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2008 PREDICTIONS – THE YEAR OF RAT

The Year of the Pig 2007 is coming to an end and we will be welcoming and ushering in the Year of the Rat 2008 very soon. So what lies in store for us in 2008? How is the outlook for the property and stock market? Which are the major events that will take place? Read on to find out more.

HSIA CALENDAR (夏历)
AND FORTUNE TELLING

The Hsia Calendar (夏历) is an amazingly accurate time computation system that is widely used by the Chinese communities to perform destiny analysis, fortune telling and to understand the climatic changes. The unique feature of this system is that every year, every month and every day is represented by 2 characters, namely the Heavenly Stem (天干) and the Earthly Branch (地支). The system encompasses 10 Heavenly Stems and 12 Earthly Branches, and each of the Heavenly Stem or the Earthly Branch is represented by *Yin and Yang* (阴阳) and one of the Five Elements (五行). The Five Elements are representation of the basic components of everything in the Universe. The relationship between the Elements, which comprise of Water (水), Wood (木), Fire (火), Earth (土) and Metal (金),

will enable us to predict one's fortunes or luck and determine what's coming our way.

MACRO PREDICTION FOR THE
YEAR OF RAT (2008) —
A YEAR OF CONFLICTS

Similarly, the Year of the Rat, 2008, is symbolised by a Heavenly Stem and an Earthly Branch (戊子) in the Hsia Calendar. The Heavenly Stem (戊) represents *Yang Earth* and the Earthly Branch (子) represents *Yang Water*. This is an Earth Rat year that implies Earth "sitting" on top of Water. According to the Cycle of Birth (生) and Destruction (克), which governs the inter-relationship between the Five Elements, Water will be conquered by Earth. This is a sign of conflict and this could mean a less peaceful year with continued international disagreement and clashes.

The most recent year that the Earth and Water elements appeared together is Year 2003. Year 2003 is a year of Water Goat (癸未) with Water "sitting" on Earth. That year, on 20 March, United States led an invasion and occupation of Iraq in the second Gulf War.

The other years that seen the Earth and Water elements appearing together are 1982 (Water Dog Year – 壬戌), 1973 (Water Ox Year – 癸丑) and 1959 (Earth Pig Year – 己亥). During these years, territorial conflicts have



Year 2008: Earth Rat (戊子)

been witnessed. On 6 June 1982, Israel invaded southern Lebanon. Syria and Egypt launched a surprise attack on Israel in the fourth Arab-Israeli War on 6 October 1973. Finally, the infamous Vietnam War started officially in 1959 when North Vietnam began infiltrating the South.

From historical occurrences, Year 2008 is likely to be another year of conflicts, disharmony, territorial disputes and possibly military clashes.

TERRORISM THREATS AND ANTI-TERRORISM
SENTIMENTS RAMPANT

The Hsia Calendar is formulated on a 60-year cycle (六十甲子年). This means that the same pair of Heavenly Stem and Earthly Branch (戊子) was also experienced in Year 1948. During this year, the spread of communism continued and anti-communist sentiments were also rampant. This led to a divide of the people in the whole world. In addition, the state of Israel was created in the Middle East in 1948 and this sparked the eventual Arab-Israeli War, which saw the involvement of Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Rat Year 2008 may see the continuation of terrorism and anti-terrorism sentiments and efforts will be rampant.

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SIGNING OF IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The Heavenly Stem (戊), which is represented by the *Yang* Earth element, is likened to a big rock or big mountain. It symbolises stability and trustworthiness. This could imply that there may be important historical international treaties or pacts being signed in Rat Year 2008.

POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR FLOODS, LANDSLIDES OR EARTHQUAKES

The Rat (子) belongs to the Water element (水) and it represents the winter. It is the birth month of Metal (辛金). Rat Year 2008 is a year when the Water element (水) is dominant and very strong. The *Yang* Earth (戊) is weakened in the presence of strong water and does not have the ability to control or conquer the strong water torrents. It may be visualised as loose or unstable earth floating or flowing with the tide of the water. This implies that the possibility of encountering floods, landslides and earthquakes is relatively high and their impact on civilization is severe.



