



Joseph 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.



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Nine Star Astrology

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Preface

Perhaps one of the best entertainment for ancient people was to watch the sky at night. This led to two branches of studies: astronomy and astrology.

The most noticeable stars for the ancient Chinese were the nine stars in the Great Dipper. Most people are of the opinion that there were two more stars in the group of 7 stars of the Great Dipper several thousand years ago. These nine stars were brought to a one-to-one correspondence with the numbers 1 to 9 in the magic square which is known as the Luo Shu in China.

In this book I am trying to explain how the ancient Chinese used these nine stars to study the life of people. Since the Japanese have done a lot to preserve this ancient astrology, I will also use the word Ki in place of the Chinese word Qi in this book.

Let us enjoy this simple but fascinating astrology.



Joseph Yu
August 2003

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Chapter 1

The Most Ancient Chinese Astrology

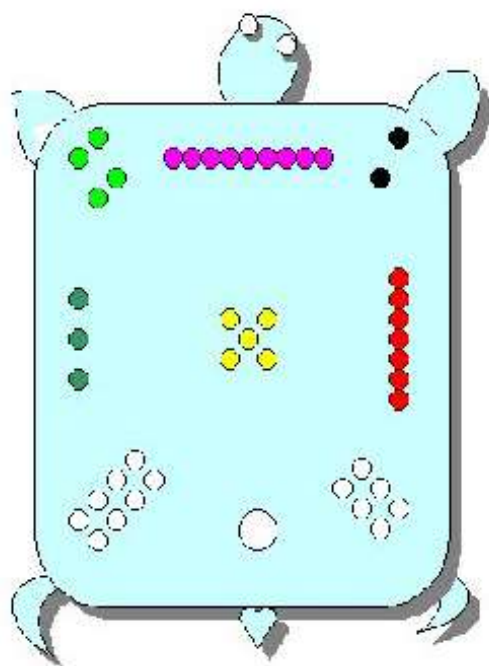
Historical Background

Today's Chinese Astrologers use either the **Zi Ping Ba Zi** 子平八字 or **Zi Wei Dou Shu** 紫微斗数 to read the life of a person. Other forms of Chinese Astrology such as **Wu Xing Shu** 五星術 (Five Star Astrology) **Qi Zheng Si Yue** 七政四餘, which were popular before the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 C.E.), were not used anymore for various reasons.

Long before other forms of astrology were used in China, the Chinese used what was known as **Jiu Gong Ming Li** 九宮命理 (Nine Palaces Destiny Analysis). It is based on the Nine Stars of the **Luo Shu** 洛書. Legend says that the Luo Shu was discovered by **Yu the Great** 大禹 when he was controlling the floods of the Yellow River. Yu was the founder of the **Xia** 夏 Dynasty (2183 B.C.E. - 1752 B.C.E.). With the discovery of the Luo Shu, Jiu Gong Ming Li was developed. However, the Chinese developed other more accurate methods of reading the destiny of a person and Jiu Gong Ming Li was abandoned. This treasure was unearthed by the Japanese and it is now known as **Kyu Sei Ki Gaku** or the **Nine Star Ki**.

The Luo Shu

Legend says that Yu the Great (about 21 st century B.C.E.) witnessed a giant turtle emerging from the Yellow River. On the back of the turtle was found an interesting diagram. This diagram consists of colorful dots.



Numbers were not invented at that time. How the diagram was recorded is not known. The use of this diagram can be traced to very ancient times. It forms the basis of Feng Shui studies. King Wen 文王, the founder of the Zhou Dynasty (1027 B.C.E. - 221 B.C.E.), was inspired by the Luo Shu to formulate the Hou Tian Ba Gua 後天八卦 known in the West as the **Later Heaven Sequence of the Eight Trigrams**.

Let us compare the Nine Palaces and the Eight Trigrams.

4	9	2			
3	5	7			
8	1	6			

Luo Shu

Ba Gua

Numbers and Trigrams are just symbols. They can represent a lot of things. They form the basis of Feng Shui and Nine Star Ki.

The Basis of the Nine Star Ki

When a baby is born, the moment he encounters the outside world is most important. Ancient people believed that a person was influenced by the Qi 氣 that was present at the instant he was born. This determines his character, his favorable and unfavorable years, months and days during his lifetime. This also determines his favorable and unfavorable directions of movement at various times. Nine Star Ki is the astrology that specializes in these areas. In a macroscopic sense, Nine Star Ki can also be used to predict major events at the global level.

Each solar year is assigned one of the nine numbers of the Luo Shu. Each solar month is assigned one of these nine numbers. Each day is also assigned one of these numbers. The three types of qi will mix and interact. When a person is born, he is subjected to these three kinds of qi. The three numbers will describe his path of life. These are called his Natal Ki Numbers.

There are $9 \times 9 \times 9 = 729$ different combinations. People in the world will be roughly divided into 729 types.

In Zi Ping Ba Zi (Four Pillars of Destiny), there are $60 \times 12 \times 60 \times 12 = 518,400$ types [Note 1]. In Zi Wei Dou Shu, there are $60 \times 12 \times 30 \times 12 = 259,200$ types [Note 2].

Obviously the other two types of Chinese Astrology are much more accurate. However, going into too much detail may lead to negligence of the big picture. In this sense, the Nine Star Ki has its value.

