
DESTINY & PRO-ACTIVITY

"How can we be proactive in controlling our destiny?"

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INTRODUCTION

In Chinese astrology, the fortune of a person is embedded in the wordings of the eight Chinese characters known as "Ba Zi" which means "eight words". The eight characters are paired up to form four pillars in the natal chart of a person. Each character carries with it the destiny code that holds the secret to an individual's state of health, wealth and happiness.

The reading of a person's natal chart will reveal his or her characteristics and personal traits, amongst other things. A chart reading will also give a diagnostic, prescriptive and predictive evaluation to one's life path.

The tenets of Chinese astrology are predicated on the relationship of the five elements. These elements are wood, fire, earth, metal and water and they interact with one another based on cycles of production, exhaustion and destruction;-

Cycle of Production

Wood → Fire → Earth → Metal → Water

Cycle of Exhaustion

Wood → Water → Metal → Earth → Fire

Cycle of Destruction

Wood → Earth → Water → Fire → Metal

They are symbolic representations of the cosmic energies or "Qi" that governs life on earth. A person is infused with these energies at the time of birth, whether favorably or unfavorably, depending on the timing. If the timing is favorable, he or she will have a smooth journey in life, where wealth and abundance beckons. On the contrary, if the timing is unfavorable, the person can expect a life of challenges and hardship. The interaction of these elements in the course of a person's life will also influence the luck and the well being of the person, where timing again holds the key. This is known as the luck cycle and every person will have a set of luck cycle to accompany his or her natal chart.

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The five elements that influence a person's destiny are found in the pairs of stems and branches in the natal chart. These are known as the heavenly stems and the earthly branches. Together, they are known as the Four Pillars of Destiny in Chinese astrology.

Hour of Birth	Day of Birth	Month of Birth	Year of Birth
Heavenly Stem	Heavenly Stem	Heavenly Stem	Heavenly Stem
Earthly Branch	Earthly Branch	Earthly Branch	Earthly Branch

In the reading of a person's natal chart, the five elements represent the attributes or life aspirations as follows:-

- Self
- Capability
- Wealth
- Power
- Capacity

The five elements that represent these attributes can exist favorably or unfavorably in a person's natal chart depending on its relationship with the Self element and the timing of birth.

It is from the analysis of a person's natal chart that we can determine whether he or she has these attributes in optimum balance for a life of harmony and prosperity or living in destitution as a result of an unbalanced chart.

In Chinese astrology, there are three forces that governs a person's life namely

- Destiny (1/3)
- Feng Shui (1/3)
- Human actions (1/3)

Whilst we are unable to change or alter the natal chart that we are born with, we still have control over the other two factors which makes up 2/3 of our life's influences.

How can this E-book benefit you?

It is not the objective of this E-book to dwell on the subject of Feng Shui but essentially, its goal is to encourage the individual into taking proactive measures to improve one's life based on the result of the reading of his or her natal chart.

The following is a collection of relevant articles categorized under the titles of the five attributes of Self, Capability, Wealth, Power and Capacity. It is hoped that through the reading of these articles, one would be able to learn from them in a way that is enlightening and leads one to change life for the better.

WHO ARE YOU?

Self Element
Wood
Fire
Earth
Metal
Water

The self is who you are and who you can become.

The self is either born in season or out of season...The self is either born weak or born strong...The self is the embodiment of good or evil, of nobility or notoriety, of saint or sinner, of sublime or ludicrousness...The self is endowed with characteristics that is enabling or inhibiting, constructive or destructive, superior or inferior...The self is who you are and what you are destined to become...

Can the self seek fame and fortune despite staggering odds? Can the self use the best of what is given and still make life worth living? Can the self alter the cycle of luck and steer the hand of destiny?

Self Awakening

For those of us who have jobs, family, a house, a car and money in the bank, do we take things for granted and still complain for want of more? Are we happy or feel blessed for God's gift to us in the form of our abilities to obtain these materialistic things?

Do we give a thought for those people who are struggling with financial problems, failed relationships, unemployment or poor health? Do they treat these circumstances as a blessing in disguise?

Self Awareness

We may have certain talents but does not recognize it yet until circumstances forces us to examine our strengths and weaknesses.

