



## THE YEAR OF THE MONASTIC PIG Starts February 5, 2019

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We have all heard the saying, “The job’s not finished until the paperwork is done.” Well, this describes the temperament of the coming year, the Year of the Monastic Pig. It is a yin Earth year and as such tends more toward introspection and for taking into account what has taken place in the preceding year. And what a year it has been! To some people it unleashed the Hounds of Hell. To others it was a year of dash and daring. Our Mountain Dog last year certainly did not disappoint in any case! But for this year of the Monastic Pig the realization dawns that achievement is only half the job. After any successful effort the creditors have to be paid and the debris that was accumulated must be cleaned up. We will also learn that great changes can be made through gathering small things. In other words, it is the little things in life that often count as much, if not more, than the really big things. The kind word at just the right moment, the little gifts that keep on giving, the smile that disarms the tensest situation...perhaps we get the idea. A firm foundation is built by attention to the smallest of details. And this year has something good in store for everyone, starting with our favorite journalist, the well-read Rat...

**The Rat:** In the mood for romance, Rat? It may well come your way this year, as this will be your ‘Peach Blossom’ year, as well as your ‘Heavenly Noble’ year. Those are two of the luckiest influences in Chinese astrology. In other words, your stars are shining brightly this year! What more could you ask for? Helpful people will come your way. Luck and time are on your side. Time to reconnect with old friends, family members with whom you have fallen out of contact, renew your business contacts and so forth. You never know who will come to be important to you this year. Put the word out on the grapevine that you are open for business, put on your best rosy smile and be ready, Rodent. The Pig is your natural mate in the Chinese zodiac and this year will set the tone for the year to come. Communication is your keyword for this year and the next. You are no shrinking violet this year, nor a wall flower-to-be. You have that rascally wit that endears you to your fans. It’s time to polish the keyboard with your nimble writing and update your phone contacts. Make sure your phone stays charged, because you certainly are. We expect to hear of great things ahead for you! But if we don’t hear from you, we’ll assume that you are holed up with your newest amore, our Revered Rat!

**The Ox:** Ok, Ox. We hear all the warnings of impending financial disasters, with the stock market doing flips and the pundits wringing their hands. So why are you so calm, Bucolic Bovine? We know it is not because you are obtuse, Ox. You have that quiet determination that has brought you great success in the past. What’s your secret? Being an Earth year we would expect this to be a more difficult time. But wait, this is a year for bringing forward hidden gifts for you. That’s it! Now we know your secret! It is a good year to go overseas or to retreat from the main public face. And we imagine you have some real gems hidden away in your secret crypt. A change is as good as a holiday, right? Hidden talents come to the

forefront in such years. A true warrior often wins battles by waiting and retreating. Always the strategist, you Brainy Bull! OK, we will watch and follow your advice, those of us – the Sheep, the Dragons and the Dogs of your like Earth element – and weather the coming storm. And for those who have taken your advice in the past, saving for those rainy days, we should be OK, you say. You are always on-the-beam, Ox. Those hidden talents should come forward quite nicely on your sabbatical. Happy travels! We await your return with your tales of adventure and new-found wisdom!

**The Tiger:** These are tumultuous times, Tiger! Normally you would love this sort of disorder and seize your opportunity. But this year is a real mixed bag for you, isn't it Contemplative Cat? Your normal course is to wait patiently and then to strike when your quarry is most vulnerable, or inattentive. You seem reserved now, though, so what gives? Why the change of countenance, our Forceful Feline? You normally don't suffer fools. Given the heady days of last year, with the Daring Dog overturning so many world orders, we can well imagine that this year might be given to tales of success and daring deeds. You made great strides last year, but as always are you displaying the grand strategy you are known for? Your best bet for this year is to put on the charm offensive, instead of gloating over conquests. It will be a year of thinking before speaking. It is a year which warns against gossip and of minding one's own business. Ah, so now we see your strategy – sharpening your communication skills. Well done, Talkative Tiger! Even though you will have a few challenges this year, as always, you turn it to your advantage. Your strategy will give you authority and the ability to put forward grand plans. You are a fine example of turning challenges into opportunities. You certainly are one Cagey Cat!

