

The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes





The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes

TENTH EDITION

Theodora Lau and Laura Lau

Calligraphy and Illustrations by Kenneth Lau



SOUVENIR
PRESS

This tenth edition first published in Great Britain in 2024 by
Souvenir Press,
an imprint of Profile Books Ltd
29 Cloth Fair
London
EC1A 7JQ

www.souvenirpress.co.uk

Copyright © The Estate of Theodora Lau and Laura Lau,
1979, 1988, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2018, 2024

Copyright © Illustrations and calligraphy by Kenneth Lau

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Bell & Bain Ltd., Glasgow

The moral right of the authors has been asserted.

All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under
copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be
reproduced, stored or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted,
in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission
of both the copyright owner and the publisher of this book.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 80522 0510
eISBN 978 1 80522 0527



For Alexander

Contents

Foreword / xiii

How to Use This Book / 1

Table 1. The Lunar Signs from 1924 to 2043 / 5

Table 2. The Exact Lunar Years from 1924 To 2044 / 6

Table 3. The Interaction of the Five Elements / 11

Table 4. The Animal Signs and their Fixed Elements, Seasons and Stems / 12

Table 5. Ascendants: the Twelve Animal Signs and Their Hours / 13

Table 6. The Months of the Lunar Signs and their Matching Solar Astrological Signs / 14

Long and Short Lunar Years and the Influence of the *Li Chun* / 15

Understanding the Five Elements / 16

The Influence of the Moon's Four Phases / 22

1: THE RAT

The First Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 25

The Rat Personality / 27

The Rat Child / 33

The Five Different Rats / 33

Compatibility and Conflict for the Rat / 36

The Rat and Its Ascendant Relationships / 39

How the Rat Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 42

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 44

The Seasons of the Rat / 47

Famous People Born in the Year of the Rat / 49

2: THE OX

The Second Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 51

The Ox Personality / 53

The Ox Child / 58

The Five Different Oxen / 59

Compatibility and Conflict for the Ox / 61

The Ox and Its Ascendant Relationships / 65

How the Ox Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 68

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 70

The Seasons of the Ox / 74

Famous People Born in the Year of the Ox / 75

3: THE TIGER

The Third Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 77

The Tiger Personality / 79

The Tiger Child / 83

The Five Different Tigers / 84

Compatibility and Conflict for the Tiger / 87

The Tiger and Its Ascendant Relationships / 91

How the Tiger Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 94

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 96

The Seasons of the Tiger / 99

Famous People Born in the Year of the Tiger / 101

4: THE RABBIT

The Fourth Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 103

The Rabbit Personality / 105

The Rabbit Child / 110

The Five Different Rabbits / 110

Compatibility and Conflict for the Rabbit / 113

The Rabbit and Its Ascendant Relationships /	117
How the Rabbit Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	120
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	122
The Seasons of the Rabbit /	126
Famous People Born in the Year of the Rabbit /	127

5: THE DRAGON

<i>The Fifth Sign of the Lunar Cycle /</i>	129
The Dragon Personality /	131
The Dragon Child /	136
The Five Different Dragons /	137
Compatibility and Conflict for the Dragon /	139
The Dragon and Its Ascendant Relationships /	144
How the Dragon Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	147
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	149
The Seasons of the Dragon /	152
Famous People Born in the Year of the Dragon /	153

6: THE SNAKE

<i>The Sixth Sign of the Lunar Cycle /</i>	155
The Snake Personality /	157
The Snake Child /	161
The Five Different Snakes /	162
Compatibility and Conflict for the Snake /	165
The Snake and Its Ascendant Relationships /	169
How the Snake Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	172
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	174
The Seasons of the Snake /	178
Famous People Born in the Year of the Snake /	179

7: THE HORSE

The Seventh Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 181

The Horse Personality / 183

The Horse Child / 188

The Five Different Horses / 189

Compatibility and Conflict for the Horse / 192

The Horse and Its Ascendant Relationships / 196

How the Horse Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 199

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 201

The Seasons of the Horse / 204

Famous People Born in the Year of the Horse / 205

8: THE SHEEP

The Eighth Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 207

The Sheep Personality / 209

The Sheep Child / 214

The Five Different Sheep / 215

Compatibility and Conflict for the Sheep / 217

The Sheep and Its Ascendant Relationships / 222

How the Sheep Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 225

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 227

The Seasons of the Sheep / 230

Famous People Born in the Year of the Sheep / 232

9: THE MONKEY

The Ninth Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 233

The Monkey Personality / 235

The Monkey Child / 240

The Five Different Monkeys / 241

Compatibility and Conflict for the Monkey / 243

The Monkey and Its Ascendant Relationships /	248
How the Monkey Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	252
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	254
The Seasons of the Monkey /	257
Famous People Born in the Year of the Monkey /	258

10: THE ROOSTER

<i>The Tenth Sign of the Lunar Cycle /</i>	261
The Rooster Personality /	263
The Rooster Child /	269
The Five Different Roosters /	270
Compatibility and Conflict for the Rooster /	273
The Rooster and Its Ascendant Relationships /	278
How the Rooster Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	281
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	283
The Seasons of the Rooster /	287
Famous People Born in the Year of the Rooster /	289

11: THE DOG

<i>The Eleventh Sign of the Lunar Cycle /</i>	291
The Dog Personality /	293
The Dog Child /	297
The Five Different Dogs /	298
Compatibility and Conflict for the Dog /	301
The Dog and Its Ascendant Relationships /	306
How the Dog Fares in the Lunar Cycle /	309
When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs /	311
The Seasons of the Dog /	315
Famous People Born in the Year of the Dog /	316

12: THE BOAR

The Twelfth Sign of the Lunar Cycle / 317

The Boar Personality / 319

The Boar Child / 324

The Five Different Boars / 325

Compatibility and Conflict for the Boar / 327

The Boar and Its Ascendant Relationships / 331

How the Boar Fares in the Lunar Cycle / 336

When Moon Signs Meet Sun Signs / 337

The Seasons of the Boar / 341

Famous People Born in the Year of the Boar / 342

13: *Choosing Wedding Dates by the Lunar Almanac / 345*

14: *Relationship Combinations / 349*

Index / 399

About the Authors / 413

Foreword

Almost fifty years ago, my mother, Theodora Lau, started writing what became *The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes*. With this tenth edition, I want to share with readers more about how the book came about and its lasting impact on the lives of myself, my family and the many readers that we have been lucky to know throughout the years.