Julio Iglesias was the most popular Latin singer of the '70s and '80s, selling over 100 million albums around the world. Initially, he started out as a professional football player with Real Madrid, where he played as goalkeeper and showed remarkable skill as an athlete.

However, his short career as a footballer ended after an automobile accident in the mid-'60s that left him semi paralyzed for more than a year and a half. Doctors thought that the young man would never walk again. While recuperating, he spent hours listening to the radio and writing poems which reflected on his mission in life. Never did he think of becoming a singer. In time, through will power, self determination and support from his family, he began to walk again and continued to pursue his interest in the musical industry. Over the years, his new found talents in music had propelled him to become the most popular recording artist in the world. He has since sold more than 250 million albums, and has been the recipient of more than 2,600 Platinum and Gold records in his illustrious musical career, a figure no other singer has managed to achieve in the history of music.

We leverage on our strength in helping ourselves fulfill our destiny and purpose.

Self Endurance

Thomas Edison successfully created a working light bulb after having failed over 1,000 times. He had learned that success is 1% luck and 99% perspiration.

Failure teaches us to pick up the pieces and start afresh, to redirect our efforts in a different direction, and to make new set of plans. It opens up our minds to new information, knowledge and helps us see challenges as opportunities. If we are willing to try again and not give up easily, then we haven't failed, we've learned how to create different results.

Self Perspective

I am sure you have heard the saying many times - "Don't miss the forest for the trees!"

Have you even wondered whether the goal that you have worked so hard to achieve is all worth it at the end of the day? Have you ever felt that the rewards you have expected from the achievement of your goals turned out to be different from what you have expected? Does that mean you have failed?

Our failures teach us to see things in perspectives. It highlights our values, and helps us to define what is important in our lives. A man who gives priority to his family will willingly forego the opportunity to excel in his career but can certainly be a successful husband and father. A woman who chooses to be an entrepreneur and spent considerable amount of time at work will certainly be successful one day, but may have to forego success in the relationship department. We choose the way we live our lives but whether our lives turns out to be one that makes us happy ultimately depends on our values and aspirations. We can have everything we want in life but not all at the same time. Our failures can make us see our weaknesses and help us priorities the important things in life on which we can focus our time and effort and letting go of the rest.

We should accept failures as self learning lessons, seeking comfort in the knowledge that we can turn our lives around, choose a different path or explore a new idea not matter at what age or circumstances. Just remember, failure is never final!

Self Valuation

We have to learn to love ourselves first in order to build our self esteem. It would also help if we can first forgive ourselves and everyone who has purportedly done us wrong in our lives. Only then are we truly FREE to move forward and create a new destiny for ourselves.

The world we live in is a reflection of how much we value ourselves whether we are deemed to be the best salesperson, the best actor, the best writer, the best father or mother. The accolades of being the best in whatever we do not mean a thing unless we learn to appreciate what we can do and honor ourselves.

If you are waiting for others to heap praises on you in order to feel worthy, you may be disappointed as people are great at judging others, and making them feel small in order to establish controls and make people conform.

You will most likely hear comments which are insincere, crass and even hurtful and unless you have strong grounding in the form of loving parents and family, you will feel insecure and inadequate. Statements like "You're not good enough. You're not smart enough. You're not strong enough. You are too aggressive. You're too ambitious. You are too fat."

If we grow up hearing such negative comments no matter WHAT we are, WHO we are, or WHAT we do, we will grow up not valuing ourselves.

For those who seek recognition and acceptance, especially those who are constantly in the public's eyes, words and actions are being said and done as foddors to gain approval. Only very few people have developed what I call true inner confidence and true self-esteem and truly belief in themselves. Instead, most of us are guilty of following the road most traveled i.e. listen to others first, and ourselves last.

As a result, most people failed to accomplish their dreams. Of course, there are those we manage to carve out a successful life despite all the negativities and feelings of worthlessness, although deep down they do not truly feel proud for what they have accomplished.

We can all be the best of what we want to be and be genuinely proud of what we can do. No matter where we are in our lives, it is possible to turn things around and the best place to start is to value who we are, right now. The choice is up to us and not others. We can make a difference in our lives by valuing who we are and what we can become.

We can all make a commitment to start doing the things we truly enjoy and bring more happiness into our lives.

