

Chinese Astrology - Zi Wei Dou Shu

The Zodiac of twelve animal signs is the superficial part of Chinese Astrology. Chinese Astrologers either use the "Four Pillars" or the "Zi Wei Dou Shu" to describe the probable path of a person's life. Chinese astrologers believe that a person's life is not pre-determined. A person has a certain degree of freedom to choose his path of life within a probable frame. This probable frame can be constructed by mathematical formulas. In this way, we can see that Chinese Astrology is far from being superstition.

In mathematics we begin with some undefined terms and axioms. These terms and axioms are well known facts that are accepted without being proved. Other terms are then defined in terms of undefined terms. Hypotheses are postulated and then proved using the axioms. These are called theorems. Mathematics has undefined terms and axioms as roots upon which the stem, branches, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds are grown. Do we have a similar structure in Chinese Astrology? Let us see.

We begin with "luck" as an undefined term. We all know what luck is, but we shall not attempt to define what it is. We all have the experience that sometimes we have bad luck and sometimes not. We also agree that some people are luckier than others. All this points to the

Axiom of Existence : There exists something called luck.

The axiom of existence is the foundation of Chinese Astrology. No one can prove that luck exists but daily lives experience tells us that it does. It is just like the existence of gravity. Everyone knows that when an apple is detached from the apple tree it falls onto the ground. In addition to the existence, Sir Isaac Newton formulated the quantitative part of the Law of Gravity. Further to the existence we also formulate the distribution of luck in a man's life.

We need not explain what good and bad luck is. It would be a good idea to quantify "luck" in the following manner. Let 0 represent a neutral situation when luck is described neither as good nor bad. Let a positive number represent good luck while a negative number bad luck. Luck is considered better when the number is larger and positive.

On one's path of life, luck is a function of time whose graph is like one of the following:



The vital question is, "Is luck random or determinable?"

The same question is, "Are there laws governing the Universe?"

If luck is random and not determinable, it will be a waste of time studying all kinds of life reading. The same is true for the Universe. If there were no Laws of Nature, there would not be the study of Physics. The Universe, though chaotic especially in the beginning when the big bang occurred, is believed to obey physical laws. In the same way, we have to believe that luck obeys certain laws of distribution. The accuracy of life reading by Chinese Astrology is sufficient evidence for luck to be determinable. Thus we establish the

Axiom of Conformity : The distribution of luck conforms to Laws of Super Nature.

Next we assume that these laws can be formulated by a function of time: Luck = $F(t)$ satisfying $F(t + t_0) = F(t) + F(t_0)$ where t_0 is the time of birth of a person, t is the present age. Then $F(t_0)$ is the luck determined by the time of birth, $F(t + t_0)$ is the present luck.

If $F(t_0)$ is a large positive number, then the person is born lucky. Even if he is sometimes unfortunate when $F(t)$ becomes a negative number, as long as the sum $F(t) + F(t_0)$ remains positive, the situation is not too bad. On the other hand, if $F(t_0)$ is a numerically large negative number, the person is born to be unlucky. Even if $F(t)$ is positive, life will not be easy for him.

Using numbers to describe the ups and downs of a person is over simplifying the complexity of life. What the above has shown is nothing but the scientific nature of life reading. What I want to emphasize is that Chinese Astrology is actually mathematically sound and rigorous. If we want to analyze the life of a person, we have to give it a complete description. We would like to know his trend of wealth and health, relationship and happiness, career and social status, etc. If we use F_1, F_2, F_3, \dots to denote different luck functions, and instead of assigning numbers to the functional values at different times of life we give a fuller description of each functional value with reference to happenings in life, the result is what we call life reading.

In Chinese Astrology we locate "stars" in twelve "palaces". The stars we employ are not the actual celestial bodies in the Universe. They are merely mathematical symbols bearing different properties. The palaces are in fact various considerations in the course of life. Mathematical formulas are established to calculate the star chart of a person from his birth date and time. The original chart gives the various functional values $F_1(0), F_2(0), F_3(0), \dots, F_{12}(0)$. As time goes by, different functional values $F_1(t), F_2(t), F_3(t), \dots, F_{12}(t)$ are evaluated. It will be too ambitious to try to explain the mechanism of Chinese Astrology in a few words. Therefore I am not going to disclose the formulas involved.

