, 1956, 2016, 2076, 2136)

Excellent judgment of people and situations. Sees below surfaces and makes astute deductions. Strong sense of self and rarely ever deceived.

Mou Shen –“Lonely Monkey”

(Years: 1908, 1968, 2028, 2088, 2148)

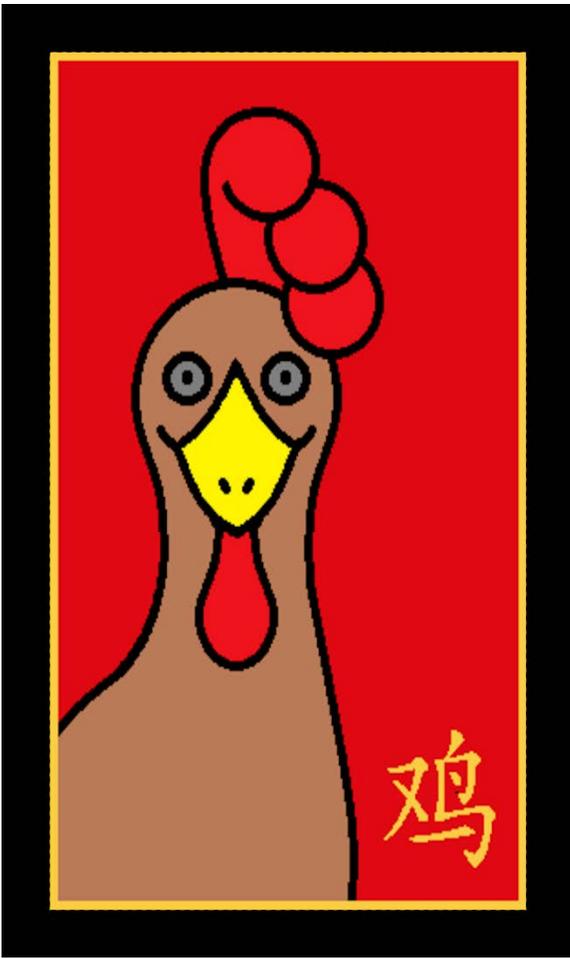
Impatient, restless, inquisitive. Intelligent and thorough, but easily distracted. Quick-silver moods change suddenly and often.

Keng Shen –“Monkey in the Fruit Tree”

(Years: 1920, 1980, 2040, 2100, 2160)

Intelligent, forceful, shrewd. Very aware of appearances and usually attractive. Can be bluntly honest and sometimes reacts too quickly.

ROOSTER (YU) 公鸡



Rooster is outgoing and sociable, honest to a fault and extremely confident. Rooster is deeply intelligent, but often impractical. Rooster is persuasive, trusting, and often quite lucky.

Rooster is optimistic and takes both success and failure in stride.

The present Correllian First Priestess Lady Krystel is a Rooster.

Kuei Yu –“Rooster in the Hen House”

(Years: 1873, 1933, 1993, 2053, 2113)

Energetic and enthusiastic. Outspoken and sometimes given to gossip. Resilient and self-sufficient, a good negotiator and able to talk their way out of most anything.

Yi Yu –“Singing Rooster”

(Years: 1885, 1945, 2005, 2065, 2125)

Buoyant and optimistic, always expecting the best. Trusts in providence. Sometimes acts too quickly.

Ting Yu –“Lonely Rooster”

(Years: 1897, 1957, 2017, 2077, 2137)

Sentimental and emotional. A good communicator, sociable and out-going -makes friends easily and everywhere. Tends to have a rocky start in life but better situations later. Lucky.

Chi Yu –“Rooster Heralding the Dawn”

(Years: 1909, 1969, 2029, 2089, 2149)

Extreme honesty and chaotic emotions make for difficulty in relationships, but luck and financial good sense provide financial stability and success.

Hsin Yu –“Rooster in a Cage”

(Years: 1921, 1981, 2041, 2101, 2161)

Ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic. Loves a challenge and loves new ideas. Always ready to take on something new and usually quite successfully.

DOG (Hsü) 狗



Loyal, honest, and reliable, Dog is a good and steady friend who can always be counted upon. Dog is determined, caring, and a champion of good causes. Dog is sometimes pessimistic and may worry too much about others.
Zsa Zsa Gabor was a Dog.

Chia Hsu –“Guard Dog”

(Years: 1874, 1934, 1994, 2054, 2114)

Enjoys activity, competition, debate. Determined, does not give up or back down. But also serious and inward-looking on occasion.

