

THE YEAR OF THE MOUNTAIN DOG 2018

By Malvin Artley

We've all heard the saying, "Every dog has its day." But as it happens, in 2018 every Dog will have their year! – Dogs in the Chinese calendar, that is. You see, 2018 is the Year of the Yellow, Earth or Mountain Dog, so you entire pack of Chinese Dogs have cause to celebrate, no matter what your color – if you were born in a Year of the Dog, that is. Great changes are made through gathering small things, as our Mountain Dogs know very well. This will be a double-Earth year, too, which points toward building strong foundations, as well as paying attention to the little things in life. A great castle, stone monument or even a stone wall is made out of judiciously chosen and carefully placed thousands of smaller stones, each placed, but the resulting edifice can be formidable indeed! But beware, for building strongholds especially if you have not told the guards at your mountain stronghold who your friends actually are. The biggest lesson to learn is to be less defensive. Life is achieved, but success is not to love about 'man's best friend'. For our Mountain Dog friends (born between Feb 3, 1958 and 1959) this year especially will favor all types of creative activity, whatever your field of interest. If you are artistic, plan to paint a little every day. If you are a business type, at which all Dogs favor, set the launch date for your latest capital venture and bring the best creative minds to year will be full of big stories, and people with weak foundations will be falling everywhere. There especially favor the underdog, although the 'Big Dogs' will put up quite a fight. Dogs love the rough-and-tumble and you are a natural athlete! And if you are an athlete, start training now for Tokyo. Olympic fever is in the air, especially with the PyeongChang Winter Olympics at the start of this year. No matter what you do, build the foundations now, with every block in its proper place, and your success will be ensured! Dogs always have a lot of friends. Don't be a lone wolf this year. Invite all your friends to your mountain retreat and plan big. Let your fellow pack members inspire, cajole, challenge and draw out the best in you. Reticence is the easy path for you. Choose the path less followed instead, and let your ambition shine!



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The Rat: Ribald Rat, you certainly can be an earthy type sometimes! We really do enjoy your sense of satire and irony. This year and the next should be seen as a time of honing your considerable communication skills. And, you should really find quite a bit to enjoy over this year in that regard. There will be much at which to poke fun, what with all the staid, retiring types that will be getting in everyone's way and mucking up the works this year. You're the perfect foil for a year that looks to be in need of major cage-rattling, Raucous Rodent. So, brush off the feathers of the Ruffled Red Rooster, call out the yes-men of the past *annus horribilis* and show the sense of humor of yours that we all love so much. That powerful nose of yours for sniffing out the fish in the flower garden is on par with our Canine friends, and you have the ability to rout out insincerity wherever it lurks. You and your partner the Pig will both be, shall we say, 'in training' this year and the next. Use it to good advantage. Dragons and Monkeys will be a big help to you, oh great Reporter, and their natural cleverness will draw you out, especially. With this double-Earth year you may be inclined to feel that your natural flow of Water is somehow dammed-up, but Water has a way of finding its way around obstacles, and you are a natural at that, Rascally Rat. Take the challenge!

The Ox: Why so grumpy, Obstreperous Ox? You've just had a banner year. Just because there are Dogs barking outside your door is no reason to expect the worst or to allow a little joyful play to sour your mood. You are actually in your element this year! This is a double-Earth year, perfect for building a

financial edifice, at which you are so accomplished. So, what's a little barking, when you could actually use this to your advantage? Follow the lead of the Dog this year, if you allow yourself, and you could actually find yourself in a brilliant position at the end of the year. Last year the Rooster showed you how to present yourself in the proper manner, so now is the time to take the advice of your favorite front-man, the Cocky Red Cockerel, and step up to the moment to claim your windfall. If you are reticent this year, you'll play the proverbial 'dumb Ox'. Instead, be the Brilliant Bovine and harness the leader of this pack, all the while following your own inner sense. You can go far if you want. You are the perfect example of someone who is able to build big by paying attention to small things and building strong foundations as a result. Build your bulwark, and the world will pay attention. The next year is your 'money year', so make the best of this one!



