



After last year's powerful year of the Fire Rooster, you are ready to integrate all that change into positive action to get what you want this year. From February 16, 2018 to February 4, 2019, the year of the Earth Dog brings the element of earth to all of the signs this year.

The earth brings groundedness and stability. Last year, you scrambled to keep up with all of the change and opportunities thrown your way. Luckily, this year you get to settle into one or more of them, and start feeling more confident and rooted.

If you're considering what you want to do in 2018, think about what you are building-- a new home, a solid career, a committed relationship, a tight knit family. Rabbits will find more comfort. Dragons, Goats, and Roosters may find the slower pace of the Earth Dog a little difficult to adjust to. Hence the message for you is - slow it down. Relax. Enjoy life. It's not all about constant accolades. Rest your laurels. You will benefit greatly from this.

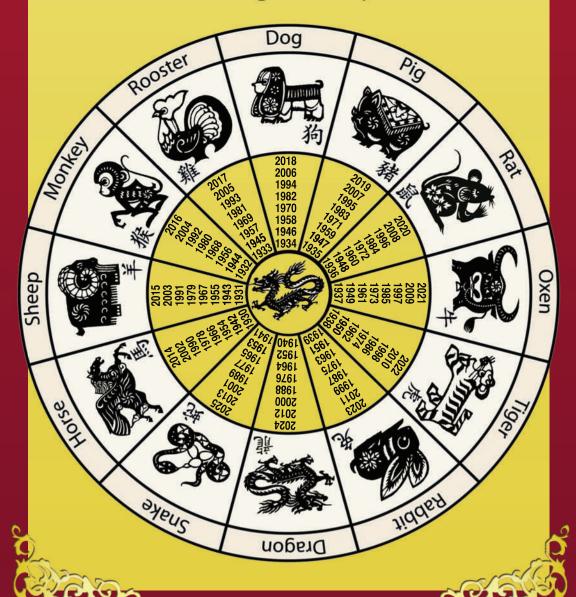
Since the Dog is so independent and loyal, those born under the signs of the Horse, Tiger, and Ox can finally find someone to share their lives with romantically, rather than dating people who just don't work out. You're more than just a pretty face, after all!

Signs that tend to focus on the accumulation of wealth, like the Rat and Pig, are finally rewarded for their hard work. If you feel you've been passed over for promotions and salary increases, that ends now.

Dog natives may find that doors magically open for them during this year. Friends return from the past, and they may have more than one lover competing for their attention. As always, you approach each situation with your trademark sincerity and grace.

Meanwhile, Snakes and Monkeys have a wealth of lessons to learn this year, especially around the solar eclipse of July 12. But each lesson just strengthens you, and makes it so much more fun to be in your shoes.

What sign are you?







Event Highlights

Anthony Rubio Designs features his canine couture fashion line
Traditional Lunar New Year Lion Dances
Wu Shu Shaolin Kung Fu
Musician Bei Bei on Guzheng
Modern Fire Dances
Asian Dance Troupe Performance

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Did you know...

No Chinese New year celebration is complete without the traditional lion dance. According to traditional Chinese beliefs, the lion is a symbol of courage, stability, and superiority. The lion's dance is primarily performed at the beginning of the Lunar Year to drive negative and evil spirits away from the household.

The head of the lion and its movement of the eyelids are known to bring vitality and longevity, while the tail of the lion sweeps away bad fortune. Often, when new businesses open or a new home is purchased, the lion dance is performed in the hopes to expel bad luck and usher in good fortune.

The legend of Chinese New Year is that it begins with the battle against the mythical beast called the Nian, who would come on New Year's Day to eat children, livestock, and crops. In protection, villagers put food in front of their doors in hopes that the creature will eat the food instead. The Nian was also afraid of the color red and firecrackers, hence the tradition of hanging red lanterns and setting off firecrackers.

Other Chinese New Year traditions...