In the 1970s, my parents, Kenneth and Theodora, were newlyweds living in the exciting and vibrant city of Hong Kong. My brother, Jonathan, and my sister, Michele, were at primary school, and my father was a business executive at a multinational corporation headquartered in Europe. My dad's work brought with it a steady stream of international visitors, who came with their families for long stays in the region. This was a common practice in those days, where employees (typically men) would come with their wives and sometimes young children to stay in Asia to work for long periods of time. It still happens today, but nothing like before. As a result, my mother became a very experienced tour guide of the island and met an interesting group of international friends that she would have for life. With Hong Kong's rich local culture, delicious cuisine and bustling commerce, she says it was a joy to introduce people to the island (albeit a bit tiring while being an active mum). During these trips, the topic of Chinese astrology always came up. Fortunately, for these visitors, my mother was an expert on Chinese astrology. Over a cup of tea, she would help friends discover their animal signs. She was a great listener, and gave balanced and thoughtful advice. As a result, people would spend hours talking to her about their lives, drawn in by her remarkable intuitive sense and talent for bringing the zodiac to life.

As these visitors became friends, and their expat assignments came to an end, my parents wanted to give them a gift from Hong Kong to take back to their home countries. My father remembers that he suggested to my mom that they buy a bunch of books on Chinese astrology because the conversation topic was so popular. Theodora had thought of the same thing, but her book search had turned up nothing she felt 'comfortable' giving. My parents went on a wider search together. They went to bookshops all over Hong Kong to do their 'due diligence', finding only horribly

inaccurate, poorly written or disrespectful books on the topic of Chinese astrology. It was then that my mom decided that she herself would write the book she would like to give as a present.

With my father's calligraphy and illustrations, and my mother's writing, the book quickly took shape. My parents worked on many things in their life together, but this was their first creative project. When my mother passed away, I went through her many boxes of notes and journals from this time, and I marvelled at all the handwritten notes, charts and sketches of the book. One of my favourite artifacts are the poems that introduce each chapter. They are also a favourite of many readers, who often write and share how strongly they identify with them. I was curious about their origin, and once asked my mom how she came up with writing them. She told me she wanted 'something beautiful to begin each chapter', so she started writing poems. She finished them all in one night! She wrote them with the same process as she wrote all her books: longhand on yellow, legal pads. When her work was complete, she told me she typed the manuscript on a Brother typewriter, with her arms stretched out straight because she was very pregnant with me.

Theodora, a natural entrepreneur, pitched *The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes* herself directly to publishers and received multiple offers to bring it first to the United States. My parents would say they were always confident of the international appeal of Chinese astrology and were not surprised that publishers saw the potential. However, it wasn't until I was older that they told me about the headwinds that were met as well. Many book agents and publishers doubted the appeal of the subject matter outside Asian markets and questioned the mainstream marketability of an Asian female author. Of course, they were wrong, and it is funny to see, with today's social lens, how backward the thinking was then. But as years pass and the strength of authors who look like my mother has grown, I often think how proud she would be to see how many books there are today on, and inspired by, Chinese culture.

In many ways, Chinese astrology was synonymous with empowerment for my mother. The inclusion of the term 'handbook' in the title is apt. My mother's vision was to create a tool that would educate and empower people to use Chinese astrology as a mirror to their lives. She truly believed that one should try to look at every situation through every animal's eyes when approaching a serious issue.

In this spirit, I have a memory of how my mom began pushing me to widen my perspective. As with most teenagers, I often got frustrated when I didn't get my way. On one such day, my mother handed me a copy of *The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes*. She asked: 'Have you ever read any chapter other than your own?' The first time she asked, I had to admit that I hadn't. The second time she asked, I had read some, but not all, proclaiming I still preferred my own sign. And then, one summer I read and

studied every animal in the zodiac. I discovered that there were qualities I admired in every sign, and I was guilty of similar blind spots too. Every animal has light and darkness, and I began to appreciate the diversity of the zodiac. In many ways, I started to 'get it'. After I came to this level of understanding, my discussions with my mother about astrology became really fun. We would read gossip pages, watch current events and make guesses about astrological signs. My mother, who was a big world history nerd, loved to retell great moments in history, editorialised with her insights from Chinese astrology. I began making predictions at this time, under her mentorship.

I have thought a lot about the legacy of *The Handbook of Chinese Astrology*. For my family and especially for myself, Theodora's books are a lasting memory of her passion for Chinese astrology and her career as a talented writer. It is also a beautiful visual reminder of Ken and Theodora's partnership over the course of many books. My siblings and I all have a shelf of our mother's books in dozens of languages in our homes. They are collections of pride and comfort for us all.

Included in my mother's files are most of the letters she received from readers from all over the world. (When emails replaced letters, she printed them out, so those are there too.) Many of the early letters I remember fetching from her post office box. I enjoyed looking at the stamps and markings of places near and far. There are many personal stories of self-discovery, stories of romance and heartbreak as well as many happy and sad revelations. Not to mention stories of workplace drama, parental struggles and triumphs. Theodora was always touched by how her book was an emotional compass to readers when they needed feedback on their life's direction.

And this is my hope and wish for you, as you read this book for the first time or revisit it again as an old friend. I hope you learn about the Chinese zodiac and the twelve equally fascinating and powerful animals that inhabit it. I hope you dive deep into your sign and think about how you embody it. But most importantly, I hope you find your way to reading the chapters of every sign, observing how each has the ability to attract and repel, and how all the animal signs of Chinese astrology make life so much richer.

How to Use This Book

To get the most out of this book, you must study not only the animal of the year in which you were born (Table 2) but also several other factors: your ascendant (the lunar sign that rules the hour of your birth (Table 5); the Western sun sign corresponding to your moon sign (Table 7); the element of your birth year (Table 2); your sign's fixed element (Table 4); and the animal that rules the month of your birth (Table 7). By integrating all these factors and assessing their effects, you should discover – if you don't already know – the person you truly are. And, by analysing the horoscopes of others, you may discover the people they truly are as well.