The Tiger: You certainly can be a Tumultuous Tiger when things do not go your way! These last couple of years have been difficult, we know, but this one will be more to your liking. Dogs are some of your favorites, bringing a lively diversion into your life. But this one is a bit more reticent than the other Dogs. Not to fret or be frustrated. This one can be trusted to help you secure what you want. He's a more careful sort, and although that may not be your favorite way, it does have its benefits. Work with this Dog and in your way forward doors will open that will favor you in the coming years. Hitch a ride with a Horse in this year, and you will gain even further. You might like the shadows as your preferred striking point, but this is the year for you to step out and make a splash. Especially if you are one of the Mountain Tigers (1938, 1950, 1998), friends will be especially important to you this year, and you can empathize with the Mountain Dog in that respect. If you are a White Tiger (1974), then it is time to do a complete 'spring clean' and throw out anything that is not in line with your goals. This is a year for you to strike, Fearless Feline! Don't hold back!

The Rabbit: Tired of Roosters, Rabbit? All that crowing has been anything but music to your ears? We can empathize. No one likes a show-off. But now there are Hassling Hounds near the burrow. Oh, but you *are* the sage, Reflective Rabbit. Remember that old song, "We're in the money"? Well, guess what – this is your 'money year', so it's time to pull out the potions, blow the dust off the formulas and get to work. Oh, and clean off that crystal ball of yours while you are at it. You will need it this year, Cryptic Cottontail. You can be as creative as you like this year, because Earth is the money element of Wood, your native element. You can call on your partner, that Furtive Feline, to give some direction to the Canines. The Tiger is perfect for working behind the scenes, which is where you prefer to work anyway. Form an alliance with and tame the Tiger with one of your spells. The Dogs love to play with Tigers anyway, and while they are of being sportive, you can work your magic in peace. Speculate with Sheep. They appreciate your wisdom. Play the market with Pigs. They have all the inside knowledge. Those are your partner animals. You can set yourself up very nicely this year if you read your cards right, Rabbit. Be happy this Dog has appeared on your horizon!

The Dragon: They say opposites attract, Doubting Dragon. But this is one Dog who is not so different from yourself. Double Earth is helpful to you this year, even though you think it boring to be landlocked, Reticent Reptile. Don't fall into the trap of thinking this is going to be a dull year. You love flying over mountains. So, it's time for you to levitate, Leviathan, and see what lies beyond the horizon. And there is much to see. The next two years will be your playgrounds, being your 'money years'. Use this year to recharge your energies and your flights of fancy will take you far in the coming years. Your next-door neighbor, the Conjuring Capon, is cooking up something magical, holed away in his mountain hideaway. And you do love the magical, do you not, Dauntless Dragon? Take to the wind this year. If you stay earthbound you will miss your opportunity. The Rabbits and Tigers are up to interesting things and you should pay attention. Take a cue from them and next year you will be center-stage again, which is where you love to be. Mountain Dogs are great at setting the stage for things to come. So, be alert and find the

opportunities in even the smallest things. Sometimes it is the small curiosity that draws people's attention the most.

The Snake: Satisfied, Serpent? What a year 2017 was, yes? Full of intrigue, financial successes, oh-so-close with the tax reform and plenty of gossip to go around. What more could a Savvy Serpent ask for? And now you find yourself in a very nice groove, with the Mountain Dog seeing you as his or her 'year of direct resource', meaning that you can both produce some really fine work if you desire. This is one Dog you do not want to miss. If you take the cue of this Canine and build slowly and surely, you will weather the next few years without much trouble. You are good with the books, so sit down with your Blustering Bovine friend and have epoch planning sessions. That Rooster friend of yours also has a lot more to crow about this year, too. The Dog knows as well as you that direct resource years can bring great benefit if rightly handled. Your partner the Horse will be out and about this year, so saddle up, get out and see what's on offer. This year will be a blessed with finance and friendship, albeit of a more subdued type. But there is no reason to sit on the sidelines or to slither away in smug satisfaction, Snake. Earth types (Oxen, Dragons, Sheep and Dogs) know a good opportunity when they see it and they build things to last. Consider things well this year, Sly Serpent, and you can expand greatly on what you have already so soundly put in place.