Opening every door and window on New Year's Eve-- out with the old and in with the new. Packing the knives away as they will "cut off" all of the good luck in the coming year. Day 3 should be spent at home. Dubbed as the day of the red mouth, it is not a good day to socialize, and you may find yourself quarreling with family and friends. Day 5 is the day of wealth-- large banquets and fireworks to draw the attention of the God of Wealth. Day 7 is a birthday for everyone! Known as the celebration of Renri, or birthday of all humans, the goddess Nuwa created human beings from yellow clay on the seventh day. Fresh flowers are placed around the houses symbolizing rebirth and growth, the plum blossom for courage and hope, and the water narcissus for good luck and prosperity.

Although New Year rituals may vary across the Asian countries, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, and Thailand welcome the Lunar New Year with equal fervor. The lion and dragon dances, parades, food, and family reunions are all there to usher in good luck and well being.











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The Signs Revealed

THE DOG

The happy cheerful pup...dedicated and honest. These people have a great sense of justice and fair play. They are loyal and always on alert. Being that they usually have a watchful eye, many are prone to worry too much. When hurt or deceived they tend to gnaw at the details. But, eventually they pull it together and move forward with a playful gait. They can have a bit of a temper, but their bark is worse than their bite. They are dedicated to companionship and are faithful for life.

THE PIG

Pig people are honest, kind, generous and funny. They have a great sense of humor and love to wallop in the mud. They love their homes and are quite content keeping house. They are steady, patient, and great at organizing both their jobs, money, and family life. Trustworthy and warm, they enjoy a good friend, good food, good sex, a good book, good everything. Their day is their play pen!

THE RAT

Charming and sociable, but a cool cookie. The Rat is comfortable within groups of people, and work well with the public. They are creative and quite smart. They grasp situations quickly and pay attention to details. They take advantage of opportunity, and move towards their mark, but since they cannot resist the chance to move quickly; sometimes they can overstep their boundaries and take on too much at one time. They are passionate lovers; and their feelings are true. They are dedicated to their friends and give heartfelt advice and comfort.

THE OX

The Ox is steady and plows the fields alone. They are independent workers and dedicated for the long haul. They can be loners. Social gatherings are more dutiful than needed. Family structure is important to the Ox. They cherish their private lives and homestead. They enjoy their leisure time after the long day working in their yards away from the crowds. Not the most romantic, but very faithful.

THE TIGER

Tigers are passionate, strong, swift, and courageous. They love their freedom and do not do well when stripped of their independence. They are quite dominant, and need to feel powerful, and not afraid of meeting a situation head-on. They are restless, and need challenges to keep them happy and healthy. They make excellent friends and long lasting relationships if given their freedom. They are flirts, but committed to their partners. Parenting is a privilege.

THE RABBIT

The peaceful little bunny. Usually keeping out of the fight, and at times turning a blind eye to dispute. Diplomatic, gentle, emotional and sentimental. They can, at times, seem rather selfish as they enjoy their own garden. However, they are very sensitive and can be hurt easily. The Rabbit can assess a situation and usually come up with the best stradegy. They are innovative and shrewd. Emotionally based they make tender partners, and seek out a match that offers the same.

THE DRAGON

The Dragon is an exceptional sign. Proud, assertive, intelligent, and strong. However, the other side can be pushy, impulsive, and intolerant. They breath fire in every direction; for both good and bad. They attract the positive and the attention, and stir up energy!! They make the point, and make it well, but sometimes lack consultation when needed. Dedicated workers, and companions for the long haul!

THE SNAKE

This sign can remain still for a long time before it strikes. They know what they want and when they want it. They proceed at their own pace, which can be misunderstood. They often shed their skins taking and venturing onto something completely new. They are great at showing off their social side, but tend to enjoy being left alone to evaluate the situation. Elegant, refined, passionate, sleek, sexy, but can be jealous and possessive if their rock is overturned one too many times.

THE HORSE

These people are usually popular, mentally alert, good workers, straightforward and honest. They seek the challenge; strive for success; in search for freedom. They can gallop off in search of these things. They do not tire easily, but can shy away if they feel they are being put in their pen too often, and then the open field is too tempting to not run towards. When they find a partner they are dedicated, and at times can lose their heads in the way of romance, making mistakes while finding the right partner.

