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2009 PREDICTIONS – THE YEAR OF OX

In Rat Year 2008, we have seen the Tibetan demonstrations in March, the South Ossetia war between Georgia and Russia in August, and recently, the Mumbai terrorist attack in November. *Destiny Times* on 2008 Predictions has predicted 2008 to be a year of international disagreement, conflicts, territorial disputes, military clashes and the continuation of terrorism. In addition, the previous edition has indicated the high likelihood of floods, landslides and earthquakes. These have, unfortunately, come true when we suffered heartache in witnessing the Sichuan earthquake in May, Cyclone Nargis creating havoc in Myanmar and the recent landslide in Kuala Lumpur. The economic tsunami has also taken many by surprise and major stock markets started crumbling in September 2008.

The Year of the Rat 2008 is coming to an end and we will be welcoming and ushering in the Year of the Ox 2009 very soon. So what lies in store for us in 2009? 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, every day and every hour 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 OX (2009) - A MORE PEACEFUL YEAR

Similarly, the Year of the Ox, 2009, is symbolised by a Heavenly Stem and an Earthly Branch (己丑) in the Hsia Calendar. The Heavenly Stem (己) represents *Yin* Earth and the Earthly Branch (丑) represents *Yin*

Earth as well. This is an Earth Ox year that implies Earth "sitting" on top of Earth. As the Heavenly Stem and the Earthly Branch are the same Element, they will complement each other or compete among themselves. According to the Cycle of Birth (生) and Destruction (克), which governs the inter-relationship between the Five Elements, both Earth Elements neither produce more of their own kind nor conquer or destroy their own kind. This is a sign of harmony and this could mean a relatively more peaceful year with more international cooperation and collaboration.

The most recent year that both Earth elements appeared together is Year 1988. Year 1988 is a year of Earth Dragon (戊辰) with Earth "sitting" on Earth. That year, on 15 May, Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan after 8 years of fighting. On August in the same year, the Iraq-Iran war came to an end as well.

The other years that seen both Earth elements appearing together are 1979 (Earth Goat Year – 己未) and 1958 (Earth Dog Year – 戊戌). During these years, international collaborations and signed treaties have been witnessed. In 1979, USA and USSR signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) to curtail the development of strategic nuclear weapons on both sides. Syria and Egypt formed the United Arab Republic in 1958, while Iraq and Jordan were united under the Arab Federation banner in the same year.

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Another notable event that took place in 1958 was the worldwide economic downturn, which was also known as the 1958 Recession. Unemployment rose in that year and there was a sharp decline in the purchase of raw materials.

MORE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BUT BLEAK ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

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 (己丑) was also experienced in Year 1949. During this year, the NATO was formed when the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in April. Israel and Syria signed a truce in July to end a 19-month war. On 1 Oct 1949, the People's Republic of China was officially proclaimed.

From historical occurrences, Year 2009 is likely to be a more peaceful year, with more countries or organisations cooperating together to work towards a common cause. However, due to the absence of the Fire element in Year 2009, it could lead to a cloud of gloominess surrounding the economic outlook, worsening the global economic crisis.

A YEAR FOR RECUPERATION

The Heavenly Stem (己), which is represented by the *Yin* Earth element, is likened to soft agricultural soil, which is suitable for cultivation. It symbolises flexibility, mediation and development. This could imply that Ox Year 2009 is a year for recuperation, self-cultivation and change.

MORE LANDSLIDES & EARTHQUAKES

The Ox (丑) belongs to the Earth element (土) and it represents win-

ter earth. Ox Year 2009 is a year when the Earth element (土) is dominant. The *Yin* Earth (己) is further supported by the Ox (丑) making it stronger. The Ox (丑), being the winter earth, is cold, wet and soggy. It may be visualised as loose or unstable earth with fluidity and movement. This implies that the possibility of encountering landslides and earthquakes is relatively high and their impact on civilization is severe.

MICRO PREDICTIONS

STAR OF ARTS

The Ox (丑) is also the *Star of Arts* (华盖). The *Star of Arts* governs artistic talents and implies intelligence. Year 2009 will see more developments in the arts industry and emergence of more artists and philosophers. Due to the presence of the *Star of Arts*, people born in the Year of Snake (巳), Rooster (酉) or Ox (丑) tend to be more philosophical and will demonstrate more artistic flair in Year 2009. On the hindsight, if this star falls into the *Heaven Void* (空亡) or is being "clashed", it implies loneliness.

CLASHES & WHO WILL BE MORE ADVERSELY AFFECTED?

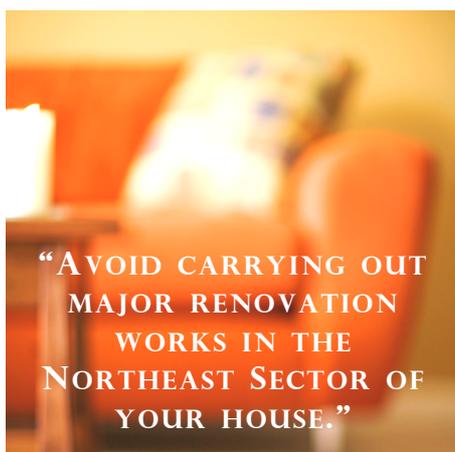
The Ox (丑) is in direct clash with the Goat (未). This is a clash (六冲) between the Earth (土) elements. Such a clash often relates to land disasters. Beware of accidents this year.