Besides being able to understand your total self, you may be able to predict the course and nature of your personal and professional relationships in any given year. The knowledge gained by analysing your horoscope may also shed light on why you dislike certain people and why you have an almost instant rapport with others.

The sections in each chapter on relationship combinations and compatibility serve as general guides only. The assumption in these sections is that we are dealing with 'pure' or strongly dominant lunar signs. For instance, a Snake born during the hours of the Snake is a pure sign. However, a Dragon born during the hours of the Rabbit will usually maintain their more dominant Dragon characteristics. On the other hand, a Sheep born during the hours of the Tiger may display the stronger Tiger traits of their ascendant sign and could be compatible with a Dog, which would not normally be the case according to the compatibility tables.

That is why, when consulting the relationship combinations and compatibility tables, you should keep in mind the other factors in the horoscope that may affect the relationship. For instance, most people display a strong affinity for people born under their ascendant, even if that sign is the most incompatible with their own birth sign. Thus, a Boar born during the hours of the Snake may get on extremely well with Snake people, even though the compatibility chart shows that a Snake is the worst possible partner for a Boar.

When someone is born during the hours of the sign most incompatible with their birth sign, it is often very difficult – even for experienced fortune-tellers – to predict which traits are most likely to come to the fore. Take, for instance, a Rooster

born during the hours of the Rabbit. They may turn out to be an extremely shy Rooster who secretly harbours grand designs and lofty ambitions, or they may be a loquacious one who is shrewd, diplomatic and strictly non-committal in spite of all the noise they make. Needless to say, such people are usually complicated in nature and volatile in temperament. A sure way to determine which sign dominates such a person is to observe the lunar signs of the people they prefer to work with or are attracted to. The person will probably be drawn to people with a close affinity to their ascendant, even if they do not match the person's birth sign.

Although people with conflicting ascendants and birth or month signs do experience more inner conflict and possess a great many opposing traits, it is our observation that such people often turn out to be excellent mediators and intermediaries. They understand how opposite sides think and work, so they make the best go-betweens. Such people excel in bridging the differences between signs that otherwise could not get along together. The world would be a poorer place without these invaluable diplomats.

Basically, Chinese lunar horoscopes depict a kaleidoscope of relationships based on the interactions among signs or combinations with the highest likelihood of success. Working out variations with high affinity or the least possibility of discord has proved effective for the matchmakers who were indispensable in traditional Chinese society. Success was considered synonymous with good or workable relationships. Everyone had to have *guan xi* or special relationships in order to get things done.

In other words, who you know or have a good relationship with is more important than what you know. It is relationships that open doors for us. Relationships bring us into contact with people who can effect changes in our lives or make us part of a bigger, better team; they foster synergy and symbiosis. Relationships help us manage the unmanageable. They bring the unreachable within our grasp and foster ties that were previously impossible. Relationships are influence. It may sound simplistic, but in the end, everything boils down to good, working, harmonious relationships. Society cannot exist without them. In the final analysis, we are all social animals.

Modern society has created all kinds of new names for relationships. For instance, the business world talks a lot about networking. Connecting with the right parties is the major aim of networking. The connections within a network or among networks are essential to making it in today's corporate world. We are all encouraged to send emissaries to feel the competition or to get some feedback on the likes and dislikes of others before making a move. Lobbying is a way of life in the United

States Congress. When relations break down, we resort to arbitrators to work out our differences. Whether we are busy mending broken fences of friendship, building new communications bridges, making new connections to other networks or simply expanding our sphere of influence, we are employing the basic principles of trying to establish good relationships.

The knowledge acquired in this book should help you both to make and maintain good relationships. It may help you dismiss the occasional crankiness of your Dog boss and deal with the changeable and capricious mind of a Horse client, the domineering but expansive ways of a Dragon friend, or the serene but sceptical attitude of a Snake.

You may be surprised to find that your local handyperson, who can fix everything, was indeed born in the year of the dexterous Monkey, and that your slow, sure and conservative banker just happens to belong to the year of the reliable Ox. You may be more patient with that annoying associate who is always the first to complain and cry wolf when you discover they were born in the year of the Sheep. And you may laugh to learn that the business colleague who wears such garish outfits was born in the year of the flamboyant Rooster.

Perhaps after reading this book you may believe enough to listen to the wise counsel of the Snake, look for sympathy from the gentle Sheep, go along with the clever schemes of the Monkey, have fun with the ever-youthful and carefree Horse, rely on the Rabbit's good taste and unerring diplomacy, or depend on the strength of the indomitable Dragon. You may get your way by humouring the critical Rooster, reasoning with the fair-minded Dog, joining forces with the optimistic Tiger or bargaining with the indefatigable, cost-conscious Rat. It's up to you to use the knowledge you gain to make life easier and more productive for yourself and others.

As a final note, we'd like to point out that although the Western calendar, which is based on the movements of the sun, is more consistent and easier to follow, the lunar calendar of the East is more accurate in registering the changes in the seasons and the growth of all life in the universe. Chinese farmers originally used the calendar as an almanac for selecting the most favourable days of the year to sow and reap their crops. Long before modern science developed ways to forecast the weather, the Chinese relied heavily on the horoscope to predict their rains (this still holds true). Gradually over the years, the calendar began to be consulted for such things as the most auspicious days to visit the barber, start building a home, get married, and of course to hold the numerous Chinese festivals. An authentic lunar calendar contains all the dos and don'ts for each day of the year, down to the most favourable and unfavourable hours of each day. This complete calendar-almanac is still published

yearly in Hong Kong and Taiwan. It requires special technical knowledge to interpret, but no self-respecting fortune-teller would be found without it.

We hope our interpretations will bring you new insights into a subject with rich potential for self-analysis, understanding of others, and acknowledgement of the value of compromise and shared success.

