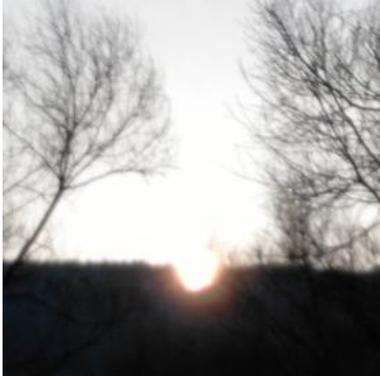


2020 - Some clues and suggestions on the energy of the year,
for you personally, and for world events.

All in all it's a year for personal sunrises, for changes for the better, but also please pray for peace.



Please find some unique blending of clues here from Astrology (Western and Chinese) as well as Feng Shui, which might help you to personally make the best of this year, and to also better assess world events.

This trailer for the film "2001" may give you a first idea (visually and acoustically) of what to expect:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKRCWIKTurY>

Let's start with **Chinese Astrology**. 2020 will be a year of the "**Metal Rat**". There's various opinions around when it started, some say as early as Dec 22nd, 2019 (solstice), some as late as Feb 4th, 2020 (Chinese calendar according to the sun, mostly used for full horoscopes or BaZi), and also in use this year Jan 24th (Chinese calendar according to the moon, widely used for popular estimates and for the official Chinese New Year). So I started this preview early in January, went through the transition phase, and conclude it now on February 7th with publication of the first version on Facebook (please bear this in mind when reading any analysis or prediction). When you look back some weeks ago, you may agree that the energy has changed quite a bit since 2019 - and I'd like to help you understand what was and will be happening, and to make the best of it for yourself.

Some preface might be good to mention: Life has so many facets and energy of the world so many intricacies that I consider it impossible to give predictions which will surely come true. However, some guidelines might be useful. It's the same as with weather forecasts: If there's a prediction of "rain", better take an umbrella with you - and be happy if you don't have to use it. If there's a prediction of "heavy sunshine", better take some sun crème - and don't be sad, if it doesn't make any sense to use it. And don't get offended if the forecast is correct all around but you're in a spot with very different and special local weather. I'll talk about some details later which might cause your personal fate being different from the overall outlook.

So let's get started now with this year according to Chinese Astrology, no matter when it started. Each and every year has one of the Five **Elements** (Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal) attached to it, either in "Yang" or in "yin" quality. For 2020 it's "Yang Metal", so you might wish to review my article from almost two years ago, explaining more on metal (see:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1844222452332718&id=100002349421962&_tn_=_K-R).

Also each year has one of twelve **animal signs** attached to it, equally distributed around the compass or covering the 24 hours of a day. For 2020 it's the "Rat". Two things to mention: The Rat resides in the North and around Midnight. So it's a very "cool" sign, and from the elements it represents "Water". Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM - organ clock) allocates to it the meridian of the "gallbladder", and we will talk more about that later.

So the Rat being a sign of Water, which is fed by Metal in the productive cycle of the elements, at first glance the combination looks real harmonious. Nonetheless we might expect some **major disruptive effects from the Metal Rat**, on the personal level as well as for the overall situation on earth. A first hint might be that the element "wood" is attributed to the gallbladder (right: in Chinese hardly anything is "black & white" but mostly multidimensional) - so seen from this angle, together with the metal it could mean a lot of "chopped wood".

Well then, let's now start with the personal level:

Which elements you need, like, don't want at all for your well-being overall or for certain aspects of your life, is decided by your birth chart, the "**Four Pillars**" according to your date of birth, from hour through day and month to year. So for example if you're a "Strong Earth" in your Day Pillar ("overly strong" might change the picture a bit), then Metal and Water in 2020 should bring you a year of success and wealth. Please note though that there's always a likelihood of special circumstances which could counteract the overall picture, and I'll talk about some of those now.