As the Ox (丑) is in direct clash with the Goat (未), also known as *Six Clashes* (六冲), and causes a *Triple Clash* (三刑) with the Goat (未) and Dog (戌), people born in the Year of the Goat or Dog have to be especially cautious. A *Triple Clash* implies hidden threat, disharmony and sickness. It is therefore recommended for people born in these years to carry a Rat pendant so as to alleviate the negative effects of the clash.

Some examples of famous people who are born in the Goat Year and clash with the Ox in 2009 are Bill Gates, Chow Yun-Fat, Julia Roberts, Boris Becker, Zhang Ziyi, Nicolas Anelka, Kimi Räikkönen and Pervez Musharraf. Those who are born on a Goat Day will be affected by the clash and face challenges in 2009 as well. These people include the Singapore President, S R Nathan, and Republican presidential nominee for 2008 USA election, John McCain. In cases like this, Singapore President, S R Nathan also needs to take good care of his health.

THE GRAND DUKE & WHAT TO AVOID?

In Ox Year 2009, the direction of the Grand Duke (太岁) is Northeast (东北方). Avoid travelling directly towards



this direction and try not to carry out major or extensive renovation works in the Northeast sector of your house.

WHERE IS THE ACADEMIC STAR?

Another significant star that most parents would be interested is the *Academic Star* (文昌). Ox Year 2009 sees the *Academic Star* (文昌) residing in the West sector (262.5° – 277.5°). With proper guidance, school children who have their study desks placed in this

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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.

WHO'S ENJOYING GOOD LUCK?

“PEOPLE BORN IN THE YEAR OF RAT,
SNAKE AND ROOSTER WILL ENJOY
GOOD LUCK IN OX YEAR 2009.”

The Ox (丑) combines with the Rat (子) in what is commonly known as the *Six Combinations (六合)*, and with the Snake (巳) and Rooster (酉) in *Triple Combinations (三合)*. People born in the year of **Rat, Snake and Rooster** will therefore be in harmony and enjoy good luck in Ox Year 2009. 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.

HEALTH MATTERS

Different body parts or organs are represented by different Heavenly Stems (天干) and Earthly Branches (地支). Year 2009 is governed by the Earth Ox (己丑). 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.



STOCK MARKET PREDICTIONS

The stock market outlook for Ox Year 2009 is bleak and gloomy. The bearish market is due to the absence of Fire (火). In the 3rd and 4th quarter of Rat Year 2008, major world markets have started crashing down due to the global economic downturn. This is not a coincidence and it has in fact been correctly predicted in the previous *Destiny Times edition on Rat Year 2008 Predictions!*

The total absence of Fire (火) also implies that a swift recovery is not expected. Brace yourself and do not expect a quick turn-around situation as the lacklustre stock market will continue throughout 2009 with only slight improvement in March and June. First signs of recovery may only be evident in end 2010 or early 2011. However, to attain the highs of 2007 are unlikely.

PROPERTY MARKET PREDICTIONS

The property market for Ox Year 2009 will finally start to slow down, after shooting to record highs in the past few quarters. As mentioned earlier, this year is a time for recuperation. Due to the economic uncertainties, investors will adopt a more cautious mentality and banks or financial institutions will be more prudent in dishing out loans. This will result in the cooling down of the property market with supply competing for shrinking demand.