Table 1. The Lunar Signs from 1924 to 2043

Rat	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008	2020	2032
Ox	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009	2021	2033
Tiger	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010	2022	2034
Rabbit	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011	2023	2035
Dragon	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012	2024	2036
Snake	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013	2025	2037
Horse	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014	2026	2038
Sheep	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015	2027	2039
Monkey	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016	2028	2040
Rooster	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017	2029	2041
Dog	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018	2030	2042
Boar	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019	2031	2043

Note: The twenty-first century starts on the cusp of the Dragon and Snake years: 2000/2001. Please check your exact birth date against the more detailed listing in Table 2, because the years overlap between the solar and lunar calendars.

Table 2. The Exact Lunar Years from 1924 to 2044

Year texts taken from the Chinese 10,000 years (perpetual) lunar calendar

Sign	Exact Solar Dates	Element
Rat	5 February 1924 to 24 January 1925	Wood (+)
Ox	25 January 1925 to 12 February 1926	Wood (-)
Tiger	13 February 1926 to 1 February 1927	Fire (+)
Rabbit	2 February 1927 to 22 January 1928	Fire (-)
Dragon	23 January 1928 to 9 February 1929	Earth (+)
Snake	10 February 1929 to 29 January 1930	Earth (-)
Horse	30 January 1930 to 16 February 1931	Metal (+)
Sheep	17 February 1931 to 5 February 1932	Metal (-)
Monkey	6 February 1932 to 25 January 1933	Water (+)
Rooster	26 January 1933 to 13 February 1934	Water (-)
Dog	14 February 1934 to 3 February 1935	Wood (+)
Boar	4 February 1935 to 23 January 1936	Wood (-)
Rat	24 January 1936 to 10 February 1937	Fire (+)
Ox	11 February 1937 to 30 January 1938	Fire (-)
Tiger	31 January 1938 to 18 February 1939	Earth (+)
Rabbit	19 February 1939 to 7 February 1940	Earth (-)
Dragon	8 February 1940 to 26 January 1941	Metal (+)
Snake	27 January 1941 to 14 February 1942	Metal (-)
Horse	15 February 1942 to 4 February 1943	Water (+)
Sheep	5 February 1943 to 24 January 1944	Water (-)
Monkey	25 January 1944 to 12 February 1945	Wood (+)
Rooster	13 February 1945 to 1 February 1946	Wood (-)
Dog	2 February 1946 to 21 January 1947	Fire (+)
Boar	22 January 1947 to 9 February 1948	Fire (-)

Sign	Exact Solar Dates	Element
Rat	10 February 1948 to 28 January 1949	Earth (+)
Ox	29 January 1949 to 16 February 1950	Earth (-)
Tiger	17 February 1950 to 5 February 1951	Metal (+)
Rabbit	6 February 1951 to 26 January 1952	Metal (-)
Dragon	27 January 1952 to 13 February 1953	Water (+)
Snake	14 February 1953 to 2 February 1954	Water (-)
Horse	3 February 1954 to 23 January 1955	Wood (+)
Sheep	24 January 1955 to 11 February 1956	Wood (-)
Monkey	12 February 1956 to 30 January 1957	Fire (+)
Rooster	31 January 1957 to 17 February 1958	Fire (-)
Dog	18 February 1958 to 7 February 1959	Earth (+)
Boar	8 February 1959 to 27 January 1960	Earth (-)
Rat	28 January 1960 to 14 February 1961	Metal (+)
Ox	15 February 1961 to 4 February 1962	Metal (-)
Tiger	5 February 1962 to 24 January 1963	Water (+)
Rabbit	25 January 1963 to 12 February 1964	Water (-)
Dragon	13 February 1964 to 1 February 1965	Wood (+)
Snake	2 February 1965 to 20 January 1966	Wood (-)
Horse	21 January 1966 to 8 February 1967	Fire (+)
Sheep	9 February 1967 to 29 January 1968	Fire (-)
Monkey	30 January 1968 to 16 February 1969	Earth (+)
Rooster	17 February 1969 to 5 February 1970	Earth (-)
Dog	6 February 1970 to 26 January 1971	Metal (+)
Boar	27 January 1971 to 14 February 1972	Metal (-)
Rat	15 February 1972 to 2 February 1973	Water (+)
Ox	3 February 1973 to 22 January 1974	Water (-)
Tiger	23 January 1974 to 10 February 1975	Wood (+)
Rabbit	11 February 1975 to 30 January 1976	Wood (-)
Dragon	31 January 1976 to 17 February 1977	Fire (+)

Table 2. The Exact Lunar Years from 1924 to 2044 / 7

Sign	Exact Solar Dates	Element
Snake	18 February 1977 to 6 February 1978	Fire (-)
Horse	7 February 1978 to 27 January 1979	Earth (+)
Sheep	28 January 1979 to 15 February 1980	Earth (-)
Monkey	16 February 1980 to 4 February 1981	Metal (+)
Rooster	5 February 1981 to 24 January 1982	Metal (-)
Dog	25 January 1982 to 12 February 1983	Water (+)
Boar	13 February 1983 to 1 February 1984	Water (-)
Rat	2 February 1984 to 19 February 1985	Wood (+)
Ox	20 February 1985 to 8 February 1986	Wood (-)
Tiger	9 February 1986 to 28 January 1987	Fire (+)
Rabbit	29 January 1987 to 16 February 1988	Fire (-)
Dragon	17 February 1988 to 5 February 1989	Earth (+)
Snake	6 February 1989 to 26 January 1990	Earth (-)
Horse	27 January 1990 to 14 February 1991	Metal (+)
Sheep	15 February 1991 to 3 February 1992	Metal (-)
Monkey	4 February 1992 to 22 January 1993	Water (+)
Rooster	23 January 1993 to 9 February 1994	Water (-)
Dog	10 February 1994 to 30 January 1995	Wood (+)
Boar	31 January 1995 to 18 February 1996	Wood (-)
Rat	19 February 1996 to 6 February 1997	Fire (+)
Ox	7 February 1997 to 27 January 1998	Fire (-)
Tiger	28 January 1998 to 15 February 1999	Earth (+)
Rabbit	16 February 1999 to 4 February 2000	Earth (-)
Dragon	5 February 2000 to 23 January 2001	Metal (+)
Snake	24 January 2001 to 11 February 2002	Metal (-)
Horse	12 February 2002 to 31 January 2003	Water (+)
Sheep	1 February 2003 to 21 January 2004	Water (-)
Monkey	22 January 2004 to 8 February 2005	Wood (+)
Rooster	9 February 2005 to 28 January 2006	Wood (-)