So let's come to one of the specialties which might make it difficult for you, even if Metal and Water are favourable for you. In the circle of energies and animals around the year, the "**Rat**" (Winter/North) is located opposite to the "**Horse**" (Summer/South), and this is one of the pairs which really can mean a lot of trouble. The Horse can be considered as the leader of all the signs, as it represents the sun as well as the heart. So this year the Rat (Water) will attack the leader (Fire), and it is a fierce attack because the Rat is related to the Gallbladder, which is important for the energy of determination and fury. Now combine this with the Metal of a Sword, and you have a good picture of what might happen. As a side note please let me suggest that you take special care of your gallbladder (and your liver, closely connected with it) throughout this year, which might mean to eat more greens and drink less coffee and alcohol than before, if this could be a topic for you.

For you personally the problem with the "Rat" might come up if there's a "Horse" in your Four Pillars somewhere (though it's special for a "Metal Horse", which might be fine) - unless you also have a "Dog" or a "Tiger" in your chart also, because they take care of the "Horse" by combining with it and protecting it against the clash with the "Rat". If unprotected, the placing of the "Horse" decides the area of your life which might get into turmoil. For example if the Horse is the sign of the pillar from your "Day of Birth" then it might affect your relationship with your partner.

But sure enough this constellation (Rat against leading Horse) also means that any leaders in the world might come under attack somehow - and if they don't reconcile the situation but use their power to hit back, then it might seriously affect a lot of people. If they also have a Horse in their personal chart, it might make the situation even more serious. One such example is Donald Trump, with a horse in his month pillar - but alas, here it's protected by another combination with Snake and Goat as its aides (you see, analysis can get real tricky). Nonetheless arrival of the new kind of energy (as well as the planets, see below) might have triggered Trump's decision to kill the Iranian commander Soleimani early January. Tension between US and Iran has declined by now, but don't forget that the year is not yet over - and later I will tell more on this special topic from another angle. Also during the month of January (more or less, again depending on which calendar you choose) the Rat was held in check by combining with the monthly Ox, so only now it's coming to its full force.

Well then, let's move to **Western Astrology**, which kind of signifies a similar topic.

On January 12th, 2020, we had a direct conjunction of planets Pluto and Saturn, which was building up since early 2019, and since December 2019 also Jupiter has come into play, and all three of them will be in a dance throughout the full year of 2020, and it's happening within the sign of Capricorn, ruled by Saturn.

In short this means a time of challenging power, **breaking down old habits**, and dreaming a new world into being. The "Fridays for Future" Movement might serve as a good example, but it started in 2019, ruled by the yearly sign

of the “Pig” which likes communication, so it has been a peaceful challenge so far. With the change to the “Rat”, now there might be fiercer challenges anywhere and anytime in 2020, and more severe fighting back. It’s never an easy time when old structures are about to collapse so that new structures can emerge. Therefore once again let’s hope for as peaceful a transition as might be, and please pray for peace throughout the world this year even more than any year.

Anyhow the constellation of those three planets signifies hope that in the end it will mean **change for the better**.

Want an example for the disruptive energy around? Take the current results at the US primaries in Iowa (as of 7.2.). The strongest representative of the old establishment, Joe Biden, had to take a severe blow by coming in fourth only - and it might well mean that he will be out of the race soon.

Now bringing down this overall picture to a personal level, **all of us do have a chance of change for the better this year**. If since long you wanted to break free from old habits, now it’s a good time to do so. If since long you have a dream about your personal future, now is a good time to materialize it. In Feng Shui the North, the “home” of the “Rat”, as well as “Water” are related to “your personal path” (I prefer this wording to “career” which is used more frequently). Add the Metal, and the “Metal Rat” says that **now you can make clear cuts and achieve something new by strong determination**. And interestingly enough the message from Saturn-Pluto-Jupiter is more or less the same, just adding that the “new dream” should be woven around **beauty, abundance, and a life of harmonious caring for each other**. (That’s why I call it a “year of sunrises”.)