The Horse: You are going to love this year, Hopeful Horse. Earth feeds off your natural fiery forcefulness, and you can bend this year to your ends if you can get this Dog's interest. Dogs do love a dalliance, Swashbuckling Stallion. They, with Tigers, make some of your most stimulating friends. Don't just hang out with your own kind. Be bold, not boring! It's a double Earth year, so it's time to kick up a lot of dust and get people's attention! You are a natural mover and shaker, especially the Mares, who are the best of the organizers in the Chinese zodiac. Think big this year. You will encounter a lot of stubborn mules this year, but you are quite the inspirational type when you want to be, Stimulating Steed. These last two years have been years of great progress for you, but now is the time to stand your ground and move mountains with the force of your copious charisma. Be the champion! There is nothing to stand in your way if you want to make your mark. That Dog is egging you on. Take the bait and show that Mountain Mongrel (He's actually quite a respectable sort) what a real champion looks like!

The Sheep: Feel the Dog nipping at your heels, Stropy Sheep? Well, like Dragons and Oxen, you take the wrong attitude if you feel irritable about the coming year. Yes, Dogs can be a pain sometimes. They do like to put a crimp in your wool periodically. But this Dog is a different animal. This one is in your element, more like a Great Pyrenees than a Border Collie. This one likes the flock, and you can bask in the attention and rest assured in safety. So set aside your apprehensions and embrace this year. The Rabbits and the Pigs need your calming influence. And like the Oxen and Dragons, the next few years will be your money element. Take time, then, to scope the scene and see what is coming your way. This is a protective year for you and there will be many who can benefit from your advocacy, Sagacious Sheep. You can stay with the flock or climb with the Goats this year. Either way is good for you. The Mountain Dog welcomes the Mountain Goat, and will follow you wherever you want to go. Whether you climb to the heights or help with the flock in the valley, this is no time to shrink from duties or be obstinate, Ovine. You really do have a lot to offer, and a little help now will go a long way in the future. You are a friend to many, and people always remember a true friend.

The Monkey: What a marvel you are, Monkey – so much skill and at so many things! You have had a couple of years where your skills have been tested, but now that the Fires have died down and the more sedate and settled Earth types take the stage, you will be in a place where you can really fashion things to your liking. Keep plugging away at all the irons you have in the fire and be not distracted by all you see going on around you. At the start of the next decade – really, it's not that far off! – you will be firmly in your element and in your money years. Take this year to make certain that every little detail is in its proper place. This is a year for tweaking your tech to get just the perfect result. Yes, we know Earth can be oh, so boring. But without the foundations that Earth provides, things just fall to pieces. Get your head out of the computer and have a good look around, for there will be plenty to inspire you this year. Earth types need your expertise, too. Your friends, those Rascally Rats and Daring Dragons, will give you copious inspiration in the months to come, but don't forget that a lack of attention to small details now can bring disasters later.

You like Dogs anyway. They can be a lot of fun, and they are a faithful lot. Take a trip to the Dog's mountain lodge with the rest of your friends and enjoy the company. If you keep an open ear you may just get the tip you need to finish off a project that you have left unfinished – and there are one or two, yes? Don't be a Sappy Simian this year, thinking Earth is just a bore. You're smarter than that. Get in the swing of things and you will be amazed at what you can get done!



The Rooster: Feeling a little run-down, Rooster, after all the past year's activities? Found out that yes-men don't cut the mustard when it comes to making real change or positive decisions? Well, now is no time for rest, Feathered Friend. We double-dog-dare you put your considerable resources at presentation into making this Dog a shining example of what can be accomplished with a little careful work. Rest your vocal chords for the first few months, but later in the year there will be plenty to crow about. Like your friend the Sagacious Snake knows, this is a year where you can direct resources to your advantage. But more than that, this is a special year for you – a 'direct resource' year. Many good things can come your way if you keep an open eye and mind. The Snake and the Ox have plans, and they need your air of authority to make it all work. You are the best at polished advertising in the Chinese zodiac. So comb out your plume, get yourself in good voice and be ready to bluster about your accomplishments, Brooding Bantam. This is no time for solitude. Rise to the new year and give a resounding flourish, oh Feathered One. We expect to hear many good things as the year unfolds!