Sign	Exact Solar Dates	Element
Dog	29 January 2006 to 17 February 2007	Fire (+)
Boar	18 February 2007 to 6 February 2008	Fire (-)
Rat	7 February 2008 to 25 January 2009	Earth (+)
Ox	26 January 2009 to 13 February 2010	Earth (-)
Tiger	14 February 2010 to 2 February 2011	Metal (+)
Rabbit	3 February 2011 to 22 January 2012	Metal (-)
Dragon	23 January 2012 to 9 February 2013	Water (+)
Snake	10 February 2013 to 30 January 2014	Water (-)
Horse	31 January 2014 to 18 February 2015	Wood (+)
Sheep	19 February 2015 to 7 February 2016	Wood (-)
Monkey	8 February 2016 to 27 January 2017	Fire (+)
Rooster	28 January 2017 to 15 February 2018	Fire (-)
Dog	16 February 2018 to 4 February 2019	Earth (+)
Boar	5 February 2019 to 24 January 2020	Earth (-)
Rat	25 January 2020 to 11 February 2021	Metal (+)
Ox	12 February 2021 to 31 January 2022	Metal (-)
Tiger	1 February 2022 to 21 January 2023	Water (+)
Rabbit	22 January 2023 to 9 February 2024	Water (-)
Dragon	10 February 2024 to 28 January 2025	Wood (+)
Snake	29 January 2025 to 16 February 2026	Wood (-)
Horse	17 February 2026 to 5 February 2027	Fire (+)
Sheep	6 February 2027 to 25 January 2028	Fire (-)
Monkey	26 January 2028 to 12 February 2029	Earth (+)
Rooster	13 February 2029 to 2 February 2030	Earth (-)
Dog	3 February 2030 to 22 January 2031	Metal (+)
Boar	23 January 2031 to 10 February 2032	Metal (-)
Rat	11 February 2032 to 30 January 2033	Water (+)
Ox	31 January 2033 to 18 February 2034	Water (-)

Table 2. The Exact Lunar Years from 1924 to 2044 / 9

Sign	Exact Solar Dates	Element
Tiger	19 February 2034 to 7 February 2035	Wood (+)
Rabbit	8 February 2035 to 27 January 2036	Wood (-)
Dragon	28 January 2036 to 14 February 2037	Fire (+)
Snake	15 February 2037 to 3 February 2038	Fire (-)
Horse	4 February 2038 to 23 January 2039	Earth (+)
Sheep	24 January 2039 to 11 February 2040	Earth (-)
Monkey	12 February 2040 to 31 January 2041	Metal (+)
Rooster	1 February 2041 to 21 January 2042	Metal (-)
Dog	22 January 2042 to 9 February 2043	Water (+)
Boar	10 February 2043 to 29 January 2044	Water (-)

Table 3. The Interaction of the Five Elements

North		
WATER: WINTER		
Guards the kidneys		
Controls Fire		
West	Centre	East
METAL: AUTUMN	EARTH	WOOD: SPRING
Guards the lungs	Guards the spleen	Guards the liver
Controls Wood	Controls Water	Controls Earth
South		
FIRE: SUMMER		
Guards the heart		
Controls Metal		

**Table 4. The Animal Signs and Their Fixed Elements,
Seasons and Stems**

Stem	Sign	North (Winter)	East (Spring)	South (Summer)	West (Autumn)
–	Boar	Water			
+	Rat	Water			
–	Ox	Water			
+	Tiger		Wood		
–	Rabbit		Wood		
+	Dragon		Wood		
–	Snake			Fire	
+	Horse			Fire	
–	Sheep			Fire	
+	Monkey				Metal
–	Rooster				Metal
+	Dog				Metal

Note: The Earth element is not present in the chart because Earth is symbolically composed of the four other elements and therefore cannot be appointed to any one of the twelve lunar signs. Some Chinese astrologers take one representative from each of the other elements – the Ox from Water, the Dragon from Wood, the Sheep from Fire, and the Dog from Metal – and appoint Earth as their secondary element. Other fortune-tellers insist that the presence of all the four other elements in one’s natal chart creates the missing Earth element.

**Table 5. Ascendants: the Twelve Animal Signs
and Their Hours**

11 p.m. to 1 a.m.	ruled by the Rat
1 a.m. to 3 a.m.	ruled by the Ox
3 a.m. to 5 a.m.	ruled by the Tiger
5 a.m. to 7 a.m.	ruled by the Rabbit
7 a.m. to 9 a.m.	ruled by the Dragon
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	ruled by the Snake
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	ruled by the Horse
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	ruled by the Sheep
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	ruled by the Monkey
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	ruled by the Rooster
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	ruled by the Dog
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.	ruled by the Boar

Table 6. The Months of the Lunar Signs and Their Matching Solar Astrological Signs

Have you ever wondered why Western astrological signs fall on odd days of the month instead of simply on the first or thirtieth? Theodora found the answer when she learned that the lunar calendar is divided into twenty-four sections that were originally used as a guide for agriculture. In matching these twenty-four sections or stems with the closest dates in the Western calendar, one finds that they coincide with the twelve astrological signs of the West. The twelve animal signs are also assigned a month in this calendar, so we can readily match the Eastern lunar signs with Western solar signs.

Lunar Sign	Solar Sign	Corresponding Dates
Rat	Sagittarius	22 November – 21 December
Ox	Capricorn	22 December – 20 January
Tiger	Aquarius	21 January – 19 February
Rabbit	Pisces	20 February – 20 March
Dragon	Aries	21 March – 19 April
Snake	Taurus	20 April – 20 May
Horse	Gemini	21 May – 21 June
Sheep	Cancer	22 June – 21 July
Monkey	Leo	22 July – 21 August
Rooster	Virgo	22 August – 22 September
Dog	Libra	23 September – 22 October
Boar	Scorpio	23 October – 21 November

Long and Short Lunar Years and the Influence of the *Li Chun*

Short lunar years are made up of twelve months of twenty-nine days each. Long lunar years, or leap years, have thirteen months of twenty-nine days each. Because the lunar month is shorter than the solar month by one day each month, every twenty-nine months an extra month is added to that year to create a lunar leap year.