**The Rabbit:** You can be quite the rascal, Rabbit! And this year should help bring out the Bugs Bunny side of your nature, rather than the usual mystical side we have so come to love in the past. It's a year for you, Headmaster Hare, in which you will be bringing out your more executive side. And, it leans toward your more financial side, for which you have considerable intuitive sensibilities. There is a cautionary tale in this year, though, and that is to take care not to be reckless, Rabbit, especially in your speech. We enjoy a little bit of mischief sometimes, but be careful about any hint of self-sabotage which this year might bring. You can make great gains in affairs financial this year and can be quite the Bewitching Bunny! Just be careful not to be the Hasty Hare and step on people's feelings, which will be on edge for some in the coming months. As with your natural brother, the Testy Tiger, communication skills come to the fore this year, and you can hone them to great effect. The world is your oyster if you play your hand well!

**Dragon:** This year you are oh, so Dashing, Dragon. It is a year when the mystical Red Phoenix flies with you, bringing out your more lovable side. And what's not to love!? You always were at the forefront of the latest trends, never at the rear guard of the avant-garde. The months ahead will bring out your more sentimental and romantic side. Now, stop rolling your eyes, Dubious Dragon! We know you like to put on the bold face and show your considerable skill at display. But we also know you have a softer side. This is the year to let that shine! But be careful of the about the green goblin of envy influence you though, lest you get carried away with your new-found expression. We know how lovable you can be. Just don't be too lovable, if you catch our drift, or you might end up sharing a house with a Defeated Dog this year instead of your loved ones! Use that more magnetic side, which you have in spades, to attract financial gains, partners in business and opportunities for advancement, which your stars indicate for you in this Year of the Pig. You can go far this year as well as exploring and discovering a side of yourself that you don't normally like to encourage too much. You can deepen your most intimate relations profoundly now if you apply yourself. You don't have to dare to be different, Dragon. You just have to dare to explore your more tender mercies. Let love be your guiding star!

**Snake:** Feeling Suspicious, Snake? Does the year ahead look ominous and iffy? Pig years are not normally your forte, being your opposite sign. And this Pig's combination of Earth and Water looks to be muddying your plans. It is a tense year for Snakes in general, but there is a hidden blessing for you, especially with this Pig. It is a year which will lend a busy, outgoing, emphasis. Even though the months ahead look unstable, it is a perfect for self-development abroad. Time to go sailing, Sagacious Serpent. That trip you always wanted to take overseas looks mighty tempting this year! You could also use your

well-honed diplomatic skills to great success if you so desired. This is no time to go into the doldrums or become a sad-sack, Snake! See the opportunity in change. Look into new career paths, like the foreign services, tourism, travel work or even traveling salesmanship. And be sure to take your notepad with you on those journeys, because you will have many strange and wonderful stories to write about with the people you meet and the places you visit. In a few years your more natural friends and allies will come around again with the Ox in '21. And with all your new-found experiences and friends in far-flung places you will find yourself in a unique position to be the influence that you find so natural. You can also redecorate your house with all the exotic fare you find in foreign lands! Happy travels, Sightseer Snake! We look forward with envy to your social media posts from those exotic lands!

**Horse:** Feeling Harried, Horse? Has your sister the Snake put you on edge with her talk of the muddy year ahead? Fear not, Courageous Cavalier! This will be a very lucky year for you. And even though the challenges might beset you along the way, there will always be help at hand. Your stars in the months ahead will bring just the right people at just the right time and doors will open for you without too much trouble. So, put aside your cares and woes for the year ahead. This will be a period of growth and travel for you. The only caution is to go steadily and with attention, ominous clouds might appear on your horizon, with the possibility of accidents. No one is indestructible, although we know sometimes you think you are. We know last year was a big one for you, Heroic Horse. Victory was yours. But now it is time to take a little more care, especially this year and the next few. There is nothing to indicate you should not move forward with plans, and every indication you can have good success if you just practice a little care. Your courage will be an example to all, Stalwart Steed. Go forward with confidence and show us all what a courageous outlook with thoughtful application can bring!