Want a well-known example? What about Harry and Meghan breaking free from royal tradition, announced early this year? And I’d like to add “chapeau” for the Queen to accept it with sympathy.

If you want to dive deeper into this, here’s a more detailed analysis for you on the major planets of the year, by British astrologer Heather Ensworth:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0u3CUvHWgM>

So good luck & success for all of you who want to take this energy and peacefully make the best of it. The combination of energies as indicated from two different systems is really unique and beneficial.

Now let me conclude this with a few tips from **Feng Shui**, so that you can avoid some traps in your environment which might hinder your success.

First coming back to the Rat in the **North**, it’s recommended not to “offend” this ruler of the year (also called the “Grand Duke” in Feng Shui) by sitting in direct opposition to it. So you might especially wish to turn your desk around a bit if it has been facing North so far. Apart from special cases however North-East and North-West can also be considered as not really favorable directions to face during work - so it might get a bit tricky here. If you cannot turn your desk for more than a few degrees you might at least want to avoid the exact direction of the Metal-Rat which is from 16.875 to 22.500 degrees (please note that this means alignment to Magnetic North on the compass, not Geographic North as you might get it on your smartphone).

Next we need to talk about the so called “**Flying Stars**”, which will affect all areas of your property as well as yourself according to the alignment of back and front of the property as well as the influence of time. Here I’d just like to advise on some special effects concerning 2020. The star which mostly needs to be taken care of is number “**5**”, and it’s located in the “**East**” this year. This means that once again you should avoid facing the direction when working, but in this case it also means that you should be mindful whether you feel as comfortable as before sitting or sleeping in this area of your home (house or single room) - and perhaps try to more or less avoid it. And you should not undertake any major earthworks in the Eastern sector of your garden. But most importantly try to avoid to have water in the East this year, so relocate any indoor fountain, or at least put it away, and do the same outdoors. Also you might pay special attention, as the “**5**” could mean that a lot of clutter

assembles in the areas affected by this star, and an extra portion of “order” (representing “metal”), helps to diminish the negative effect of the “5” (belonging to “earth”).

By the way, there’s also monthly stars around, and the monthly 5 will intensify the yearly 5 during the months of March and December 2020 (roughly speaking, as the Chinese months do not exactly correspond to the calendar months), so please take special care concerning the East then.

Let’s conclude this with considering the meaning of the “East” in Feng Shui. It’s the direction associated with “**Family**” and “**Tradition**”. So the examples above nicely fit with the 5 and the planets potentially uprooting old structures in these areas of your life. And as always: it’s better to “go with the flow” than to try and hold on to traditions which don’t serve you anymore. You don’t have to suffer from ill **health** (also a topic of the East), if you happily accept and make the best of any change necessary. So you might wish to see the “5” not so much as “forebode of evil” but rather as “**personal challenge**”.

As a side note let’s briefly look into **world events** of the past. The last year we had the “5” in the East was 2011, and I had done some research and written some articles then, so far available in German only (if you can read it, here is the link: http://www.awschoening.de/DE/PDF/Schoening_Feng_Shui_Osten_2011.pdf). It was an even more severe year for the East as the Grand Duke of that year was residing there also. Anyhow some calamities happening that year, which can be seen as related to the direction of East, have been the Tsunami and nuclear casualty in Japan, and also the revolt against Gaddafi in Libya. Further back the same yearly energy happened in 1975, and that year in the East of China more than 200 000 people got killed by a cascade of dam breaks.

As for 2020, so far we’ve already had an earthquake in the East of Turkey, the outbreak of the Corona virus in the East of China, and recently also an unusual “flood” of locusts (grasshoppers) in the East of Africa, destroying food for millions of people (please don’t get fooled that politics and media didn’t respond that much so far). All of this might just as well be no more than a coincidence, but it’s interesting nonetheless, right? And it may mean bad news for the East coast of the US for the hurricane season this year.