The Dog: Time to rally the pack, Daring Dog! Another of your years has rolled around again. This year favors all the earthy types: Dragons (normally your nemesis), Oxen (boring as they can be sometimes) and Sheep (a kind lot, but also not normally your cup of tea). They need your stimulation this year. The tendency for you is to be cautious, and caution is always advisable. But if you are too reticent this year you will miss a golden opportunity. Gather around the other Breeds – the Sleeping Dogs, the Watch Dogs, the Guard Dogs and the Temple Dogs – and see what sort of mischief you can stir up this year. The world is tired and overly cautious, but you can get things moving if you strike the right note. Tickle a Tiger (if you dare!), harry a Horse (but watch those hooves!) and get some excitement in your life, as well as the lives of all the others in the zodiac. Double Earth can be like a stick in the mud, or it can be like a mountain trek. It is yours to decide, Canny Canine. 2020 and 2021 will be your money years, too. Keep your mountain castle in shape, but be sure to invite all your friends there and celebrate this year. Dogs really are friends to everyone, and what's not to like? Keep your heart and your doors open, and in the years to come people will remember your kindness, your wisdom and your playfulness in the most rewarding of ways! Choose the way onwards and upwards!

The Pig: Feeling pensive, Pig? The year really did turn out well for you, yes? There will be some great stories with which to regale your grandchildren. What a year! The good, bad and the ugly, all rolled into one! But like your mate the Rat, this year is about consolidating the gains made last year and honing your story-telling skills for the future. You are a great motivator, but you are no Haughty Hog, not like that Boasting Bantam. You are more finessed, more interested in relations with friends and family. You are such the Parenting Pig, and we love you for it. This is the year for you to teach those close to you how to gather things into their proper place and sock away the funds for the future. Your year is coming in next, and your wisdom will really come into account. Rally your forces with Rabbits. Sound off with Sheep. Dance with the Dogs. And don't forget to have the Banking Bovine over for dinner as a prelude to financial planning. You can plant many seeds in what is bound to be fertile Earth this year. You just need the right seeds in the right timing, and if you play the punctilious planter this year, the coming years will bring you a grand harvest, Provident Pig!

Other Dog Years:

1910/1970: Temple Dog/Metal Dog/White Dog

1922/1982: Watch Dog/Water Dog/Black Dog

1934/1994: Guard Dog/Wood Dog/Green Dog

1946/2006: Sleeping Dog/Fire Dog/Red Dog

Dog Years in general: 2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946, 1934, 1922, 1910, 1898

Famous Mountain Dogs: Ice-T (SVU star), María Casal (Spanish actress), Tim Kaine (politician), Miranda Richardson (British actress), Andy Gibb (Bee Gee), Sharon Stone (*Basic Instinct*), Albert II, Prince of Monaco, Holly Hunter (*Raising Arizona*, *The Piano*), Gary Oldman ('Sirius Black' of Harry Potter fame), Mr. Perfect (AWA wrestling star, gone but who can forget perfect?), Alec Baldwin (does Trump better than Trump), Andie MacDowell (*Groundhog Day*), Michelle Pfeiffer ('Elvira Hancock' in *Scarface*), Eve Plumb (aka, Jan Brady of *The Brady Bunch*), Rick Santorum (ex-politician, US), Ron Reagan (the liberal son, not the President), Drew Carey (Who's line is it, anyway?), Neil Finn (Split Enz, Crowded House), Annette Bening (*American Beauty*), Prince (Greatly missed. Party like its 1999!), Lea DeLaria ("Big Boo"), Wade Boggs (Boston Red Sox and beer-drinking legend), Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys), Kevin Bacon (*A Few Good Men*), Michael Flatley (*Riverdance*), Kate Bush (British singer), Mark Cuban (owner of Dallas Mavericks), Don Swayze (no, not Patrick), Madonna (Like a Virgin), Belinda Carlisle (Go-Go's girl), Steve Guttenberg (*Police Academy*, *Cocoon*), Michael Jackson (He was "Bad"), Jeff Foxworthy (everyone's favorite redneck), Andrea Bocelli (Italian tenor), Joan Jett (she loves rock & roll), Shaun Cassidy (one of *The Hardy Boys*), Neil deGrasse Tyson (astrophysicist), Thomas Dolby (he blinded us with science), Tim Robbins (*Shawshank Redemption*), Viggo Mortensen (*Lord of the Rings*), Simon Le Bon (Duran Duran), Marg Helgenberger (one of our fave CSIs), Jamie Lee Curtis (*Fish Called Wanda*), Donny Osmond (a little bit rock & roll), Nikki Sixx (Mötley Crüe bassist), Sade ("Smooth Operator"), Linda Blair (*The Exorcist*), Keith Olbermann (sports commentator and leader of "The Resistance"), Kelly Lynch (*Road House*)

The Chinese Year of the Dog starts on
Friday, February 16
Happy New Year