“LIKELIHOOD OF MARRIAGE OR RELATIONSHIP FOR PEOPLE BORN IN YEAR OF PIG, RABBIT OR GOAT”

On the hindsight, this could also mean that there will more relationship entanglements and problems in 2008.

MICRO PREDICTIONS**CLASHES & THINGS TO NOTE**

The Rat (子) is in direct clash with the Horse (午). This is a clash (六冲) between the Water (水) and Fire (火) elements. Such a clash often relates to air and sea disasters. Beware of accidents this year.

As the Rat (子) is in direct clash with the Horse (午), also known as *Six Clashes* (六冲), and causes an *Ingratitude Clash* (无恩之刑) with the Rabbit (卯), people born in the Year of the Horse or Rabbit have to be especially cautious. It is therefore recommended for people born in these years to carry an Ox pendant so as to alleviate the negative effects of the clash. In Rat Year 2008, the direction of the Grand Duke (太岁) is North (北方). Avoid travelling directly towards this direction and try not to carry out major or extensive renovation works in the North sector of your house.

MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIPS

The Rat (子) is also the *Flower of Romance Star* (桃花). Year 2008 will see more couples tying the knot and higher chances of engaging in a relationship with someone whom you like. This is especially so for people born in the Year of Pig (亥), Rabbit (卯) or Goat (未).

WHO'S ENJOYING GOOD LUCK?

“PEOPLE BORN IN YEAR OF OX, DRAGON AND MONKEY ENJOY GOOD LUCK IN RAT YEAR 2008.”

The Rat (子) combines with the Ox (丑) in what is commonly known as the *Six Combinations* (六合), and with the Dragon (辰) and Monkey (申) in *Triple Combinations* (三合). People born in the year of Ox, Dragon and Monkey will therefore be in harmony and enjoy good luck in Rat Year 2008. However, this is only a generic assessment and should not be taken strictly or seriously as an analysis of one's fortunes or destiny. Four Pillars of Destiny or Ba Zi (also commonly known as Eight Characters, 八字), which is based on one's date and time of birth, offers a much more accurate and detailed analysis of one's destiny, luck and fortunes.

WHERE IS THE ACADEMIC STAR?

Another significant star that most parents would be interested is the *Academic Star* (文昌). Rat Year 2008 sees the *Academic Star* (文昌) residing in the Southwest sector (232.5° – 247.5°).

With proper guidance, school children who have their study desks placed in this sector will be able to enjoy good grades and success in examinations. Please bear in mind that this is a generic application. A more detailed and accurate analysis by a professional Feng Shui practitioner is still required for a more customised and exact placement.

FENG SHUI TIP FOR THE SINGLES

If you are still single and would like to improve or enhance your romance luck, you may try placing some fresh flowers in the West or North sector of your bedroom to activate the *Flower of Romance Star* (桃花).

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HEALTH MATTERS

Different body parts or organs are represented by different Heavenly Stems (天干) and Earthly Branches (地支). Year 2008 is governed by the Earth Rat (戊子). Earth, generally, is associated with the stomach, digestive system and nose. Imbalances of the Earth element (土) will therefore lead to stomach problems, indigestion, nutritional deficiency, obesity or even cancer. This is because the food that is digested by the stomach will be employed to develop our cells and muscles. Abnormal development of our cells due to indigestion (imbalances of the Earth element) is the first indication or sign of developing cancer. Besides regular exercise to increase our metabolism rate and improve our immune system, which is represented by the Water element (水), sufficient intake of Vitamin B, C and E, which are effective anti-oxidants, will also help in alleviating the imbalances.

Water, generally, is associated with the kidney, bladder, urinary tract, immune system and ear. Imbalances of the Water element (水) will therefore lead to kidney problems, back pain or injury to the spine. Maintaining a healthy diet and exercising regularly are the main way in keeping yourself free from the encumbrances of illnesses.

STOCK MARKET PREDICTIONS

The stock market outlook for Rat Year 2008 is not as rosy as Pig Year 2007. The bearish market is due to the absence of Fire (火) and the presence of strong Water (水). We have already seen the economy slowing down during the 4th quarter of Pig Year 2007 when Water (水) becomes evident and abundant. This situation will continue in Rat Year 2008 and it will become more acute in the 3rd and 4th quarter. The total absence of Fire (火) also implies that the situation could be more severe than that of Pig Year 2007. Brace yourself and do not expect a quick turn-around situation as Ox Year 2009 is also unfavourable for the stock market.

