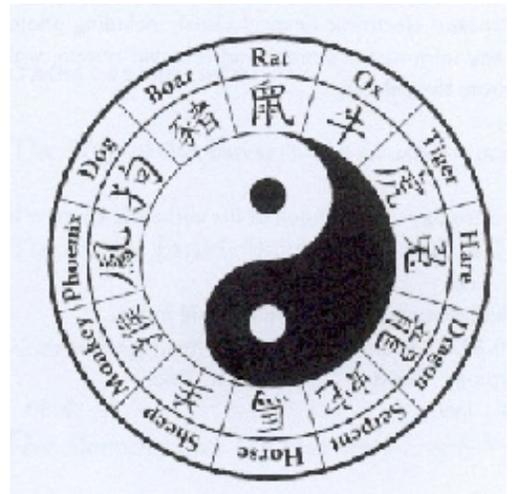


## Chinese Astrology

Compiled by Morrack the Insane Sage

The last form of astrology we will be looking at is Chinese astrology. Chinese astrology is a form of terrestrial astrology. Terrestrial astrology is a system of astrology based on the movement of time and not the stars as in western astrology. In Chinese astrology there is a grouping of 12 animal signs. These signs change with each New Year. Based on what sign ruled the year you are born in determines your fate. When doing a reading one looks to see what sign ruled the year of your birth and then what sign rules this year. You then base you reading on how these signs get along with one another. This is a very brief way of looking at Chinese astrology.



When it comes to Chinese Astrology and the major arcana cards, the twelve animal signs can be linked to the twelve zodiac signs of western astrology. The ten remaining major arcana cards relate to the ten planets as with the standard tarot deck. In the table below is list the twelve zodiac cards of the major arcana and there Chinese animal signs. At the end of this chapter we will take a look at the means behind each of the animal signs.

<u>Tarot Card</u>	<u>Zodiac Sign</u>	<u>Animal Sign</u>
Emperor	Aries	Dragon
Hierophant	Taurus	Serpent
Lovers	Gemini	Horse
Chariot	Cancer	Sheep
Strength	Leo	Monkey

Hermit	Virgo	Phoenix
Justice	Libra	Dog
Death	Scorpio	Boar
Temperance	Sagittarius	Rat
Devil	Capricorn	Ox
Star	Aquarius	Tiger
Moon	Pisces	Hare

When it comes to the minor arcana tarot cards however, it adds a great amount of complexity to the cards design and function. When it comes to Chinese astrology I think of the major arcana as the celestial astrology system or western astrology. In the minor arcana are found in the realm of terrestrial astrology system or Chinese astrology. In this system the ace cards do not have a Chinese astrology sign linked to them. The ace cards relate to the pure element energies found within the four suits. In the Chinese view of the universe the elements have different names. The five Chinese elements are Water, Fire, Wood, Metal, and Earth. In the below table is the Chinese elementals linked to some of there corresponding information.

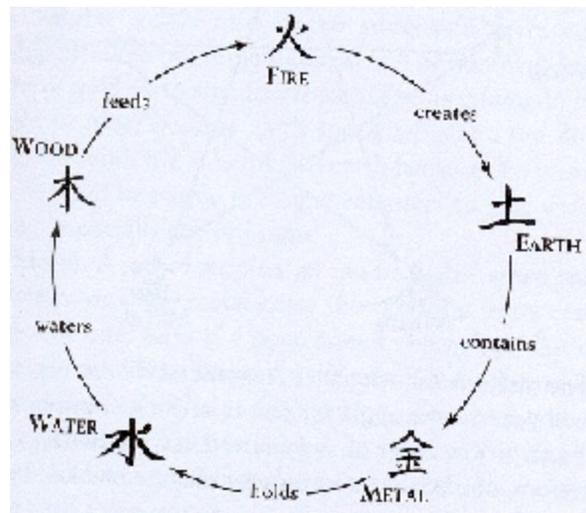
<u>Chinese Elemental</u>	<u>Planet</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Emotion</u>	<u>Western</u>
Fire	Mars	South	Summer	Happiness	Fire
Earth	Saturn	Center	All	Sympathy	Spirit
Metal	Venus		West	Autumn	Grief
Water	Mercury	North	Winter	Fear	Earth
Wood	Jupiter	North	Spring	Anger	Air

