

with great power, comes great responsibility



I-Ching & The World of Metaphysics

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Chinese 24 Seasonal Periods (Solar Terms) 二十四節氣

Many have confused the Lunar Chinese calendar and 24 solar terms. Ancient Chinese had long used the solar movements for agricultural activities. The traditional Chinese calendar is known as Agricultural Calendar or "Nong Li". It is based on the movement of the moon as well as the Sun. 'Tropical Year' and 'synodic month' is the basic elements of the Agricultural Calendar. A tropical year is the time forms a vernal equinox to the next, which is 365.2422 days. The time between two successive occurrences of new moon or full moon is called a synodic month, and equals 29.5306 days. Months in Agricultural Calendar start with a new moon, which occurs when the Moon and Sun move to the same longitude on the ecliptic. There are only 354.3672 days in 12 synodic months, more than 10 days shorter that a tropical year of 365.2422 days. The difference accumulates to give a lead month. There are 7 leaps months in 19 years in the Agricultural Calendar.

This Chinese 24 seasonal period is the sun movement relative to earth location that caused the climatic changes in a year and is divided by 24 sessions. Each session is roughly half a month long. The first two weeks is terms as Jia Qi "節氣" and the middle month is called the Zong Qi "中氣". These terms are associated with weather and time changes.

These 24 periods in accordance to sequential order are: Spring Solstice 立春、Spring Showers 雨水、Insects Waken 驚蟄、Vernal Equinox 春分、Bright & Clear 清明、Corn rain 穀雨、Summer Solstice 立夏、Corn Forms 小滿、Corn On Ear 芒種、Summer Solstice 夏至、Moderate Heat 小暑、Great Heat 大暑、Autumn Solstice 立秋、End of Heat 處暑、White Dew 白露、Autumnal Equinox 秋分、Cold Dew 寒露、Frost 霜降、Winter Solstice 立冬、Light Snow 小雪、Heavy Snow 大雪、Winter Solstice 冬至、Moderate Cold 小寒、Severe Cold 大寒。 This is the indicator for the climatic changes for agricultural cultivation as well as harvesting periods. Crops and produce growth phenomenon are reflected here.

The Planets

Inferior Planets (are closer to the Sun than the Earth): Mercury and Venus

Superior Planets (further away from the Sun than Earth): Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Eclipses

Solar eclipse occurs when the moon is in line between the Earth and the Sun. The moon casts a shadow on the Earth's surface and obscures some parts of the sun. The proportion of the Sun being blocked depends on the position of the observer on the Earth. When only the



moon's penumbral shadow strikes the Earth, a partial eclipse of the Sun is observed. However, if the Moon's dark umbra shadow sweeps across Earth's surface, a total eclipse of the Sun is seen. Sometimes the moon is farther away from the Earth and its umbra shadow is not long enough to reach the Earth. The Moon appears smaller than the Sun and cannot completely cover it. Instead the 'antumbral' or negative shadow reaches the Earth. If you are within this shadow, you will see an eclipse where a ring or 'annulus' of bright sunlight surrounds the Moon at the maximum phase. Those within the penumbra would observe a partial eclipse.

Lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon enters the earth's shadow. The Earth casts a long shadow behind the side facing the Sun. This shadow has two parts: the total shadow called the umbra and the partial shadow termed the penumbra. If the Moon becomes completely immersed into the umbra, a total eclipse occurs; and if only a portion of it falls into the umbra, a partial eclipse occurs. During totality, the Moon is not completely invisible. This is due to the fact that some sunlight is refracted by the Earth's atmosphere into the umbra and illuminates the Moon, making it coppery-red. Its brightness varies for different total eclipses depending on the geometry of the Moon's path through the umbra and also on the Earth's atmospheric conditions. Sometimes the Moon only enters the penumbra without touching the umbra. This is a penumbra lunar eclipse. During a penumbral lunar eclipse, only the apparent brightness of the Moon will become dimmer but the Moon will not be obscured by the Earth's shadow.

They're 5-eclipses in 2009, two of the Sun and three of the Moon: Source from the Hong Kong Observatory Almanac

January 26: Annular eclipse of the Sun (日環食)-visible to Hong Kong
Eclipses begins 1708
Maximum eclipse 1803
Sunset 1808

February 9: Penumbra eclipse of the Moon (半影月食)-visible to Hong Kong
Moon enters penumbra 2037
Middle of eclipse 2238
Moon leaves penumbra 0040 Feb 10

July 7: Penumbra eclipse of the Moon (半影月食)

July 22: Total eclipse of the Sun (日全食)-visible to Hong Kong
Eclipse begins 0815
Maximum eclipse 0926
Eclipse ends 1046

August 6: Penumbra eclipse of the Moon (半影月食)

According to the Hong Kong Observatory Almanac shows that the positions of the stars and planets seen in Hong Kong around:

1. The Saturn can be seen on the east side of the Earth

Months: middle of January (midnight), middle of February (10pm) and middle of March (pm)



Implication: Since Saturn is Earth in 5-element and East side is Wood. The Wood would destruct the Earth and causes earthquakes and unusual weather. The current spring season already heavy in Wood would provide catalyst to such catastrophic events. Mind you that this will relate to the yearly stem and branch, in this case is also earth in nature.

2. The Saturn can be seen near the center of the Earth

Months: middle of April (midnight), middle of May (10pm), middle of June (8pm)

Implication: since the central of Earth and towards the west is Metal, Saturn with Earth element would provide strengths to current situation. That is a good sign for housing recovery as well as the economy especially to financial industry. Nevertheless since end of spring still heavy in Wood the impact will not be felt immediately.

3. The Jupiter can be seen on the east side of the Earth.

Months: middle of July (midnight), middle of August (10pm) and middle of September (8pm)

Implication: For person who favorable elements are wood and fire, this few months should be good for them as such energies in command! Go east to harness your kind energy.

4. The Mars can be seen of the Northeast while Jupiter can be seen on the Southwest

Months: middle of October (midnight), middle of November (10pm), middle of December (8pm)

Implication: For those favorable elements are Metal and Water should avoid traveling to the east or northeast since the Wood energy is rather strong there.



2009 Year of Ox- Year of Yang Earth (stem and branch)

Year: 己丑

February 4th (Tiger): 丙寅

March 5th (Rabbit): 丁卯

April 4th (Dragon): 戊辰

May 5th (Snake): 己巳

June 5th (Horse): 庚午

July 7th (Goat): 辛未

August 7th (Monkey): 壬申

September 7th (Rooster): 癸酉

October 8th (Dog): 甲戌

November 7th (Boar): 乙亥

December 7th (Rat): 丙子

January 5th (Ox): 丁丑

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source: Hong Kong Observatory Almanac