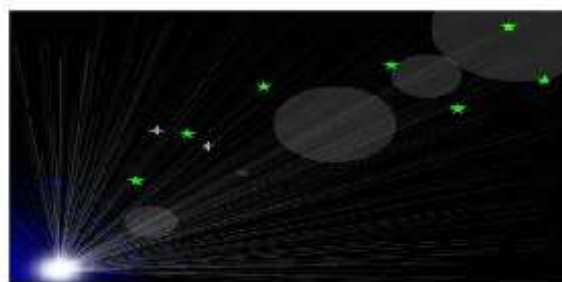
Some may argue that it is illogical that people born in the same year are subjected to the same fate. No one can deny that even people born at the exact moment should have different fates. There are just too many factors that affect the destiny of a person. However, we must not forget that the grapes in the same year and region produce the same vintage. As long as we are not harping on great details, we can advocate that people born in the same year and month should move along paths of similar gradients and curvatures.

Besides, the Nine Star Ki has a strong reference to the directional movements. It can be applied effectively in the daily, monthly and yearly basis. This can help people stay away from unnecessary danger. Directionology can help people to live a life in harmony with the qi of the Universe.

[Note 1] In the Four Pillars, the year pillar can be one of the 60 combinations of the 10 Heavenly Stems and 12 Earthly Branches. There are 12 Branches for the month and the Stem of a month is dependent on the year stem. Therefore, although there are also 60 combinations for the months, there are only 12 independent combinations. The same is true for the Hour Pillar. The stem is dependent on the stem of the Day Pillar.

[Note 2] Zi Wei Dou Shu uses the Lunar Calendar. There are 60 combinations of the Year Stem and Branch. There are 12 months in a year. 6 of the months have 30 days while the other 6 have 29 days. The total number of types should be slightly less than 259,200. The number should be $60 \times 6 \times 30 \times 12 + 60 \times 6 \times 29 \times 12 = 254,880$.

[Note 3] Although there are three Nine Star Ki numbers for each person, only the first two will be used for luck reading. We can actually calculate the Hour Nine Star Number according to the birth time of a person. However, it does not increase the accuracy of the reading; rather it hinders the visualization of the big picture.



Chapter 2

Finding Your Ki Numbers

The Year Ki Number

The solar year begins on the "Beginning of Spring" that falls on the 3rd, 4th or 5th of February. We can use the following calculation method to get the Year Ki Number.

Step 1: Add the digits of the year.

Example: For the year 2000 from February 4 to February 3, 2001,
 $2 + 0 + 0 + 0 = 2$

Step 2: Subtract this number from 11.

$11 - 2 = 9$

Step 3: Record this number as the Year Ki Number.

The Year Ki Number is 9.

Note: If the day falls before February 4, then we use the previous year.

Example: For the person born on January 10, 2000, the calculation is as follows.

$1 + 9 + 9 + 9 = 28$ (1999 is used instead of 2000)
 Since $28 > 11$, we add the digits again:
 $2 + 8 = 10$
 $11 - 10 = 1$

The Year Ki Number is 1.

It should be noted that the Year Ki Number runs in a backward sequence:

1990	1	2000	9
1991	9	2001	8
1992	8	2002	7
1993	7	2003	6
1994	6	2004	5
1995	5	2005	4
1996	4	2006	3
1997	3	2007	2
1998	2	2008	1
1999	1	2009	9

The Month Ki Number depends on the Year Ki Number. Examine the following table:

Year Ki Number	1, 4, 7	3, 6, 9	2, 5, 8
February (after 4 th /5 th)	8	5	2
March (after 5 th /6 th)	7	4	1
April (after 4 th /5 th)	6	3	9
May (after 5 th /6 th)	5	2	8
June (after 5 th /6 th)	4	1	7
July (after 6 th /7 th)	3	9	6
August (after 7 th /8 th)	2	8	5
September (after 7 th /8 th)	1	7	4
October (after 8 th /9 th)	9	6	3
November (after 7 th /8 th)	8	5	2
December (after 7 th /8 th)	7	4	1
January (after 5 th /6 th)	6	3	9

Note that the Month Ki Number also runs in a backward sequence.



The Day Ki Number

The Day Number is quite tricky. It runs in the forward sequence after the Winter Solstice until the Summer Solstice when it turns around to run in the backward sequence.

The Chinese arrange the days in 60-day cycles. The first day of such a cycle is called a Jia-Zi Day (甲子日). The Jia-Zi Day after the Winter Solstice is supposed to have the Ki Number 1. The Jia-Zi Day after the Summer Solstice is supposed to have the Ki Number 9. The Winter Solstice occurs at a precise moment of the day and therefore there are two Day Ki Numbers assigned to this day. The first number rules the time before the solstice while the second number rules the time after the solstice. The transition is quite smooth as the second number always represents the number in the opposite palace of the Luo Shu. The two numbers add up to 10. It represents a pair of opposing ki in perfect harmony.

Accompanying this book is the **Nine Star Calendar** for years 1930 to 2029.

Nine Stars Calendar

Joseph Yu

How to Read the Calendar?

Let us find the Nine Star Ki Numbers for President Bill Clinton who was born 1946 August 19.