In Chinese astrology you have a animal sign based on the year you are born in and a elemental sign based. Thus you would be a Rat/Fire or an Ox/Wood. Thus the ace cards would be combined to the minor arcana card to form your astrological make-up. Next each of a set of minor arcana cards are linked to one of the Chinese astrology signs. It is important to note that the only card in the minor arcana not used in this system is the princess cards. The princess cards relate to the ideas symbolized by the Queen card of the minor arcana. The princess cards are the queen when she was young.

First are the four two cards. These cards relate to the ideas of the Chinese symbol of the Rat. The rat was the first animal to answer the call of Buddha. The rat in the Chinese calendar has ingenuity, intelligence, independent, and is something of a magician. The Rat likes to win. A rat person is a complicated person with quick nervous energy, they worry about tomorrow, and push themselves to there limit. Yet they are quick to criticize others. Rats need time to be them selves and to be on there own.

Next is the set of three cards. The threes relate to the Chinese sign of the Boar. The boar's philosophy is to enjoy life to the full, and boars are sure that all will be well in this best of all worlds. They give people the benefit of the doubt. A boar is kind and generous, always pleased to help others. However the boar has a fearsome temper when pushed. The boar does not worry about things. The boars take life in its course and are calm and laid back.

The four cards are in the sign of the Dog. The dog above all worries. Whatever the circumstances, the dog is always anxiously trying to do better. The dog is conscientious to a fault, a dog never abandons their duty. A dog is always loyal and honest. The dog however wears an air of melancholy. Because of this the Dog seldom enjoys social events. Lastly the dog likes to feel safe and secure, the way they have always known it.



Now we come to the five cards. The fives are in the Chinese sign of the Phoenix. The phoenix knows the effect that they have on other people. Heads turn when a phoenix walks into a room, because they have a charisma and style all their own. The phoenix needs to always look their best, this goes beyond mere clothes. A phoenix will stand up for their rights and maintain their own space like a fortress. A phoenix is forthright, honest, brave, and loves to protect anyone weaker than themselves.

The minor arcana sixes relate to the Chinese sign of the monkey. Monkeys are very intelligent and ingenious people. They are also known as jokers and pranksters. The monkey is versatile, original, independent, and articulate. The monkey has a way of persuading others to their way of think. The monkey dislikes routine, however they enjoy talking and exchanging news and ideas. The monkey is very generous and sensitive to the needs of others.

Next are the four seven cards. The seven cards are found in the sign of the sheep. The sheep are creative and artistic in nature. The sheep are not bothered with the essentials of life like making money. The sheep are peaceable and clam, imaginative, and inventive. The sheep never bear a grudge. Sheep will give up their own wishes to keep things pleasant. Sheep tend to get upset at first if they are made to do things that they don't want to.

Eight cards are the cards that fall into the sign of the horse. This is the image of the mythical centaur. The horse sign is popular and likeable. The horse has a sparkling wit, and enjoys the company of friends. The horse is impulsive and enthusiastic, and can't wait to get on to the next thing. Yet as sociable as the horse is, the horse likes to do their own thing, and deep inside they are a very private person. Above all the horse is proud and independent.

Now we come to the four nine cards. The nine cards of the minor relate to the ideas of the serpent in the Chinese zodiac. The serpent month is from where the first man came from. The serpent is both the instrument of temptation and a symbol of eternity. The serpent has a magnetic personality, with poise and elegance, however they dress. The serpent enjoys reading, learning, deep conversations, and dislikes arguments. The serpent has almost telepathic intuition. The serpent when they have decided on a course of action, they are unstoppable. They do not forget wrongs done to them for a very long time, yet they are wise, and much sought after for their good advice.

