

2025 - Year of the Wood Snake

Chinese Astrology is quite a different system than that of any other model in the world. Yet, as is true of all models or systems of Astrology, each can be understood to work, in context with its foundational cosmology and specific rules and techniques of interpretation. Languages with completely different alphabets and grammatical rules are a good example of this 'relativity factor'.

Narrow-minded people get lost in notions that 'there can only be one' (system) when it comes to Astrology, revealing dogmatic bias, especially those devoted to Vedic Astrology or the Sidereal Zodiac. Ironically, it seems that they project a linear perspective onto how Astrology works and advocates tend to be very dogmatic about their rationale. Yet, Western, Mayan and Chinese systems are not based on these fixed notions, and they all also work!

Chinese Astrology is uniquely based on a 60-Year cycle, or the 12 Year Signs (meaning each sign is accorded an entire year as opposed to a month, and these are then multiplied by the 5 Elements of Chinese Cosmology: Water, Wood, Fire, Earth and Metal. This 12-Year model is closely associated with Jupiter, which has a 11.86 year cycle and there is only 1 main constellation, that of the Big Dipper.

Interestingly, the start date of the Chinese Astrological New Year is not fixed on a date, but rather on the second New Moon after Solstice, which is always, invariably the New Moon in Aquarius. It can occur as early as January 19, or as late as February 18! Often, the start date is presented as the day after the New Moon, because the time zone differences between East and West as with Hong Kong to Hawaii, for example, is 18 hours, so it allows for all the places in the world to be on the same day.

The Chinese Numerological cycle is more fixed and ever begins in February 4, which is the mid-point between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox and is referred to as 'early spring'. Various traditions refer to these mid-points differently, yet they refer to the same event, and sometimes the annual date can vary by a day or two, as with February 2nd. In the Western Lunar Calendar, this is referred to as Mid-Winter, or Imbolc.

This year, the Chinese New Year, or what is sometimes referred to as the Lunar New Year is January 29, 2025. Last year it was February 9 and next year it will be February 18, 2026!

It is noteworthy that the Lunar North Node is mythically referred to as the head of the dragon and the South Node is the tail. Commonly, Astrologers look to the South Node as an indicator of where we are

coming from and the North is where we are destined to go. Another version, more connected to the head and tail of the dragon, is that we 'feed' or eat at the North and we 'seed' or eliminate at the South.

The main point is that, technically, the Lunar North Node will enter Pisces (January 11, 2025), before the Year of the Wood Dragon yields to the Year of the Wood Snake (January 29, 2025). Thus, it can be said that prior to its exit, the scaly dragon has a few final breaths of fire to deliver including Mars in Leo opposing Pluto in Aquarius on January 3, Mars re-entering Cancer while retrograde on January 6, and the Sun conjunct Pluto in Aquarius for the first time since its discovery in 1930, on January 21, 2025.

Keywords associated with the Snake in Chinese Astrology include wise, both in practical and spiritual regards, meditative, perceptive and insightful, and these and other terms are all probably, basically accurate. However, what is less commonly known is that the Snake is considered the 'most karmic' of all the 12 Year Signs.

The Snake has been referred to as corresponding to Taurus. However, this translation comes with a few twists that are akin to the notion in cartoons the China is so significantly on the other side of the world that they appear upside down from our perspective here in the West. This metaphor applies in a more technical sense as well regarding the translation of the entire system, as follows:

Since the Chinese model of Astrology is Lunar, as opposed to the Western model, which is Solar, the notion of the Western Sign correlation refers to the Moon, and specifically to the Full Moon. The Moon is full in Taurus when the Sun is in Scorpio. So, both are true, but the more accurate understanding is that the Snake totem corresponds to the Sun in Scorpio.

So, 2025 and the Year of the Snake, which technically begins on January 29, 2025 and ends of February 18/19, 2026 can also be understood, at least by translation, as the Year of Scorpio!

Scorpio has the reputation of being the most complex sign of the Zodiac. Its themes include, regeneration, purification, transformation, death and rebirth, sex, taxes, to the telluric realm, which refers to all the underground waters of the world, and to psychology and especially that of depth psychology which includes practices like 'shadow work' and can be further understood as the complex chasms of spirituality associated with the evolutionary dynamic. Not surprisingly, these above-mentioned themes and this evolutionary dynamic are features of the

meaning of Scorpio. The principle of regeneration, death and rebirth and the inevitable transformation that these imply can be understood as various forms of renewal based on purging or removing various layers of mind, emotion, perspective, attitude, belief, or more literally in physical regards such whole body makeovers, or recovering from terminal diseases, or having officially died on the operating table, only to be resuscitated yet having had 'mystical experiences' with a completely altered world view and self-concept, and the list goes on...

Aptly, the Snake is symbolic of karmic completions and the need to shed old skins, quite in alignment with the themes associated with the transformational processes associated with Scorpio. These also align very well with the themes of the Universal 9-Year...

The common tendency in a 9-year is to retreat and feel the need to sleep more, both to recharge often the previous 8-year dynamic, and to prepare for the new 9-Year Cycle around the next solar cycle corner. While doing so might be available, the need, opportunity or inclination might not be as pronounced as it would tend to be in other 9-years.

As with the shedding of skins, the Snake Year offers a greater than usual opportunity to break free of habits that have accumulated to the levels of relative stagnation. On the other hand, the impulse may come less as an opportunity or request from within and without, and more as a veritable push, or even a cosmic shove.

The fact that the element is Wood this year, which is also its root element, and which is symbolic of rapid growth by way of many experiences suggests that 2025 will be dynamic, even if it is a year of endings and completions.

Co-Creation is all about Cooperation

The co-creative process is one of cooperation. The notion that we 'create our reality' is a delusion based on notions of ego-control, that either people selling, as in various forms of the proverbial 'snake-oil' elixir of eternal youth or miracle rub, and so on... , or they are wrapped-up in 'wanting to believe' and have become drunk on the idea. After all, our reality includes everyone and everything.

The co-creative process means that we certainly can participate in the process, but the themes and timing of destiny are the deeper, guiding force. Most people are much less interested in knowing or understanding these, or are even able to contend with the deeper implications of their destiny and both the positive and negative karma that is woven into it. Doing so is a spiritual

We can get clear on our visions, dreams, goals and direct our focus and exercise more discipline and strategic action, and we can 'fertilize our mind' with affirmations, healthy inner

and out dialogue based on mindful words and even engage in various forms of visualization and self-hypnosis, and so on.... Yet all of these will comply with the deeper themes of destiny, which includes karmic debts, the specific of which, despite general themes, cannot be summarized quickly since their specifics vary from person to person

So, tune in to the Wood Snake with ready determination to engage the year with proactive preparedness for the exciting year of the Fire Horse in 2026!

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