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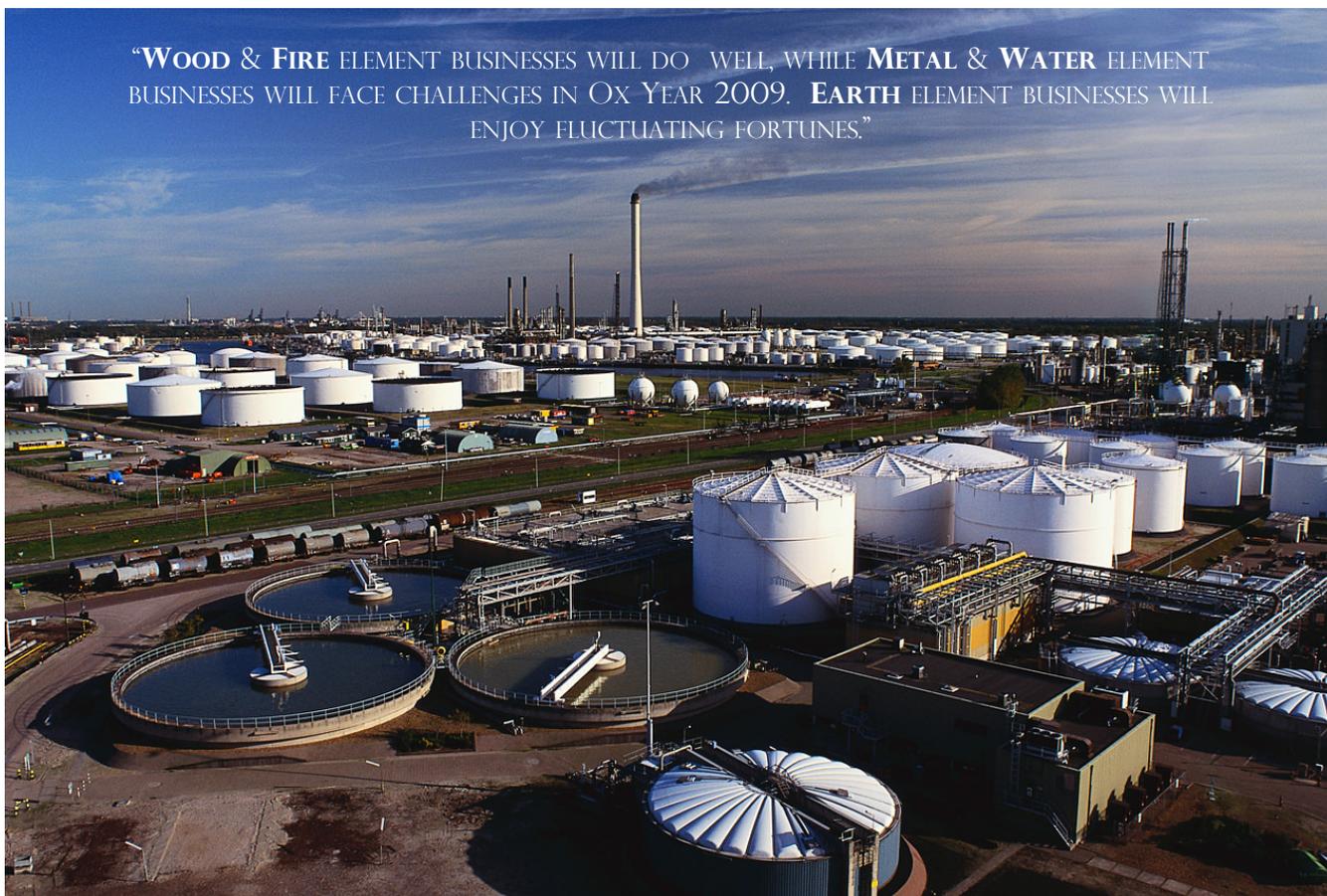
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

The dominant Earth (土) element in Ox Year 2009 bodes well for the Wood (木) element and Fire (火) element businesses. These include the **agriculture, publishing, paper, forestry, fashion, furniture, recycling, finance, electronics products, power & energy, oil & gas, lighting and entertainment businesses**. The Wood (木) element businesses will enjoy favourable wealth luck and high levels of activity and productivity in the 2nd quarter, while the Fire (火) element businesses enjoy good times in April and the 3rd quarter of the year.

The least prosperous in Ox Year 2009 is the Metal (金) element and 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 **banking, jewellery, industrial machinery, computer, high-tech industries, 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 Earth (土) element businesses. There will be intense competition among these businesses. However, the hidden Metal (辛金) element and Water (癸水) element in the Ox (丑), also signify potential in these businesses in acquiring wealth and generating high levels of activity and productivity. These include the **property- or real estate-related businesses, construction and mining industries**.

“WOOD & FIRE ELEMENT BUSINESSES WILL DO WELL, WHILE METAL & WATER ELEMENT BUSINESSES WILL FACE CHALLENGES IN OX YEAR 2009. EARTH ELEMENT BUSINESSES WILL ENJOY FLUCTUATING FORTUNES.”



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FLYING STAR CHART FOR OX YEAR 2009

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 Ox Year 2009, using Flying Star of Feng Shui (玄空飞星), Star 9 takes precedence and is the dominant star. The Flying Star Chart for Ox Year 2009 is plotted as shown:

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

Star 9, which is represented by the Fire (火) element, takes centre-stage in Ox Year 2009. Unlike Rat Year 2008, which is very wet and rainy, Ox Year 2009 is relatively drier and hotter. There could, however, be more incidences of fire, explosion-related instances and air disasters.

Star 5, which is the most calamitous star, arrives in the north. This inauspicious star will cause critical illness if activated. It is recommended for homes that face north or have their main doors facing north 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 July and October 2009.

Special precautions have to be taken for inauspicious Star 2 and 3 too. Star 2 and 3 arrive in the west and northeast 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 Ox Year 2009, the most auspicious direction is the southeast. To activate the good energies, a lamp or a red mat / rug can be placed in the southeast sector of the house. Placing a water feature in this sector can bring about prosperity and unexpected wealth!

We hope you have a better understanding of what lies ahead of us in Ox Year 2009. We would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous Ox Year 2009!

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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