**Sheep:** You always were the Stouthearted Sheep, the champion of the underdog and social justice warrior. This year brings out the more courageous side of you, and if you are Ewe instead of a Ram, this year will enhance your decisiveness, making you a staunch defender of justice in all affairs. If you are a Ram be careful not to be headstrong and to practice reserve, or you might find yourself on the wrong side of an argument, or even involved in an accident. However, it is also a year which brings out unique ideas and enhances design skills, artistic and musical talents and a strong aesthetic sense. It also enhances interests in metaphysics, religion and philosophy. This is right up your ally, Stoic Sheep! So in all, the coming months point toward all things related to home, arts, and higher studies. It is also a year, which gives great courage and resiliency if care is taken with its application. Any rash actions, though, will land you in deep water and emotional entanglements. So, like your other half, the Heroic Horse, go forward with careful consideration. If you are involved in social work, as you likely are, practice tact and thought before speaking in all matters. But it would also be a good time to start projects like community art displays and concerts, as well as youth programs. We look forward to hearing your insights into matters more esoteric as well, Sagacious Sheep!

**Monkey:** This is one Pig that brings out the Magical Monkey in you, Spellbound Simian! You have some of the luckiest stars this year. It will bring in the most helpful of people to you, as well as partners that will bring wealth, either in business or in marriage. Well done! Relationship matters auger well for you this year. And if there is a sibling you have been on the outs with in the past, this will help you to mend fences with them. Alas, though, all is not fun and games. But you also have a combination of stars this year which will tend to make you more impatient. If you want success this year, Moody Monkey, you must curb the urge to act impulsively or to bend the rules, which you do tend to relish at times. Careful in cold and flu season this year, too, because you are more prone to those maladies in the months ahead. Keep the immune system up, pay attention to diet and make sure you get plenty of rest. We know how you love to burn the midnight oil and tinker into the night, Masterful Monkey. You will find you have the courage to act and to serve this year if you want to put forward your grand ideas, of which you have may. A little prudence will ensure your success. Stay away from gossip, and with your nose to the grindstone. We look forward to your latest and greatest marvels, you Master Mechanic!

**Rooster:** The stars have blessed you for this year, Revered Rooster, especially when it comes to literary pursuits, which is a real forte of yours. Literary stars are shining on you! Now is the time to get those books written you have had on the back burner for so long. You would also do well to submit articles to magazines and websites. The heavens for you this year will give you a real facility with words and phrasing, marking you as a true Wily Wordsmith! You also have the ability this year to turn bad luck into good fortune, challenges into facility and confrontations into friendships. It marks a year where you will find yourself to be very versatile, both in thought and in actions. Time to think outside the box! On the down side, if there is one, there are indications that challenges will come your way, but don't let that get under your feathers. The normal indications are for fire and water disasters. But you have otherwise favorable indicators which turn that otherwise sour note into a powerful chord, befitting and complementing your powerful skills at presentation. You always were quite the front man, and this year will give you that extra edge to be even more so. So, dust off the old leaves of those unfinished tomes, put on your finest attire and be ready to stand up a crow! We certainly will be looking forward to your publications and articles, our Refined Rooster!

**Dog:** Last year truly was a memorable one for you, Determined Dog. And you did accomplish quite a lot in such a short space of time. This year will see the benefits come to you, as you have your happy influences strongly with you this year. Thank your lucky stars! Usually after such a hectic and busy year people would be advising rest and a vacation. But not you, Dauntless Dog. You are another one who would find benefit in travel this year. That suits you, though. We have yet to meet a Dog who doesn't like to get out and around. With the possible business or partnership challenges possibly casting a shadow for the months ahead, travel will just fit the bill for you, or perhaps a temporary posting overseas. Before you go, though, make sure that all your bases are covered. You don't want to leave ill feelings or unfinished business behind. But being the friendly sort you are, Helpful Hound, that should not be a problem for you. Pack away your cares and tie up those loose ends. New adventures await, and with any luck at all – which you should have to a 'T' – there are plenty of new friends to make along the way. Happy Travels!