The first day of spring in the Gregorian calendar is termed the *li chun*, the ‘eyes of spring’ in the lunar almanac. When Chinese New Year comes before the *li chun*, it is said that the year has seen the first day of spring. If the lunar year begins after the first day of spring and terminates before the next *li chun* on the following year, then it is said to be a ‘blind’ year. A lunar year may begin after the first day of spring on the solar calendar, which is usually on 4 February or 5 February, but it could catch up the following year and end after the first day of spring, giving it the symbolic ‘eyes’ of spring, which the Chinese consider as a sort of hindsight – and better than no sight at all. To be truly blind, a year must miss the first day of spring at both its beginning and its end. Blind years are generally not auspicious for getting married or starting a business.

Understanding the Five Elements

A fundamental part of East Asian philosophy is the interrelationship and interaction among the five basic elements of which the universe is composed: Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth. These elements are interdependent, as we can observe how context can quickly change the behaviour of a combination thereof in a natural setting. Each element is controlled by another while contributing to the existence of a different element (see Table 3). Therefore, we like to examine elements in their conducive or helpful energy as well as their controlling or dominant behaviours. Every element is powerful, capable of creating or preserving life or playing a role in harming or destroying life.

According to this philosophy, no element can be called the strongest or the weakest. Like yin and yang, they are forever interdependent and always equal in strength. They are eternally joined in the chain of life that brings about their existence. There is no power or struggle for dominance. Each has its own place and function.

Even in the human body, these five elements maintain their reciprocal relationships. In Chinese medicine and acupuncture, the elements rule the five major organs of the body. Metal is linked to the lungs, Fire controls the heart, Water is associated with the kidneys, Earth rules the spleen and pancreas, and Wood is identified with the liver. When a Chinese doctor, herbalist or acupuncturist treats an illness, they have to keep these interrelations in mind. For example, when the Earth (pancreas) is affected, the Metal (lungs) are weakened too. If the Water (kidney) malfunctions, then it cannot produce its counterpart, Wood. Consequently, the Wood organ, the liver, will begin to deteriorate.

CONDUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

From Metal we get Water

Metal is usually represented by the Chinese symbol for gold, but in this context Metal indicates a vessel or container for holding liquids, so we can say that Metal traps water. In another sense, Metal is the only element that will change into a liquid when heated to a high temperature. When it resolidifies, the Metal is in a much purer state.

From Water we get Wood

Water here means the rain or dew that makes plant life flourish, producing Wood in the process. Wood is dependent on Water for life and growth.

From Wood we get Fire

Fire cannot exist by itself but is produced by burning Wood. Also, Fire is generated by rubbing together two pieces of Wood.

From Fire we get Earth

Symbolically, Fire reduces everything to ashes, which become part of the Earth again and will serve to nourish life.

From Earth we get Metal

All Metal has to be extracted from the Earth in which it resides.

CONTROLLING RELATIONSHIPS

Metal is controlled by Fire

Metal can only be melted and forged into something useful by the application of great heat.

Fire is controlled by Water

Nothing will put out a Fire as quickly as Water.

Water is controlled by Earth

Earth directs the flow of Water. We dig canals to irrigate fields and build dykes to keep out Water. Earth absorbs Water as well as contains it.

Earth is controlled by Wood

Trees and their roots hold the soil together and draw nourishment from the Earth. Without the helpful presence of Wood, the Earth would erode or dissipate.

Wood is controlled by Metal

Even the largest tree can be felled by the Metal blade of an axe. Metal cuts Wood into useful pieces. We need Metal to prune the dead branches of a tree and help Wood rejuvenate.

METAL ELEMENT

Its colour is white, its season is autumn, and its weather is dry. It is associated with the sense of hearing, and its body organ is the lung.

Positive Metal is the yang or active part. It can be identified as a sword that can cause bodily harm or as a surgeon's knife that must cut to heal.

Negative Metal is the yin or passive side. It can be represented by a cooking pot, a metal container, a gong or other musical instrument, jewellery, a work of art, or any rounded metallic shape that is neither pointed nor sharp like a weapon.

People born in a year controlled by the Metal element will be as rigid and resolute in expression as their particular signs permit. They are guided by strong feelings

and will pursue their objectives with intensity and little hesitation. Sustained by their convictions, they are capable of prolonged effort to get what they want. They are very success-oriented and determined.

Once these people have decided on a course of action, they are not easily swayed or influenced to change it, even by hardships, drawbacks and initial failures. Whatever constancy and perseverance their native lunar signs contain will be greatly enhanced by the Metal element. But they do have trouble letting go when situations become unfeasible and can be unreasonably stubborn about their fixations.

They prefer to handle their problems alone and will not appreciate interference or unsolicited assistance. They map out their own destinies, clear their own paths and set their own goals without outside help.

Although they may appear inflexible and coldly self-reliant, people ruled by Metal seem to conduct electricity. Their strong impulses and generative powers will be felt by everyone they come into contact with, thereby bringing about the changes and transformation they desire.

They have strong monetary and accumulative instincts and will use these traits to insist on having their own way. Often, they are unbending and opinionated and will break off a good relationship because others do not heed their wishes or conform to their will.

WATER ELEMENT

Its colour is blue, its season is winter, and its weather is cold. It is associated with the sense of sight, and its body organ is the kidney.

Positive Water is a wave or moving current, and negative Water is still or ebbing. Active or yang water pushes forward relentlessly and is a fearsome force to be reckoned with. Negative Water is the gentle rain or dew that nurtures and seeps into the soil. The positive can destroy; the negative nourishes.

People born in a year dominated by the Water element have a better-than-average ability to communicate and to advance their ideas by influencing the thoughts of others. Other people's minds are their vessels and help carry their creative ideas into positive action. They are basically ruled by sympathetic vibrations and convey their feelings and emotions to the best degree that their native animal sign will permit.