Start to enjoy some time with ourselves like taking up a hobby, learning a new skill, going for a holiday trip or just enjoying a good movie or going for a walk, just with ourselves. Shouldn't we deserve more in life since we only have one? If we do not start living our lives today and make the most of what we have, wherever we are, we probably never will and missed the boat in life's journey to happiness. Even if we start with 30 minutes day, we should take the time for ourselves.

Self-Confidence

Often, we are forced to do something out of fear. Fear is used as a tactic to inculcate the habit of constantly striving for new knowledge and skills so that we remain marketable in this rapidly changing world or be left behind. "Either we keep up with change or become irrelevant" we are told. This is such as example of selling the idea using a fear tactic.

However, things need not be done for reason of fear alone. Fear tactics are not sustainable and may be counter productive as people do not put in their full commitment towards embracing change with convincing results. Wouldn't it be better if we acquire a new skill as a way of doing something positive for ourselves with no fear factor involved? What if we did it for the sheer pleasure of something new and unknown and mastering it gave us a boost of self-confidence?

When people are in a rut or feel like they aren't accomplishing anything or are afraid to take risks in their lives, they should be encouraged to acquire a new skill. There need not be any justification for acquiring a new skill or for that matter, reasons to convince ourselves in taking such steps. They just simply have to ask themselves whether there's anything that they've ever wanted to try or learn.

At one of my seminars, a participant shared that one of the reasons he attended the seminar was just to meet new people. Apparently, he had recently lost his wife and was going through bouts of depression. He wanted to get a way from the peace and solitudes of self imposed confinement and start socializing again.

Although he initially found it to be quite challenging, he felt empowered when performing some household chores that his belated wife used to do. He was so caught up in his bereavement that he started to do things around the house with the enthusiasm of a child learning to play a new toy. Over time, he has become so adept at every day tasks such as using the washing machine, ironing the clothes, cleaning the urinals, making the beds, hanging the laundry to dry, shopping for groceries etc. He was even inspired to attend a workshop on cooking and culinary skills at a local institute. He said that he was so excited about the lesson that he went home and started to try his hand on cooking a variety of dishes for the family. Not only had he acquired a new skill, but also he felt more confident about tackling other things in his life.

We may not realize it but sometimes acquiring a new skill or endeavor can lead to new opportunities as well. At another seminar, a participant shared with us her experience. She had just been retrenched after working there for most of her life. As a way of keeping herself busy, she tried going on line and see what the internet has to offer and started spending time doing research as a way to deal with the depression and rejection she was feeling.

She discovered that there was money to be made in graphic designs which she was already doing it as a hobby in her leisure times. She is very creative by nature and seemed to have a nag in drawing and artistry. The interest which was originally taken as a way to deal with the stress of his retrenchment became a full-fledged online business that she now runs with her husband. Talk about a confidence builder!

You don't have to be creative by nature and your interest need not take the form of information technology though. The people I came across have done things like take teaching, consulting, writing, music, dance and language lessons, learning to swim, gardening, playing golf, learned a craft, etc. One common denominator that all these peoples have is the feeling that if they can do this thing, they can do anything they set their minds to do. Have you ever wondered what is it that you would really want to try or learn? What would it take for you to start today?

In the productive cycle of the five elements, "Self" is the element from which "Capability" is produced ...

WHAT IS CAPABILITY?

Self Element	Capability Element
Wood	Fire
Fire	Earth
Earth	Metal
Metal	Water
Water	Wood

The element that the self produces is capability.

A person's capability has to do with creativity, intelligence, performance, going against the norm, expressiveness, mental dexterity, thinking out of the box, exuberance, inventiveness, persuasive prowess, etc.

If the Capability Elements are favorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be creative...articulate...a maverick...

If the Capability Elements are unfavorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be uncommunicative...lack finesse...unproductive...

Do you feel restraint vocalizing your opinions most of the times? Do you face problems getting things done or not producing the type of results that you want? Do you wish that you can impress your superiors with creative ideas but somehow unable to come up with one?

Achieving Abundance

"We reap what we sow". This is the essence of pro-activity in its simplicity. It is our effort today that brings in the bounty tomorrow by a measure of productivity where time is taken as a factor.

