

THE DRAGON YEAR OF CREATIVE POWER



The Chinese Lunar Calendar, dating back to 2637 B.C., is possibly humanity's oldest calendar in continuous use. This year Chinese New Year fell on February 5, marking the Year of the Golden Dragon.

The Dragon is used to symbolize the first hexagram of the I-Ching, generally translated as Creative Power. This is the first one of the 64 hexagrams and is formed by six Yang lines -- Yang being the active element of the Tao and representing the outgoing power of manifestation.

The I-Ching is the world's oldest book, but it is more than a book of timeless wisdom, it is also an oracle, an interactive guidance system. In particular, consulting the I-Ching teaches balance and timing. A dragon year can be likened to getting that first hexagram with no changing lines, symbolizing a generally creative and powerful time. Whenever the I-Ching responds to a query in this way, we are encouraged to be active, to express our truth in deeds, to go forth and manifest.

The full Chinese astrological cycle passes through each of the twelve signs five times, with each sign having one 'golden' year every 60 years. The fact that this year happens to be that "Golden Dragon" year -- and that it coincides with a huge change in the Western calendar -- makes it particularly exciting for those who appreciate its meaning.

Legend has it that the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from earth. Buddha honored each of the twelve animals that showed up a year.

The Dragon is the most mythical and considered the most auspicious animal in the Chinese menagerie. Akin to Western astrology's regal sign of Leo, the Dragon is the embodiment of a wise and kindly archetype, endowed with the greatest power to confer guidance and good fortune. Unlike the

fire-breathing dragon of Western legend, the Chinese Dragon is a symbol of strength, fertility and life-force. It also represents the benevolence and blessings of enlightened leadership.

The dragon embodies the spirit of change itself, adventure as well as creativity. This is an ideal time to pursue your dreams with renewed energy, welcoming challenges with enthusiasm and rejoicing in the good fortune coming your way. Be prepared for an explosion of new and scintillating experiences.

Let this year be the start of a refreshed creativity. Visualize yourself riding a smiling dragon that stretches infinitely through time. The year of the Golden Dragon could stimulate greater creative power for you that will extend throughout the rest of your life. Enjoy the ride!