



welcome year of the snake!



Every New Year brings with it new hopes, new energies and new dreams. No two years are similar. Every year has its own impact. So what exactly is 2013 going to be?

The Chinese calendar differs from the Western calendar - The beginning of Chinese New Year changes every year, on dates ranging between late January and late February. Each year of the Chinese Zodiac is represented by an animal: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. In addition to that, much of Chinese philosophy is built around five elements, and the belief that they interact with natural phenomena. The five elements, including metal, water, wood, fire, and earth, have existed in Chinese culture for thousands of years, and affect the Chinese Zodiac. Each element has different traits. Characteristics of the five elements are assigned to the 12 animal signs, creating 60 possible characteristic combinations. The concept of Yin and Yang also affects the Chinese Zodiac by assigning opposing forces to each animal sign—odd years are Yin years and even years are Yang years. Yin is perceived as earth, female, dark, and passive. Yang is perceived as male, heaven, light, and active. Assigning each of the five elements to the 12 years creates 60 different combinations that result in a 60-year cycle. Based on the interaction between the elements and the characteristics of each animal, certain general energies can be described for each year.

According to Chinese zodiac, 2013 is the year of the Snake; symbolizing water sitting on top of the fire. As per the cycle of destruction, water extinguishes fire and both elements are in conflict with one another. Direct result of such a situation will promote disharmony, and imbalance

throughout 2013. In general, snakes are a tricky lot. If it wants to move forward, its body undulates and it's not easy to tell which direction it is going to go in. That's the same with the 2013 year. It will seem to go in one direction, and then, very unexpectedly, it will veer in completely another direction. That's why it will be so difficult to plan for it. However in my opinion it is also the best time of the year to let go of the past and old energies and implement feng shui to invite new energies to create a way forward. Throw out old things, clean the clutter, and open up space in your house and in your mind. Let go of the emotional baggage that you have been carrying for so long. List your goals and find ways to achieve them.

I believe the New Year is a way for us all to have a fresh start and leave behind that which no longer serves us and bring in the fruits of our labour. New energy is needed to usher the old out and manifest those things that will take us to that next level of our being. Feng Shui is about enhancing the human experience, which encompasses relationships, wealth, and health. It is a great way to use the new energy in your home as a catalyst to achieve your heart's desire and find the much-needed balance in your home and your life.

The year of the Snake will be what you make of it, so make it a great year. The power is in your hands.

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