The tiny cherry blossom sapling was only a little twig when my mother planted it years ago. As a child aged five, I was eager to carry a little bucket of water and sprinkle on anything that grew, even to the full grown, flowering lemon trees in our backyard's garden.

Anxious and excited with the anticipation for flowering cherry blossom, I would enthusiastically nourish the new sapling with both water and exuberance. However, weeks later, to my utter disappointment, there were no flowers.

To quote an ancient sage, "No great thing is made in a hurry for patience will bear the fruits of our labor. If we desire for a miracle, even heaven will not be on our side if there is no great effort on our part".

Ultimately, what goes around comes around - we get back what we give away. Today, after nurturing for my cherry blossom tree year in and year out, it brightens the spring with glorious blossoms and flowers.

All of us have the potential for beautiful blossoms in our secret garden that lies hidden inside us. Like the bountiful varieties of flowering plants, some will bloom early, some later.

For us to churn out abundant output, we need to believe in ourselves and our capabilities with the nourishment of encouragement to thrive.

We need to ask ourselves "What can we do to fully realize our potential in life given our innate characteristics and uniqueness? How can we tend our secret gardens to reach full blossoms and harvest?"

By having faith in our abilities, we can nourish our hopes and dreams and till our secret gardens for magnificent blossoms and abundant fruit. A famous quote by a wise man; "Thought is the blossom; language the bud; action the fruit behind it." It is our thoughts, words and actions that together create the wealth and abundance in our lives.

Action – The Cure for Procrastination

Where do I start? This is usually the most likely question we ask ourselves after the initial euphoria of attending self improvement seminars. We come face to face with reality and ponders - Where do I go from here?

The worst we can do is to let our spirit of enthusiasms die right after we left the seminar hall. The frustration of not knowing where to start makes us stall in our effort to change our sedentary existence for the exciting life of success that awaits us. The next thing you know, procrastination sets in and you are back to square one slouching in your couch and watching the TV!

Take proactive steps now and make the change. It is now or never!

You can start with the basics:

1. Switch off the TV

Your life won't change if you keep watching the world go by. Too much TV stifles your creativity and squander away valuable time which can be used for creative pursuits. You will be glad that you made the right decision when your life changes for the better.

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2. Go to a bookstore

Look for a good dictionary and thesaurus if you do not already have one as these books increase your vocabulary and communication prowess, both are important bridges of people. At the same time, browse and check out the Biography section to read books on successful people that inspire you. Get your hands on How To/Advice books on the subject you are interested in.

3. Read

Back home on the couch, start reading from page to page, cover to cover. Make it a point to read to learn and underline, highlight and take notes where necessary. Write down what you are learning.

4. Write down your thoughts

Grab a pencil and notebook. Choose a quiet place and start listening to your thoughts. Write anything that comes to mind. Write about the life you yearn to live, the things you want to do, the person you want to be. Describe it in absolute detail. Visualize. Feel yourself living the life you always wanted.

5. Posed questions to yourself

Ask what, how, where, when, who and most importantly why? Get to the bottom of your goals and plans. It can be a product that you want to sell, a service that you want to provide, or anything that interests you enough to start a venture.

That is the power of pro-activity!

Action – 5 steps to Success

I have condensed into 5 steps, proven methods of achieving anything we want in life. It may not be easy but like they say, no pain no gain. Here are the 5 steps to wealth and prosperity:-

1. Dream!

Our dreams are only limited by our self imposed beliefs. If we believe we can, we are most likely right. Our dreams set the stage for our accomplishments and it is important to dream big! Write down your dreams and visualize how you would feel when each of your dreams becomes reality. Your brain does not differentiate between dreams and reality and only believes what it stores. Believe in your dream, in yourself and it will come true.

2. Write down your goals

We should write down our goals in order to put things in proper perspective and organize our thoughts on paper. Written goals also act as a form of commitment and help us to plan ahead. From time to time, we should review our written goals in order to stay focused and not let ourselves be distracted by other unimportant issues. Remember, our mind does not discriminate between fact and fantasy.

3. Write down your strategies

We should also formulate our plan on a piece of paper with detailed steps on how we intend to achieve each of our goals. Try to anticipate the likely problems and obstacles that will arise and how you can deal with them. Each step of your strategies must have a timeframe for implementation. Without it, there is no urgency of action.