They have a knack for noticing things that will become important and can gauge potentials accurately. They set things on the path they desire by prodding others and using their talents and resources. However, they know how to be unobtrusive in their persistence and will never make others feel they are being imposed upon. In this manner, like their element, Water, they will be able to wear away the strongest rocks

of opposition by their silent but unceasing efforts. Because these people would rather infiltrate than dominate, they will know how, when and whom to approach about any given subject. They have the talent for making people desire what they desire, thus achieving their goals in a sure but indirect way. They like to propel instead of compel others into motion.

Because of their awareness and flexibility, they are fluid like their element. In their negative states, such people tend to be too conciliatory and will take the easiest route open to them. At their worst, they will be inconstant and passive and will lean too much on others for support. Thus, they sabotage their basic abilities. To succeed, they must be more assertive and use their immense power of persuasion to turn their plans into reality. Others would be wise to be guided by their intuitions.

WOOD ELEMENT

Its colour is green, its season is spring, and its weather is windy. It is associated with the sense of smell, and its body organ is the liver.

The positive stem of Wood is the fir tree, and the negative is the bamboo. Firs and pines are green all year round; the passive, delicate and graceful bamboo is dormant in the winter but still very pliable and adaptable, with a surprising resilience and strength. Positive Wood is also symbolised by live branches; negative Wood is represented by the lumber used to build things. Seeds are considered negative, and flowers are positive. Each stem dominates one end of the life cycle of constant growth and renewal.

People born under the auspices of a Wood year value their ethics; they have high morals and a good deal of self-confidence. They know the intrinsic value of things, and their interests are wide and varied. Expansive and cooperative by nature, they like to do things on a grand scale. Wood natives possess executive personalities because they can apportion and separate matters into the correct categories and workflows. Their progressiveness and generosity enable them to take on large projects, long-term or sizable developments, or prolonged scientific studies – definitely not solo ventures.

They have the ability to convince others to join forces with them. Being people who advocate constant growth and renewal, they branch out rapidly and diversify into as many fields as possible. They know how to share whatever rewards they reap from these collective efforts with all who justly deserve a piece of the corporate pie. Their innate goodwill and compassionate understanding of how others think and operate will enable them to rise to rewarding positions. Wood personalities will find support and finances whenever and wherever they need them, because others will have faith in their ability to turn information and ideas into profit.

Their chief shortcoming is a tendency to bite off more than they can chew and thereby push things to breaking point. Often, they may not be able to finish what they have started if they spread their resources too thin. At such times, their plans could turn sour, or they may drift from one project to another without achieving any satisfactory results.

FIRE ELEMENT

Its colour is red, its season is summer, and its weather is hot. It is associated with the sense of touch, and its body organ is the heart.

The positive or active stem of this element is the forest fire or lava flow spewing from a volcanic eruption. The negative or passive stem is the fire from a stove used for cooking or the flame of a lamp giving beneficial light. The active side is spontaneous and hard to control, whereas the passive fire is easily directed to serve our needs. However, it is wise to remember that there is a very small difference between the two. A (passive) candle that is tipped over can easily become a (positive) house fire. There is always the need to maintain that delicate balance in the yin and yang of every element.

People born in a year ruled by the Fire element will display above-average qualities of leadership; they are decisive and sure of themselves. Having the natural capacity to motivate people and bring ideas to fruition, Fire people tend to be more positive and aggressive than others of their particular sign. Hence, we can say that a Fire Horse is more aggressive than a Water Horse. Fire personalities love adventure and innovation, and they readily adopt bright new ideas and try to dominate others with their creativity and originality. They do not fear risks and like to keep on the move and pioneer new trails. Danger may even excite them. The higher the stakes, the more motivated they are.

They are the doers, given to dynamic action and speech. However, they must keep a tight rein on their emotions, as their forceful ambitions may make them inconsiderate and impatient when their wishes are not gratified quickly. The more a Fire person tries to achieve their ends by force or violence, the more they will encounter opposition and danger.

If a Fire person learns to hear others out before leaping into action and can sympathise with the views of fellow workers, they have the prerequisites to be a winner of the highest calibre. No one can exceed the Fire person's intense drive, but Fire people must learn to curb their impulsiveness. Often they are too outspoken for their own good. They only realise that a little courtesy and diplomacy go a long way when it is too late.

Like their element, Fire people constantly draw others to their warmth and brilliance, and they will benefit all those who seek their company. But Fire people can also turn destructive when they are angry and can cause irreparable damage when they fail to control or direct their energies properly.

EARTH ELEMENT

Its colour is yellow, its season is the end of summer, and its weather is humid. It is associated with the sense of taste, and its body organ is the spleen.

A hill or mountain is the positive side of the Earth element; a valley is the passive or negative aspect. Raised ground is aggressive, and depressions in the landscape and lower areas are passive. One journey, the positive, is uphill; the other, the passive, is downwards. Hills are useful as lookout points but are subject to the fury of the winds and weather. The valleys and other lower areas are suitable for raising crops because they are protected and water can accumulate in them to nourish plant life.

People born under signs influenced by the Earth element are more concerned with functional and practical aspirations. They have excellent deductive powers and prefer solid and reliable pursuits. Blessed with foresight and a talent for organisation, they are effective planners and administrators. They will put whatever available resources they have to optimum use and are wise and prudent in financial affairs. Intelligent and objective, they can direct others towards realising attainable and well-planned goals.

Earth personalities are generally enterprising in a serious and methodical manner. They can organise and manage businesses that require a firm hand. These are the managers who build and reinforce the foundations of industry, commerce and government. Rarely excitable, such people will always verify their findings and will demand sound reasons for everything they do. Although they may move slowly, they proceed towards good and lasting results.

Earth people like to keep things in perspective and are conservative by nature. They will seldom exaggerate their findings, calculations or expectations. They will give you the true, undiluted picture of any situation with no retouching, modifications or frills. When they are negative, their most common shortcomings will be their lack of imagination, overprotectiveness and pessimistic outlook. However, they can be expected to shoulder their responsibilities admirably and discipline themselves. These solid, dependable citizens are the pillars of the community.

