

# A FORECAST FOR THE YEAR OF THE WOODEN SHEEP 2015



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## INTRODUCTION

You might have heard of Ba Zi or the 4 pillars of destiny. This is a Chinese system of personal fortune-telling. An element is assigned to the hour, day, month and year of a person's birthday. The interaction between the elements are studied to predict and forecast a person's life.

This is the pre-dominant method used for forecasting the energy of the year as well. Each year does have a 'birthday' according to the Chinese calendar (the winter solstice). Understanding the elements present or absent or whether the elements clash or support one another provides quite an accurate account of the predominant energy for the year.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Cold winter will transform into very hot and dry weather. Rain will be less of an issue. Droughts and forest fires can be expected
2. Less air and sea accidents. It's going to be more traffic-related (possibly road) accidents
3. Stock market will be buoyant, the economy will seem better but people will see little evidence of this. Austerity measures will still be around and there will be little economic growth for the early part of the year
4. Lots of non-violent strikes, protests and lobbies against the Government. There'll be a greater opportunity to find consensus or resolution and Governments might capitulate on certain items
5. Increased tendency for countries to sign treaties / pacts with one another
6. Possible snap elections called in countries
7. Generally less violent conflict except for the Gulf countries

8. Earth is weak which will translate to earthquakes, landslides and sinkholes. Also, property will prove a bad investment. Prices might fall or people not being able to keep up with their mortgages will come to light

## OVERVIEW

2015 ushers in the year of the wood sheep (some schools use the term goat as well). While the horse (2014) was full of strident, ballsy energy, the sheep is slower and more gentle. It's a more social animal as well, always functioning as part of a herd, looking for consensus and agreement. It's not a lone wolf.

You can tell lots about a year just by studying the year's elemental characters. Last year we had a bolshy yang wood and a bolshy fire animal (horse). The energy was unyielding with lots of clashes and explosions, symbolized not just by gunfire and conflict but sea and air accidents.

The two elements of 2015 are wood and earth (sheep). The wood clashes to the earth so it's not the most peaceful of relationships but the wood this year is yin wood - not a huge, unyielding tree but a tender shoot or grass so a lot more flexible. Also, the energy of earth unlike fire, is a lot slower, gentler and long-lasting. So while there will be conflicts in 2015, it's most likely that they will be less violent with more room for negotiation and resolution. The exception might be the Gulf countries - where the chance of conflict intensifying is quite high.

Fire is present in next year's Ba Zi (a Chinese astrology chart also know as the 4 pillars of destiny). This is a good sign. The years 2008 to 2012 had no fire in the chart and that coincided with the dismal display of the world economy. But next year, it looks like like general optimism of 2014 will continue to 2015 which will bode well for the stock markets. It does seem to be empty optimism though in that this

confidence is not really based on anything concrete. It may seem like the economy is recovering but in reality, there will be little proof of this. It'll still be a year of tentative steps to recovery as opposed to recovery in full swing.

Last year, sexual scandals occupied the central point of the Annual chart. The year started with coverage of President Hollande's affair and sexual abuse cases (Jimmy Saville, Rochdale crimes, Bill Cosby, etc) took centre stage throughout the year. This year the central star is accidents, strikes and lawsuits.

As wood is clashing to earth and earth is weak, there will probably be earthquakes and road / traffic accidents not the sea and air accidents that we have had in 2014. There might also be less '*lives lost*' as the clash is gentler.

The type of earth represented by the sheep is dry, woodless earth which can indicate roads as well. Yesterday, the UK announced its plans for road funding - £15 billion to be spent over the next 5 years for road improvements (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-30269231>). There might be other infrastructure programmes unveiled in other countries.

## THE MOOD

Citizens are restless. They are disillusioned with the Government. Much has been made of rising property prices, low wages, austerity cuts but no concrete action has been taken by the Government yet. In 2015, the people will gather and demand that action be taken.

In London, the New Era estate residents banded together, staged a protest and lobbied the Prime Minister to stop their imminent eviction and destruction of their community (November 2014). The Government has not responded yet but Westbrook, the investment company has agreed to push its rental hikes to mid-2015 as opposed to before Christmas this year. There'll be more of such movements in 2015. There will be strikes, there will be lobbies and these will be well-supported by the general public. People will agitate about wages, homes, employee rights and feminism. Wood is also generally associated with Nationalism but as this is yin wood, it will more likely be issues of security, civil liberties and rights and corruption.

And next year, it looks like the Government's hand will be forced. So maybe the strikes and lobbies will give the government no choice but to respond and do something about the situation. I think for example, Governments will increase the minimum wage as this is what happened in the last wood sheep year.

Football is yang wood so I'm not sure if the FIFA corruption allegations will surface again but because wood next year is so strong, I think it will crop up again and so will lots of allegations relating to sporting organizations.

Besides the citizens, it looks like the local councils and organizations will be agitating for more funds and money as well. Again, it looks like they might get results (preserving jobs or funds) especially in March, July or November.

## THE ECONOMY

There's fire in next year's chart. Fire symbolizes optimism. The years of 2008 till 2012 had no fire in the charts and this coincided with the worldwide economic slowdown. But consumer confidence is strong next year, especially in the beginning of the year. People are hopeful and optimistic. There's not enough fire like 2014 to ensure the stock markets reach all-time highs but generally it will still be buoyant.

