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## YEAR OF THE WATER DRAGON

*January 23, 2012 – February 9, 2013*

THE DRAGON is the only mythological creature among the twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac. Linked to the highest of celestial energies, it is imposing and magnificent. An emblem of authority and power, Dragon always holds a magical pearl in his mouth. This precious jewel represents both the Moon and Sun as well as the spiritual essence of the universe. Among Dragon's attributes is a wisdom exceeding that of other animals. He can transform himself into a myriad of shapes, from a tiny dragonfly to a huge and fiery serpentine creature covering the entire sky. The various species of Dragons are described by the five elements used in Chinese astrology. Metal Dragons guard treasures; Water Dragons make the winds blow and produce life-giving rains. Earth Dragons mark the courses of mountains and streams; Wood Dragons guard the homes of the Gods against collapse, while Fire Dragons are special protectors. Their fiery breath symbolizes the great cosmic life force.

Ambitious and daring projects are favored during a Dragon year. The grandiose and colossal have universal appeal. Businesses expand. It can be easier to get a loan or find other ways to move upward and acquire desired purchases. The benevolent Dragon favors marriages, the birth of children, and beginning a career or financial venture. At the same time, the wise will heed a word of caution when considering gambles. Dragon's electrical atmosphere can generate folly through impulsive moves and over-extension. Look ahead at the consequences before taking a significant risk. The mighty Dragon ushers in numerous surprises and encourages progressive revolts against the status quo.

Chinese astrology describes those born in a Dragon year as regal, magnetic, and intelligent. They make good managers and leaders. Noble-hearted and clever, both sentimental and magnanimous, the Dragon's healthy curiosity facilitates an adventurous and exciting life.

Those born in a Dragon year, as listed below, can anticipate a new cycle of luck and accomplishment now.

1904 1916 1928 1940 1952 1964 1976 1988 2000 2012 2024

*Note: The Chinese New Year begins at the second New Moon following the winter solstice. This takes place in late January to mid-February. Aquarians must check to see whether their birthdays fall before or after this date, as it varies from year to year. January Capricorns will always be of the animal sign belonging to the previous year in the Chinese calendar.*

*Illustration by Ogmios MacMerlin*