The final minor arcana card is the set of tens. The tens arcana are linked to the ideas of the Dragon sign. The dragon is a creature of mythology was a creature of inaccessible places, breathing fire and ready for battle. The dragon is a symbol of deep desire, wisdom, and of luck. Dragons are powerful, brave, obstinate, enthusiastic, and always lucky. The dragon can accomplish things that others consider impossible. Nothing is beyond the dragon, however they are not easy to live with. A dragon is cranky, demanding, and upsetting to others. The dragon is scrupulously honest and genuinely very charming.

The last three Chinese signs are found in the minor arcana court cards. These are the signs of the Hare, Tiger, and Ox. The first court card is the prince. The prince sign of the Chinese zodiac relates to the ideas of the Hare. The hare are imaginative and sensitive; they enjoy a quiet and peaceful life. Because of this they dislike change. However the hare needs freedom and security. The hare does not rush into anything and try to be cautious, always making certain there is a plan B. The hare is not as weak as they seem, when backed into a corner they can be menacing and ferocious.

Now we come to the ideas linked to the court card of the Queen. The queen is linked to the ideas found in the sign of the Tiger. The Tiger is the king of the jungle. The tiger is fierce and courageous, and wears an enchanted armor. The tiger represents luck, power, and royalty. Tigers are enthusiastic, impulsive, loyal, and are very honorable. The tiger has been honored, revered, and feared. However they can be

savage and wise. Tigers enjoy taking risks and thrive on danger. The tiger likes the open road, freedom, and prospect of what awaits behind every corner. They hate treachery and falsehood.

We now come to the last sign of the Chinese zodiac. This is the Ox which relates to the ideas found in the four king cards. The ox is stoical, patient, and can endure many hardships and will never give up. The ox takes pride in their work. They do not rush about and get worked up; they remain laid back until provoked too far. The Ox when enraged is not to be trifled with; they contain great might and power. The ox is resolutely ambitious.

How then we come to the idea of how this whole system works. As you have learned earlier in this chapter there are found only four minor arcana suites, however the Chinese system of astrology uses five elements that are linked to each of the zodiac signs. Thus a person has a zodiac sign and an element. To start with we can find four of the five elements in the minor arcana suites of the tarot. These are fire for the suite of wands, metal for the suite of cups, water for the suite of disks, and wood for the suite of air. Based on this idea your Chinese astrology card would be your animal card in the suite that relates to the elemental sign of your birth. However there is one suite missing from this system.

The fifth suit of the tarot relates to the ideas of the Chinese element of earth. This is the suite of the major arcana. The major arcana is the suit of spirit, this is the element that binds all things together. In the beginning of this chapter you saw how the Chinese zodiac relates to the major arcana cards. Thus if your elemental sign is the element of earth you would find your zodiac sign in the suite of the major arcana. In the table below is given the Chinese zodiac signs and the years that relate to the sign

	<u>Chinese sign</u>	<u>Years</u>
2008	Rat	1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, and
	Ox	1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009
	Tiger	1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010
	Hare	1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, and
2011	Dragon	1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012
	Serpent	1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013
	Horse	1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014
	Sheep	1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015

Monkey	1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016
Phoenix	1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017
Dog	1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018
Boar	1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

How that we have found our zodiac sign it is fairly simple to find your elemental sign. First of all the suit of wands are the years that end with the numbers six or seven. The suite of disks is the years that end with the numbers two and three. Next is the suite of cups. The cup suite is years that end in the numbers zero and one. Next is the suite of swords. The swords suite ends in the numbers of four and five. The last suite is the major arcana cards. Major arcana cards relate to the years that end with the numbers eight and nine. It is important to note that in Chinese astrology that there are two colors assigned to each element. There is one color for each sexual energy, so that each element has a female and male aspect to it.

As you can see, the minor arcana cards contain a great deal of untapped knowledge. Chinese astrology is only one system of astrology that has ties to the lore of the tarot. There are many more forms of astrology both ancient and modern that can be of aid to you in your study of the tarot. Always keep looking; knowledge does not come to you without seeking for it.