PROPERTY MARKET PREDICTIONS

The property market for Rat Year 2008 will, however, continue to climb and may hit high records again. Before it starts to slow down in Ox Year 2009, it will be extremely active and vibrant in the 3rd and 4th quarter of the year.



**“BEARISH MARKET FOR THE RAT YEAR
WITH MORE ACUTE EFFECTS IN 3RD AND
4TH QUARTER OF THE YEAR”**

BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES

The strong Water (水) in Rat Year 2008 bodes well for the Earth (土) element and Metal (金) element businesses. These include the property- or real estate-related businesses, construction, mining, jewellery, industrial machinery, computer and high-tech industries. The Metal (金) element businesses will enjoy favourable wealth luck and high levels of activity and productivity in the 1st and 4th quarter, while the Earth (土) element businesses enjoy good times in the 3rd and 4th quarter of the year.

The least prosperous in Rat Year 2008 is the Water (水) element businesses. Not only is the wealth luck absent for these businesses, they face tougher and more challenging competition too. These include the shipping, trading, logistic and transport businesses. Generally, a tough and difficult year ahead for these businesses.

Average luck or fluctuating fortunes will be observed for the Wood (木) element and Fire (火) element businesses. Prosperity acquired will be superficial and difficult to sustain. These include the agriculture, publishing, paper, forestry, fashion, furniture, finance, power & energy, oil & gas, lighting and entertainment businesses.

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FLYING STAR CHART FOR RAT YEAR 2008

Environmental or cosmic energies flow and exist in cyclical periods and change from year to year (风水轮流转). This implies that positive and negative energies exist in different directions in different years. In Rat Year 2008, using Flying Star of Feng Shui (玄空飞星), Star 1 takes precedence and is the dominant star. The Flying Star Chart for Rat Year 2008 is plotted as shown:

	Southeast	South	Southwest	
	9	5	7	
East	8	1	3	West
	4	6	2	
Northeast		North		Northwest

Star 1, which is represented by the Water (水) element, takes centre-stage in Rat Year 2008. This could signify abundant water in this coming year, resulting in more floods, landslides and water-related diseases.

Rat Year 2008 will see more young men and young children being successful in their career or academic pursuits.

Star 5, which is the most calamitous star, arrives in the south. This inauspicious star will cause critical illness if activated. It is recommended for homes that face south or have their main doors facing south to hang a six-rod wind chime or 6 ancient metal coins to dissipate the negative energies. The negative energies of Star 5 are extremely potent in March and December next year.

Special precautions have to be taken for inauspicious Star 2 and 3 too. Star 2 and 3 arrive in the northwest and west respectively. Star 2 brings about sickness, while Star 3 causes quarrels and legal entanglements. A six-rod wind chime can be used to dispel Star 2 inauspicious energies. To dissolve the bad energies of Star 3, a lamp or a red mat / rug can be used.

For Rat Year 2008, the most auspicious directions are the east and southeast. To activate these good energies, a lamp or a red mat / rug can be placed in the east sector of the house and plants can be used in the southeast sector.

We hope you have a better understanding of what lies ahead of us in Rat Year 2008. We would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous Rat Year 2008!

About CHANG Consultancy 永昌風水

CHANG Consultancy 永昌風水 is one of the leading Feng Shui and Ba Zi (八字) consulting firms in Singapore. We take pride in providing practical, effective and yet contemporary Feng Shui solutions to our valued clients. Our Principal Consultant, **Mr. Lim Eng Cheong (林永昌)**, is best known for his application of Feng Shui techniques in a subtle yet contemporary and powerful way.

Delivering talks, seminars and courses on Chinese metaphysical studies is also one of our fortes. We deliver Feng Shui and Ba Zi talks, seminars and courses to corporations as well as to individuals who are keen to gain a deeper understanding into Chinese metaphysics and its applications.

Our professional approach to Ba Zi (八字) / Destiny analysis and Feng Shui consulting sets us apart from conventional practices and puts us in a foremost position to give a new meaning to harmonious and quality living.

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