THE SHEEP

The sheep (also called the Goat) go at their own pace. They do not like being rushed or put on the spot. They are charming, yet hold back their emotions. Lovers of nature and the arts. They appreciate and need stability and prefer to have people oriented professions. Well mannered and a bit shy, but readily will lend an ear to a friend. The Sheep can be easily hurt and can become upset if deceived. Dedicated to marriage and a friend!

THE MONKEY

Witty, clever, inventive, and crafty; and can be a bit of a tease. These people adapt well with situations and are quick on their feet. They have the "gift of gab", are original and lively. Many people feel that the Monkey is intimidating and may shy away, but soon the attraction is made. The Monkey has many interests which allows them to fit in anywhere. Not the 9-5 type person though; the Monkey needs freedom and a partner that keeps them stimulated.

THE ROOSTER

These people like to strut their feathers. They are flamboyant, and have no hesitation in speaking up when they feel like it. They are dedicated hard workers, but not fond of repetition. They enjoy social gatherings and love to put on their best show, as they enjoy being the center of attraction, and their style and charm usually makes that quite possible. They usually attract a wide variety of mates before settling down with just one; but once they find that perfect match they are dedicated to their partners and make great parents.



五行

Wu Xing: The Five Elements

The five-element phase theory runs deep in Chinese philosophy. It roots itself as the main schematic behind an array of how the world and its elements interact and what happens in each type of relationship. It is employed in many fields of the Chinese culture-cosmic cycles, internal medicine, political regimes, music, military strategy, and martial arts to name a few.

To help in understanding the order of the phases: Wood feeds Fire, Fire creates Earth (ash), Earth bears Metal, Metal collects Water, Water nourishes Wood (tree). These are noted as Generating Phases, where each element generates the existence of the next. These are not the most intricate and complex of the phases. Next come the Overcoming Phases (represented in the 'star' formation below): Wood parts Earth (roots prevent soil erosion), Earth dams (muddles) Water, Water extinguishes Fire, Fire melts Metal, Metal chops Wood. There are interpromoting, interacting, overacting, and counteracting cycles that will either generate or create, or overcome and destruct.

Feng Shui is a prominent practice that assesses a particular directional energy flow from one phase to the next and will apply a certain 'cure' by rearranging energy for a more fluid and expansive flow versus an outcome more destructive and exhaustive.

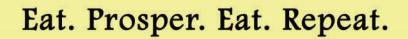
In cosmology, 2018's Year of the Dog falls in an Earth cycle, coming off of last year's Fire cycle, and is meant to be a time of transition and focus, the gathering of materials before the harvesting and collecting that will happen next year in the Metal cycle.







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The Lunar New Year is paramount in the union of food and family, and there is much symbolism surrounding particular dishes that should always make the feasting table. Chinese families celebrate for 15 days to ensure that the migrant working culture will have enough time to make it back to the feasting table for family bonding and red envelopes full of cash and promise to the younger generation.

Some New Year dishes that wish for prosperity, fortune, and longevity:

Nian Gao, or rice cake, celebrates the beginning of the rice harvest in the spring and is a tradition that dates back 3,000 years. It wishes you prosperity year to year.

Yu, or fish, is a Chinese word that, when spoken, sounds like another Chinese word that means prosperity. It is typically served as a whole fish to represent unity. And you always want leftovers so that prosperity will always overflow.

Tang Yuan, or sweet rice balls, are usually served on the 15th day as its white round shape represents the first night of the full moon in the new lunar year. It signifies a circle of harmony and unity within the family.

Jiao Zhi, or dumplings, are purposely shaped like the gold ingots from as far back as the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The more you eat, the more fortune you will have.