Nonetheless, don’t get fooled: Even in 2020 calamities may come from other directions than the East - as well as not to happen in the East at all - and the East may even bring you luck personally. Please remember my foreword about the weather forecast. For example hurricane Katrina hit the US from Southeast in 2005, and neither the yearly 5 nor the monthly 5 had been there at that time. Still personally it might be a good idea to take care that your personal area of the East is in good order this year (see above), and you might wish to place some token for protection there, according to your liking (from the picture of a Spiritual Master to a wooden figure of an angel).

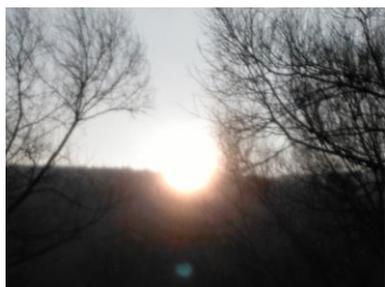
Anyhow, to conclude this, I’m afraid to say that the recent tension around Iran may bode evil news for Israel, because Iran is in the East for that country - and March and December will be the most critical months (see above), and it might fit should Israel go along in March with annexations as allowed by the so-called “peace plan” from Donald Trump. And for once I’d be happy if a prediction would not come true.

But let’s come to yet another angle to view 2020, a more charming one. It’s easy to see that this means a “double 20”. So in **Numerology** doubling figures always has a special benefit. For example “11”, “22”, “33”, and so on are called the “master numbers”, and if you have one of those in your birthday (directly or especially as the cross total), then this indicates you have the potential to become more powerful than most people (provided you can master the challenges which go along with it). This way “2020” again suggests a very powerful year, and if we look at the digits it means “2” for “communication and relating”, whereas “2+2=4” means “hard work”, and “20” in the I Ging (the traditional book of Chinese Wisdom) means something like “Contemplating the individual in the broader perspective of the cosmos” - bestowing blessings if you succeed. Sounds like we’re back to the major planets of the year, Jupiter in particular, right?

So I hope you've enjoyed reading this little story, and I'd be happy if I could give you some guidance. I'm really sorry though, but it's too complicated to give overall recommendations on good placements and good directions because there's too many interdependencies for any particular property, and the more so in correlation to a particular person (you might even benefit from the "5" by placing water in the appropriate area, but I won't say publicly where, because other factors in your personal situation might speak against it). But please allow me to say that sure enough you're also welcome to send me a mail and ask for a private consultation. In any case, once again please feel encouraged to observe what's happening in your life, and to take into account that Feng Shui as well as Astrology might play a role in any major events - and sometimes it might be easy to make changes for the better - and sometimes fate may just ask you to learn from the blow and rise up to a new level later on.

To conclude this, one little thing to watch out for regularly, as **a final tip for you**: Every twelve days the "Rat" of this year is going to combine with the "Monkey" in the day to give even more "Water" (starting February 11th), also it happens every twelve days in combining with the "Dragon", as started February 7th (guess why I published the first version of this on that day, and the German version on Feb 19th). And on a "Monkey day" the "Dragon hour" (roughly speaking from 7 till 9 am), as well as the "Monkey hour" (roughly speaking from 3 till 5 pm - all before daylight savings time / please ask by mail if you want the exact timing for your location - I'll be happy to provide it to you for free) on a "Dragon day" will add even more Water. So if this is favorable for you, make good use of it, if it's not, try to avoid it for serious matters. And if you observe yourself in those hours, you might get an idea on whether it's a good time for you or not.

And above all please don't forget that the "East" also is the place for the daily "Sunrise" all over the earth, and may it mean lovely "Sunrises" for you personally this year on many levels.



So I'd be happy if some of my advice could be useful for you, and I wish you all the very best for this challenging and hopefully very rewarding year 2020.

Should you have any comments or questions (concerning this text or any of my offerings), I'll be happy to receive you mail.

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