4. Review your strategies

Over a period of time, we should review our strategies in order to stay on course and take the appropriate measures when things are not going the way it should. If the wind is blowing against the path we are traveling, we need to adjust our sails to go with the flow. Observe what is working and what is not. Fine tune your strategies from time to time. Be alert always.

5. Do not be complacent

When you have achieved your goals, be happy and celebrate your success. Take stock of what you have achieved and make time for reflection. It will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses and enable you to make better decisions next time. We should always seek to improve ourselves and continue to learn as and when opportunities allow us to do so. Always stay motivated.

In the productive cycle of the five elements, "Capability" is the element from which "Wealth" is generated...

WHAT IS WEALTH?

Self Element	Wealth Element
Wood	Earth
Fire	Metal
Earth	Water
Metal	Wood
Water	Fire

The element that the self controls is wealth.

A person's wealth has to do with direct and indirect incomes, salary, investments, royalties, inheritance, assets, properties, etc.

If the Wealth Elements are favorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be rich...lucky with money...having a good wife...

If the Wealth Elements are unfavorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be short of money...struggling to make ends meet...difficulty to acquire wealth...

Have you ever wondered why money is always hard to come by? Do you always struggle to make ends meet and feeling frustrated financially? Are you always in debt and never seem to be able to pay off your creditors?

The Power of Money

One of the measures of wealth is money. Money can be considered an energizer if used correctly. It helps us to obtain the material things in life and makes us live comfortably. We need money to buy shelter such as a home, nourishment such as food, warm such as clothing, convenience such as transportation etc for ourselves and our family.

However, money is not an end in itself. We need a wholesome definition of success besides using money as one of the yardstick of measurements. In terms of its energizing power, money is the first, albeit least important, energizer. Granted, money can become more powerful as we decide on and plan for our other desires in life such as investment, business, cars, houses, vacations, etc. The more detailed our desires, and our plan of achievement, the stronger money becomes as an energizer.

On the other hand, the wanton pursuit of money as the "be all and end all" in all life endeavors can breed greed and selfishness. In this context, money becomes a negative energizer.

In most cases, people who obtain money easily without planning or working for it always find themselves reverting back to their original state financially, or worse. Their standard of living does not really increase, but instead, their quality of life deteriorates as a result of them getting into debts due to excessive spending on materialistic things. The important lesson to learn about money is that we need to respect money as an energizer. Money can bring positive as well as negative results depending on our definition of success in the context of standard of living against quality of life.

Whilst it is good to have money and the things that money can buy, we need to check and make sure that we haven't lost the things that money can't buy.

In short, money can only be considered a positive energizer when the amount we earn is in direct proportion to the service we render, both personally and professionally. Categorically speaking, money is good but it cannot, on its own, make us happy. Money can give us the options of looking at enhancing a life which is already blessed with good health, relationships and peace of mind, factors that contribute to our happiness and success.

If we use money wisely to bring comfort to our lives and spread cheers to others as well, then we generate positive vibes which in turn reinforced the energizing power of money for a good cause. Like the saying - "It is more blessed to give than to receive". On the other hand, if we become overly protective of the money we have and not try to serve others, then the value of money as an energizer turns negative and may even diminish the amount of money we can acquire in the future.

In conclusion, we need to define what success is. Is it solely defined in terms of the amount of money we made? We should have a clear vision of the money we can earn in the future. The amount of money we earn must be supportive of, and not conflict with, our overall definition of success. For money to be a positive energizer, it must be earned and consistent with the service we render.

Wealth is in the Mind

One of the easiest ways to create wealth is to start from home. You can start a home business part time or full time. You can use your home computer to generate cash if we are willing to put in a few hours of our spare time each day. Every day, there are more and more people logging into the Internet and the online traffic has seen exponential growth. A lot of these people are also looking for a home based business.

The dream of making money with very little capital is made possible with internet connectivity and many people are creating a full time income equal to or exceeding their current income from their jobs. Doing business online allows us the flexibility to manage our time according to our schedule.