The Influence of the Moon's Four Phases

The human relationship with the moon has always been a profound and intimate one, much more so than our relationship with the sun. The sun, with its brilliance, was revered, but because it rose without fail every day, no assurances were needed that it would rise again on the morrow.

But the mystical moon held mankind in the sway of her magic and beauty. Her dark face and moods could plague humanity with doubts and foreboding, while her shimmering light brought enchantment, happiness and romance. It gradually became clear that the moon's influence was broad and multifaceted, and it touched every aspect of life and the environment.

Humankind slowly learned to recognise the moon's many faces and interpret her signs. As her movements and their significance began to be better understood, we found we could benefit immensely by following her rhythms and guidance. It is no accident that a woman's natural cycle of reproduction coincides with the length of the lunar month. Based on these observations, many thousands of years ago the lunar horoscope was born.

In following a lunar month, the rule to remember is that a new moon heralds a new lunar month. The monthly cycle reaches its peak on the fifteenth day of the lunar month, with the full moon dominating the night sky. This phenomenon presents a spectacle that is hard to ignore and has awed human beings since the dawn of time.

The four weeks that constitute the twenty-nine and a half days of each lunar month mark the four phases of the moon. The first week starts with the new moon and lasts for seven and a half days. The second moon phase makes up the first quarter, which reaches its peak a day before the full moon (the fifteenth lunar day of the month), which starts the third week of the lunar month. The fourth week begins with the last quarter on the twenty-second and a half day, and this fourth and last phase of seven and a half days brings the lunar month to an end.

The Chinese believe that the four phases of the moon, like the four seasons that make up the year, have their own special functions and significance. They take into consideration these shifts throughout the month, especially in matters of health. Major modern medical studies now show that body rhythm is an important factor that must be considered when prescribing drugs. The time of day when medication or treatment is administered is crucial to having fewer side effects such as nausea,

upset stomach, cold sores, pain or numbness. Furthermore, the body responds better to treatment when this is in synchrony with its circadian rhythm. Cancer drugs deliver a stronger punch when introduced into the body at times when the malignant cells are reproducing and the normal body functions are at their ebb, such as when we are asleep.

Chinese doctors and herbalists have always been aware of the body's own clock and have prescribed herbs and treatment to be taken at specific times. They went even further by scheduling medical treatment according to the phases of the moon. Surgery of any kind (including tooth extractions) was usually done after the full moon, preferably during the last quarter, as bleeding would be considerably less and the wound would heal faster if the moon was in decline. Cutting one's hair was recommended during the first phase of the moon, as it would promote further hair growth in a similar way that pruning branches encourages renewal of growth in a tree. Medications used to regulate a woman's menstrual cycle also had to be taken after the full moon and in the evenings to get the best results. Farmers, too, relied on the phases of the moon (on which the popular annual US publication the *Farmers' Almanac* is based) to plan the planting and harvesting times of their crops.

THE NEW MOON

The new moon symbolises birth, renewal, sowing and awakening. It occurs during the first lunar phase – from the first day of the lunar month to halfway through the eighth day. Each phase of the moon is connected to a season, direction, element and three animals of the Chinese cycle. The new moon's season is spring, its direction is east, and its element is Wood. The new moon has influence over the Tiger, Rabbit and Dragon.

This first phase represents a young and vibrant spring in which birth, growth and beginnings are emphasised. It is an excellent time to put seeds into the ground, to start new ventures or open a business. People born during the first week of the lunar month are the spring people – equipped with lively, innovative minds, free spirits, and a love of new ideas and adventure. They are generally impressionable, inventive and outgoing but also impulsive and restless by nature.

THE FIRST QUARTER

The first quarter symbolises potency, maturity, full growth or complete development. The second lunar phase occurs from halfway through the eighth day to the fifteenth day of the lunar month. This phase of the moon corresponds with the summer season, the south direction, and the Fire element. The first quarter rules the Snake, Horse and Sheep lunar signs.

This second phase is identified with summer and denotes both mental and physical maturity because it ends at the peak of the lunar month. This is a prime time to transplant seedlings and to fertilise the soil to promote lush growth. The moon's continuing ascent favours aggressive and forceful action. Summer or first-quarter people will likewise be strong-minded, as they are competent fighters and capable doers. Full of potent energy, they are the leaders of the cycle.

THE FULL MOON

Symbolising organisation, harvest, collection and storage, the full moon happens in the third lunar phase, which occurs from the fifteenth to halfway through the twenty-third day of the lunar month. Its season is autumn, its direction is west, and its element is Metal. The full moon guides the Monkey, Rooster and Dog signs of the Chinese cycle.

The third phase, commencing with the full moon, has a great affinity for autumn. This is a time to harvest ripened fruit and grain, mend broken fences, cut wood, preserve food for winter and consolidate one's resources after the harvest. The moon begins her descent after the fifteenth day. Autumn natives will like to organise, restore order, resolve problems and settle disputes with intelligence and calm reason. Theirs is the phase of the harvester and collector.

THE LAST QUARTER

The last quarter represents completion, conclusion, hibernation and rest. It occurs during the fourth lunar phase, from halfway through the twenty-third day to the twenty-ninth day of the lunar month. This phase of the moon corresponds with the winter season, northern direction and Water element. It rules the Boar, Rat and Ox signs.

During this fourth week, the lunar month is in its winter, and this is generally the time to settle debts, close a business or finish a project. The waning moon is also conducive to the slaughter of livestock, extraction of teeth and the pruning of plants. It is believed that operations performed during this period will result in less bleeding. Winter people born during the seven and a half days of the last phase are the thinkers, keepers of confidences and makers of analytical decisions. Like potent roots that lie asleep in the earth beneath a blanket of winter snow, they will conserve their energy and burst forth with new life when the time is right.

1

The First Sign of the Lunar Cycle

The Rat



I am the self-proclaimed acquirer.

I am a link yet I function as
a complete unit.

I aim at encompassing heights
and strike my target,
sure and steady.

Life is one joyous journey for me.
Each search must end with a new quest.
I am progress, exploration and insight.
I am the womb of activity.

I AM THE RAT.

鼠