



2019: The Year of the *Pig*

As we predicted last year, the political confrontations of 2017 transformed into commercial confrontations, and the emphasis shifted from exercises of political and military power to disputes about trade. There was also a rise in natural disasters. It's also true that trade has become a vehicle for political conflict: still, it's better to have a trade war than a real war.

This conflict will continue, and become even more significant. Why is this? Because politicians, lawyers, and high-level managers think that their ability to understand and implement laws makes them experts about how things work – and that they know more about farming and business, than farmers, workers or businessmen. They also assume that, because of their expertise, they can speak for farmers and workers, and businessmen, because they know what they really need – or should really need.

Once a student of Confucius asked him about farming. Confucius replied that he should ask a farmer. In other words, Confucius did not claim that his higher-order knowledge gave him knowledge of how to farm.

Recently, the world political scene seems to have become dominated by strong men – forceful leaders are becoming more common. But this is an illusion: it is not really that the person is strong and taking control. What is really happen is that, on the information level and Chi energy level, countries are manifesting through their leaders, who are actually almost like puppets manifesting the energies of their countries. As energies change, different people will embody those energies.

The Year of the Pig is the end of the twelve-year cycle: the Year of the Rat is the beginning of the next cycle, and will be the beginning of new energies. These energies will start to select new puppets to perform on the political stage. But those changes will come after the consolidation of the Year of the Pig.

Pigs enjoy food and sleep, and are happy to grow and flourish if they are left in peace. So we should try to relax, and be at peace, and see how things develop, maintaining a state of serenity and clarity amidst the chaos of the political climate and information overload.

We are entering the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Blue Mountain Institute. We have maintained our focus on the true classical Feng Shui tradition, without mixing in the various kinds of marginal ideas about Feng Shui that appear all over the internet. The true teaching is never popular – but it never disappears. A new opportunity has emerged: we have begun writing a special series of blog entries, twice a week, and these will be published in Chinese, English, Spanish, and Russian. This has become a great vehicle to transmit Feng Shui information and teaching.

We are still slowly developing our next book, *Yin-Yang Theory: the Fundamentals of Natural Law*. We hope to finish it by the end of the Year of the Pig.

A Year to Flow with Nature

We will continue our 10-day Master Certification Program in June and July, to train Feng Shui consultants who would like continuing education in Feng Shui.

After thirty years of teaching around the world, Dr. Hsu has decided to bring classical Feng Shui teaching back to China, where the lines of transmission were severed for many years. The blog postings are part of this attempt to bring attention to the classical teachings. He is also preparing to present lectures and classes.

On a personal level, this year will be especially good for people born in the Year of the Rabbit and Year of the Sheep. People born in the Year of the Tiger will have smooth sailing. People born in the Year of the Snake should try to keep things low-key, to avoid playing into a tendency for crises. People born in the Year of the Pig will not have too many problems, but they should still be cautious. People born in the Year of the Monkey should pay attention to relationships. People born in other years will find the Year of the Pig fairly neutral, as long as they exercise common sense. In general, this Year of the Pig will be a mix of good and bad events, as previous cycles complete themselves. We may be tempted to try to hold onto the good and avoid the bad. This is not unusual for human beings, but we should try to follow nature. Instead of forcing things, we should try to maintain equilibrium, and allow things to change and develop on their own. In this way, nature will work with and through us.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful new year!