The Twelve Palaces	
Palace	Description
Life	The stars in this house determine one's character and achievement.
Parents	It tells one's relationship with his parents and superiors.
Happiness	It describes one's mental state of happiness.
Properties	It tells of one's major investments.
Career	It tells the kind of career that suits a person and the kind of achievement expected.
Friends	It describes the kind of friends and hired help one can expect.
Travel	It tells whether one is lucky leaving his home-town. It is also the house of public relations.

Health	It describes one's health condition in general.
Wealth	It describes one's financial situation in general.
Children	It reveals one's relations with his children.
Marriage	It describes one's relationship or marriage life
Brother	It tells how well one gets along with his brothers, sisters and colleagues.

The 14 Major Stars				
Emperor Star (Zi Wei)	Mercy Star (Tian Ji)	Sun (Tai Yang)	Finance Star (Wu Qu)	Lucky Star (Tian Tong)
Wicked Star (Lian Zhen)	Treasury Star (Tian Fu)	Moon (Tai Yin)	Flirting Star (Tan Lang)	Gloomy Star (Ju Men)
Minister Star (Tian Xiang)	Blessing Star (Tian Liang)	Power Star (Qi Sha)	Ruinous Star (Po Jun)	

The Other Stars		
Fortunate Stars	Harmful Stars	Auxiliary Stars
Angel 1 (Tian Kui)	Worrisome Star (Tuo Luo)	Abundance Star (Lu Cun)
Angel 2 (Tian Yue)	Troublesome Star (Qing Yang)	Pegasus (Tian Ma)
Deputy 1 (Zuo Fu)	Fiery Star (Huo Xing)	Stern Star (tian Xing)
Deputy 2 (You Bi)	Siren Star (Ling Xing)	Romance Star (Tian Yao)
Intellect Star (Wen chang)	Misfortune Star (Di Kong)	Wedding Star (Hong Luan)
Intelligence Star (Wen Qu)	Calamity Star (Di Jie)	Birth Star (Tian Xi)

Besides, some stars can transform to acquire additional properties, namely Prosperity (Hua Lu), Authority (Hua Quan), Fame (Hua Ke) and Annoyance (Hua Ji).

As examples, click to see the star chart of the :

- Late President Richard Nixon of the United States of America.
- The Fate of Hong Kong.
- Princess Diana - A Meteor that Lives In The Hearts
- Prince Charles



This article was published in Master Joseph's Yu website:

<https://www.astro-fengshui.com>

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Joseph Yu B.Sc. 余若愚 was born during the second world war in a small village in South China. He spent his childhood as a country boy and did not receive any formal education until he came to Hong Kong at the age of eleven. A lot of people suggest to him that he should create a story of learning Astrology and Feng Shui in early childhood from a monk as do many a famous Feng Shui Master. He prefers to tell the truth.

Yu studied Mathematics and Physics in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1960's. He abhorred all kinds of superstition and vowed to destroy such absurd beliefs of ignorant people. He then frequented libraries, trying to find fault with Astrology and Feng Shui from ancient books. The deeper he went into the subject, the more excited he became about the rich legacy of ancient Chinese culture.

Whether or not to become a professional astrologer and geomancer or continue in the fields of mathematics and physics, became a constant dilemma. Astrology and Feng Shui have been viewed as superstition by their skeptics. Astrologers and Feng Shui masters have been linked with fraud for centuries.

Someone wrote in his book, "If more knowledgeable men provide true Astrology and Feng Shui services, the ignorant and fake 'professionals' will vanish." Sharing the same view, Yu decided to provide useful services and correspondence courses at an affordable price.

While Joseph Yu was a mathematics teacher after his graduation, he was lucky to have as his neighbor one old Feng Shui master. This old master was very kind to disclose a lot of secrets of the five arts to him even though he was not one of the old master's apprentices.

In one Chinese New Year party at the old master's home, the master said to his disciples, "This young man, though not officially under my care, has learned more than most of you because he has a logical mind and dares to argue with me on various issues."

The old master passed away a few months later. Joseph Yu did not feel comfortable in the company of the disciples of this good master. He is grateful, but circumstances make it impossible to express his gratitude towards the master who passed on to him a lot of invaluable knowledge.