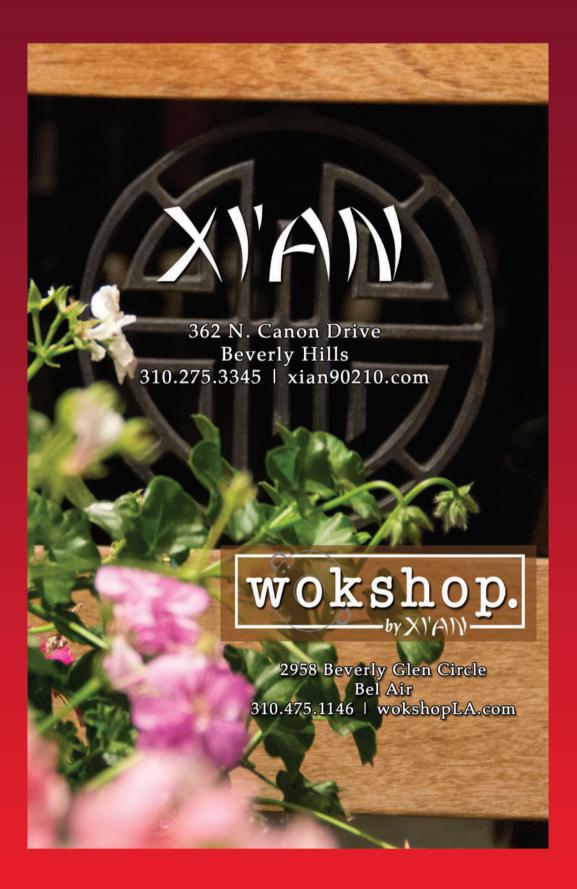
Chun Juan, or spring roll, also represents wealth. The gold color represents gold bars. Spring rolls are one of the most popular dim sum dishes around.

Mian Tiao, or long noodles, represent, no surprise, longevity and long life. They are served uncut and usually served in a stewed broth. Also a popular birthday dish.



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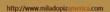
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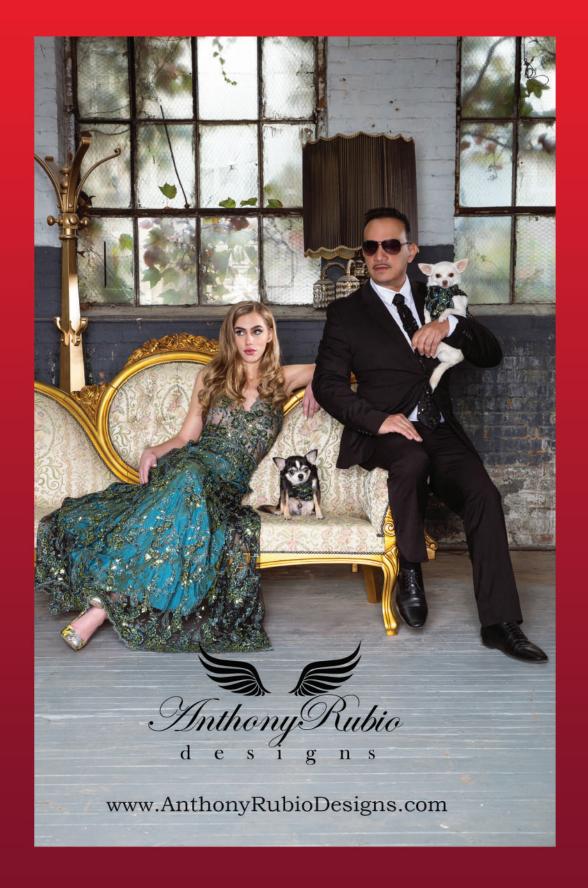


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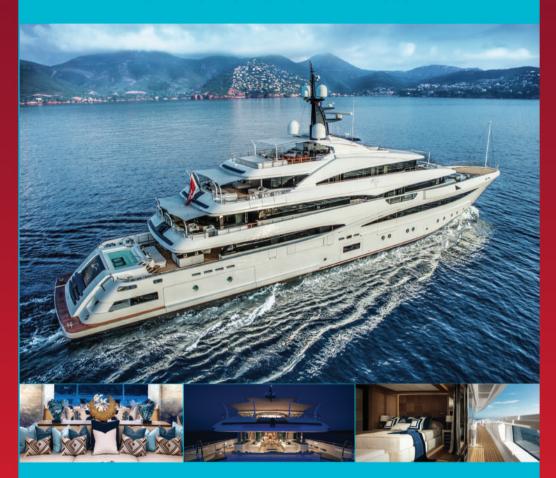


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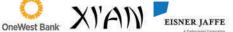






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