The kwa or hexagram for the first part of the year looks like an ambitious kwa but actually it's quite yin and not as strong as it seems. I think this will translate to apparent strong growth but actual concrete evidence will reveal the hollowness of this perception.

Money is mostly absent in next year's chart for most of the year (indication of further austerity measures) but suddenly appears in April and September. The hexagram for the later part of the year also finally reveals money so the economic recovery should become stronger in the later part of the year or more evident. Or it might be that the Government or Head of State will need to pump money in or release money in response to a particular situation.

Banks and financial bodies might be struggling and facing lots of problems. They might get a respite in April and September though.

## POLITICS

Power is not very strong next year. There's a lot of opposition to power. I think a lot of Government leaders will face pressure from their citizens and this time, they will need to make concessions,

especially later in the year. There will be General Elections in the UK, Spain, Turkey and Argentina next year. It looks like there is a high chance for the party in power to return to power in all these countries. We might also hear of lots of snap elections being called due to no confidence vote or a leader losing power.

Because the sheep is such a cooperative animal, there will be lots of new treaties or pacts being signed between countries and regions. The dominant energy is counter to separation. If the EU referendum was held in 2015, UK would definitely stay very much part of the EU.

The sheep is dry earth and can represent the desert as there's conflict in the centre, we can expect the turbulence in the Middle East to continue with it being exacerbated in the Gulf states.

## WEATHER

Rain will not be a huge issue next year unlike the previous couple of years. It'll be drier. The sheep is dry earth and there's wood to soak up excess water except maybe in August 2015 where there is a chance for water related issues.

This means the upcoming winter will most like be cold with bad winter storms. But will warm up as the year goes on as it's a hot chart next year with very little water and dry earth. This is a strong indication of possible droughts though. There's a chance for temperatures to soar in June and October. The wood is really strong and because there's little water, they can easily catch fire so we might see forest fires as well.

Earth is empty and that's often an indication of earthquakes, landslides and sinkholes. The earth was empty in November 2014 and we saw 3 earthquakes just this month. In April or October or in a Northwest region, there seems to be a strong indication of hurricanes or volcanoes as well - a huge natural disaster basically.

## **BEST DIRECTIONS**

East is a good place to be. If you are worried about your career or if you are looking to get pregnant, ensure the Eastern section of your home is well taken care of. If this is your living room, great - spend as much time there as possible.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

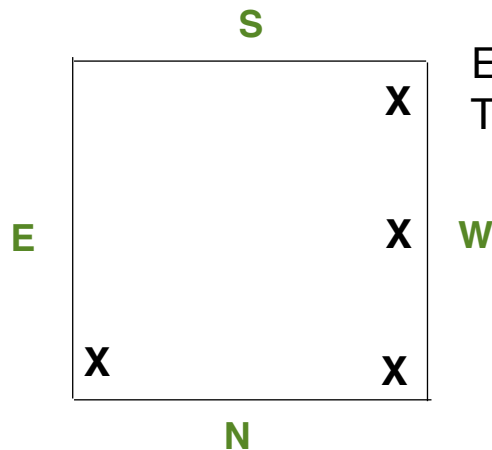
Each year there are groups of people who need to take special care as the Tai Soi or year leader is pressing against them (i.e. the wood sheep controls their energy, making them weak and susceptible to harm).

<b>1931</b>	<b>1982</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>1949</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>1964</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>1973</b>	

Those born in these years should avoid yin areas and situations - dark alleys, hospitals and funerals. Also, avoid construction sites, cliffs and mining areas. Don't take part in any risky activities. It's a year



to lay low. This won't affect everyone born in that year the same way. To get a clearer idea, you would need to assess the individual's chart itself.



Each year, there are also certain directions you should not start your construction. This year, avoid the Southwest, West, Northwest and Northeast directions. Start digging in the East and then proceed, Southeast, South, etc.

Lastly, ensure your work desk does not face the Southwest this year. You'll be in direct opposition to where the sheep sits - the year leader.

## INVESTMENT\*

The best bet for investment next year would be the metal sector but two words of advice - i) go in quickly and exit quickly. April and September are the best months for this type of investment. ii) don't invest in metal in the South where it's under attack. Metal investments include banking, finance, automobile, semi-conductors, aluminium, steel and technology.

Water will also prove a strong sector. Alcohol, brewer, beverage, wine sectors will prove good investments.

Livestock could be a good sector as well. It looks like next year will be a good harvest so grain prices might come down due to over-supply. So will the prices of textile, pulp and paper.

Stay away from earth investments this year. Earth is weak, earth is muddy and earth is controlled. Property investors watch out. You might find yourself in the position as Westbrook. You will not be able to make the money you thought you would make out of property and land in 2015. Property prices might also decrease. Or people will default on their mortgages. In general, there will be a problem with property in 2015.

\*The information, materials and data provided in this document are for general information purposes. It is not investment advice nor can it take account of your own particular circumstances. If you require any advice on investments, you should contact a financial or other professional adviser.

- THANK YOU -