**Pig:** Pensive Pig, what is it that has captured your ponderous perception? Perhaps a strong sense of déjà vu, a sense that something untoward is in the works? Fears that financial troubles are on the horizon? Ah, but you have prepared for that in the past, Provident Pig. No worries. This is the year for looking at what has taken place in the past eleven years and settling up the accounts. If we know you, everything will be in order. You do have the challenges indicated this year, but as troubling as that sounds it only marks a caution to take things in their stride and not push too hard with issues at hand. It just means you will be a little more sensitive than usual. With that in mind it will be a fine year to hang out with family and friends, to recount the good times of the years past, to look at what could have been done better and to prepare for the next Great Year ahead, starting a new decade and the Year of the White Rat. So, the advice this year? – take it easy. There's no rush, no impending or looming problem that cannot be handled, nothing so pressing that it cannot wait. You are quite the family person anyway. Let that be your occupation for the year. You deserve it, and so do they. Don't worry, Patient Pig. Be happy!



**Other Pig Years:**

**1911/1971:** Farmer Pig/Metal Pig/White Pig

**1923/1983:** Pig in the Forest/Water Pig/Black Pig

**1935/1995:** Travelling Pig/Wood Pig/Green Pig

**1947/2007:** Pig Traversing a Mountain/Fire Pig/Red Pig

Pig Years in general: 2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947, 1935, 1923, 1911, 1899

**Famous Monastic Pigs:** John McEnroe (That ball was IN!), Kyle MacLachlan (Twin Peaks), Tom Arnold (Roseanne's brother), Aidan Quinn (who Staked out Elizabeth Bracco), Kathy Hilton (Paris' mum), Jens Stoltenberg (NATO), Matthew Modine ("Private Joker"), Irene Cara (What a Feeling!), David Hyde Pierce (Fraser's brother), Brian Setzer (Stray Cats), Emma Thompson (Love, Actually), Clinton Howard (Opie's brother), Paula Yates (Mother of Peaches), Sheena Easton ("For Your Eyes Only"), Ben Elton (*Blackadder*), Loretta Lynch (ex US AG), Morrissey (the Smiths), Mike Pence (US VP), Hugh Laurie (*House*), Marcus Miller (bassist extraordinaire), The Ultimate Warrior (smacked down in his prime), Khadja Nin (*Sambolera*), Jim Kerr (Simple Minds), Richie Sambora (Bon Jovie guitarist), Kevin Spacey (now notorious), Rosanna Arquette (*Desperately Seeking Susan*), Danny Bonaduce ("The Partridge Family"), Magic Johnson (he was magic at the hoops), David Koresh (Branch Davidian), Rebecca DeMornay (*Risky Business*), Mark "Jacko" Jackson (Aussie rules footballer), Jason Alexander ("Castanza"), Sarah (Duchess of York), Marie Osmond (a little bit country), Ken Watanabe (*The Last Samurai*), Weird Al Yankovic ('nuff said), Evo Morales (Pres of Bolivia), Allison Janney (*The West Wing*), Sean Young (*Blade Runner*), Judd Nelson (*The Breakfast Club*), Tracy Ullman (had her own show), Val Kilmer ("Iceman"), Gloria Swanson (star of silent films), Vladimir Nabokov (wrote that book), Duke Ellington (band leader extraordinaire), Fred Astaire (and Ginger Rogers), Tommy Dorsey (Mr. Trombone), James Cagney (*Yankee Doodle Dandy*), Ernest Hemingway (*The Old Man and the Sea*), Alfred Hitchcock (*Psycho*), Eugene Ormandy (conductor, Philadelphia Orchestra), Hoagy Carmichael ("Stardust", "Georgia on my Mind"), Noel Coward ("Mad Dogs and Englishmen"), Humphrey Bogart ("Here's looking at you, kid"), Xavier Cugat (bandleader), John Butler Yeats (Irish artist), John D Rockefeller (oil magnate), Modest Mussorgsky (*Night on Bald Mountain*), Thomas Moore ("The Last Rose of Summer"), Francis Scott Key (Oh say, can you see?)