Ping Hsu –“Sleeping Dog”

(Years: 1886, 1946, 2006, 2066, 2126)

Supportive, nurturing, skilled at helping others with their problems. Does not do well with rigid structure or with stress.

Mou Hsu –“Dog Going into the Mountains”

(Years: 1898, 1958, 2018, 2078, 2138)

Intuitive, empathic, far-sighted and generous toward others. Independent and self-reliant.

Keng Hsu –“Temple Dog”

(Years: 1910, 1970, 2030, 2090, 2150)

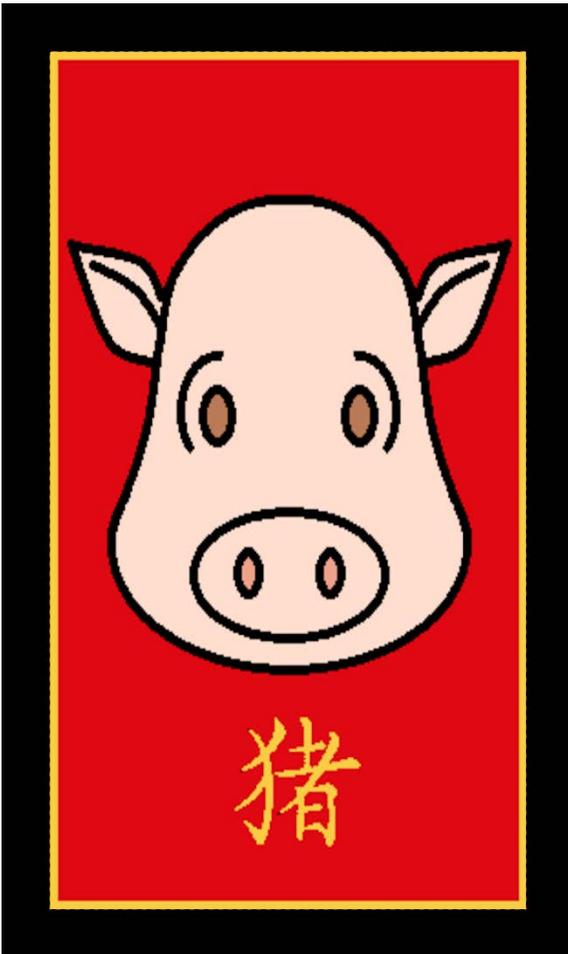
Contented, makes the best of any situation. Strong character and determination. Humanitarian, concerned for others and angered by injustice.

Jen Hsu –“Family Dog”

(Years: 1922, 1982, 2042, 2102, 2162)

Generous and loving, with many friends and supporters. Too generous to hold on to money, but always finds help when it is needed.

Pig (Hai) 猪



Trustworthy, easy-going, and caring, Pig is a good friend. Slow to make a decision, Pig is steadfast and determined once the decision is made, and almost always succeeds at what they try to do.

Pig loves the good life, and is devoted to family. Blv. Lady Mable, second Matriarchal Head of the Correllian Tradition was a Pig.

Yi Hai –“Pig Passing By”

(Years: 1875, 1935, 1995, 2055, 2115)

Honest to a fault, outspoken and opinionated. Unwilling to accept arbitrary rules or blockages. May have problems with elders or with authority. Becomes more settled with age.

Ting Hai –“Pig in the Mountains”

(Years: 1887, 1947, 2007, 2067, 2127)

Enthusiastic, likes challenges, sees potential in unusual situations. Works hard but puts family first.

Chi Hai –“Temple Pig”

(Years: 1899, 1959, 2019, 2079, 2139)

Optimistic, adaptive, able to make the most of all situations. Often faces unexpected circumstances, but is able to take them in stride. Lucky.

Hsin Hai –“Pig in the Garden”

(Years: 1911, 1971, 2031, 2091, 2151)

Independent, confident, self-contained. Does not interfere in other people’s business unless asked. Prefers to focus on home and family.

Kuei Hai –“Pig in the Forest”

(Years: 1923, 1983, 2043, 2103, 2163)

Determined, perseverant, obstinate. Very loyal and supportive to friends, and a great help in time of trouble.



Rev. Don Lewis is the First Priest and Chancellor of the Correllian Tradition, Co-Founder and Chairman of Correllian Educational Ministries and the Correllian Seminary Witch School. (WitchSchool.com), Production Head for Magick TV (MagickTV.com), author of the Witch School book series, and a member of the Triad Union.

Author and Artist Rev. Donald Lewis-Highcorell
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DonLewisHP@aol.com