In these days and age, information technology and communication accessibility is converging to make life more convenient and barrier free, both over time and space. It is an opportune time for us to gear ourselves in embracing the internet revolution by adopting an opportunity mindset which is the key to business success. Our mindset is now the gateway to prosperity given the power of knowledge that is enveloping all spheres of endeavors in the online world. We are only limited by our thoughts.

We have to constantly fill our mind with positive thoughts and motivate ourselves to pursue opportunities by keeping an open mind. Prosperity comes to those who are optimistic and have the self driven desire to succeed.

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Our level of success is in direct correlation with the time and effort we spend on our business. To reap the greatest return on our time, we must keep a positive outlook and maintain the belief that we will eventually succeed.

Everyday we must plant mental seeds of prosperity into our mind and nurture them. As we are what we think, we should develop the thoughts that will create the life we want to live.

The mind is a fertile soil for personal growth. It needs to be nurtured with ambition and goals. Set large goals for greater prosperity. Maintain a positive outlook and focus on your home business continually reminding yourself of your purpose – "What do you want to achieve?" What ever we focus on becomes our reality. By continually focusing on where you want to go, the mind will navigate the path to wealth and prosperity for you.

Wealth is Action-oriented

We are now living in a world of information where opportunity especially in the fields of commerce abounds. The easy accessibility to information and the desire for prosperity drives people to want more from life, especially wealth and freedom, and to seek ways to escape from the clutches of corporate entrapments, high stressed jobs, and employed status. We are constantly looking for the proverbial "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" and hope we hit the jackpot where the rewards are huge if successful. It can take us a life time to do so or a short span of a few months depending on how soon we discover the winning formula. With success, comes an independent lifestyle which we hope can erase much of the stress and depression that exists in our lives.

For those seeking this Holy Grail, superfluous amount of time and effort is spent on ideas and plans to ensure success is within easy reach.

However, we find it a strange that very few people succeeds in their grand schemes and monetary pursuits. Why is this so?

To use logical deduction, most of the times the failures are apparently due to the actual business opportunity or the plan itself. Some so called "fantastic ideas or get-rich-quick schemes" exist simply to make the proponents rich and not the followers. However, there are proven and more effective ways to build a very profitable business anytime and anywhere. Some people seem to be able to start with an idea and become instantly successful whereas others are not so lucky. Is it because the losers have poorer intelligence, lacking in experience, belonging to the wrong gender, race etc? The simple truth is what usually separates the winners from the losers is ATTITUDE and PRO-ACTIVITY - the attitude to be positive generally and the ability or will to act particularly.

Losers very often developed negative attitudes which make them see failure as an end in itself or an inability to act out of fear – "if we don't try then we can't fail". This is obviously a paradox; the very state of inaction produces the failure.

In most cases, the reason we failed is because of our ineffectiveness at executing a plan and the lack of emphasis on the importance to act. Action produces results, and from these results we can act again, thereby moving ever close to our destination.

So, if we want to achieve our goals in life and become prosperous, it will do us good to remember the time tested slogan - Just Do It!

In the productive cycle of the five elements, "Wealth" is the element from which "Power" is cultivated...

WHAT IS POWER?

Self Element	Power Element
Wood	Metal
Fire	Water
Earth	Wood
Metal	Fire
Water	Earth

The element that controls the self is power.

A person's power has to do with will power, self control, influence, status, rank, guidance, supervision, nobility, authority, charisma, discipline, compliance, behavior, respect, etc.

If the Power Elements are favorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be well groomed...respectful...obedient...

If the Power Elements are unfavorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be rebellious...unrestraint...presumptuous...

Are you assertive when it comes to making your point of view? Do you have the audacity to rebut your superiors and feel no qualms in doing so? Do you invariably feel the urge to indulge yourself and throw caution to the wind?

Working with Bosses

If we aspire to become a leader, we need to be a good follower. Period. To be a good follower, we have to start following a leader and in most cases, the leader is our boss. We can choose to work with or against our boss. However, our boss is the person holding the key to our success in our job. The rule of the game is to learn how to work with our boss knowing that they can provide us with training, assignments, opportunities, and advancement within the organization.

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Nobody is perfect and that includes our boss! They also make bad decision; get in a fowl mood, mistake prone and downright incorrigible. The key to achieving success at the workplace is to work around the idiosyncrasies of our boss.

Ask questions

We need to learn how to ask questions that will help us clarify what is expected of us. If an assignment is given to us, we need to find out the exact requirements for accomplishment it. The question to ask is "Exactly what are the requirements for this assignment?" This will help us produce the results that our boss' want.

The same applies to meeting the boss' standard of quality. Different bosses have different yardstick of measurements. Some are perfectionist and expect nothing less than top notch performance. Others can do with minor mistakes but expect more in terms of speed. Some bosses tell you one thing and seem to change their mind when results turn out differently from what they expected. It still boils down to determining the exact requirements of the assignment. However, to make it very clear, try rephrasing what the requirements are and get the boss affirmations before proceeding. This will make sure that both have the same understanding as what it is to be done.

Be accommodative

There are bosses who like to get themselves involve in your assignment and leave little rooms for you to express your creativity. Probably, they feel less confidence in your abilities or simply, wanting to extend as much helping hand in ensuring that you accomplish the assignment within the time schedule. Some bosses give you the liberty to work your way through the assignments and only participate in making decision. Some bosses want to make all the decisions, especially when the worker is new and unknown whereas there are those who expect you to make all the decisions yourself.

Whatever styles of management that comes with different bosses, we need to learn how to accommodate them. As far as it is within our power, we should make as much decisions ourselves and only consult our bosses if the decisions are not ours to make. However, we should always keep our bosses informed of the work in progress with regular updates. When in need of guidance, we should approach the boss at an opportune moment. Respect their time and they will appreciate your considerate gesture. Before you approach the boss with a problem, try offering possible solutions for your boss to consider. You will be seen as being pro-active and a valued addition to the team.

Get Feedback

We should encourage our bosses to give us feedback on our performances. Due to sensitivities, some bosses do not feel comfortable in providing feedback. In order for us to learn and progress, we need to know where we are, our strengths and weaknesses. They would know how we could have done better to improve ourselves.

Politics at work

Politics are endemic in all organizations to various degrees. How do we extricate ourselves from the mud slinging and back stabbing inherent within most organizations and come out unscathed? The trick is in knowing what type of person is our boss and how he or she plays the political game. At the managerial level, playing politics is not a choice but a requirement for survival. Although lower rung workers are not generally involved in office politics, you can gain political mileage by helping your boss play the game. You do this by making your boss look good.

One cardinal rule is never disagree with or confront your boss in public. The same goes with mistakes they have made. Some bosses try to blame the mistakes on you. The best you can do is to pretend you weren't listening or just shrug it off. Bosses generally do not want to lose "face" or their credibility.

In fact, give your boss the credit if you have successfully accomplished something which has high visibility in the organization. Make them look good. Be sure to remind your boss of your career goals. That's another rule of the politics game - you take care of me and I'll take care of you.

When it comes to working with people, we need to go with the flow just like water taking its shape according to the terrain; we should be flexible and know the intricacies of the workplace and more importantly, the idiosyncrasies of our boss.

Dealing with Negative Influences

The world is getting smaller. How fast and easy are news and information being disseminated around the world through the internet? Exponentially fast and explosively wide! The downside is that information can corrupt or deprave the minds and make us see things in various shades of gloom. Watching the news can be hazardous to our health.

The fact of the matter is the internet or for that matter, the mass media tends to infiltrate our homes with unwelcome news of terrorism, kidnapping, murder, accidents, or calamities. It is a case of having an overload of negative information which has profound influence on our psyche. It makes us feel less secure, fearful, anxious and generally apprehensive of our fellow men. Imagine the uncomfortable feeling of becoming a victim someday. This will have a negative effect on our outlook in life.

To borrow a phrase, we are affected by our surroundings, for better or for worse. How can we feel free and empowered when we are constantly bombarded with distressing news about crimes and the evil that man do? Or the sad realizations that we are not getting any smarter or wiser despite the advancement of science and technology?

Can we reach out to the recesses of our mental faculty and tap the hidden power of our mind to rejuvenate our thinking? Even though we are unable to change the environment, but we can certainly control our mind. This is where mental activation through visualization comes into play. We can use our imagination to go far and wide and connect with make-believe events or past experiences that reinforces the positive side of things. A child can summon the imagery of play such as fairy tales, friends, toys and the like with enthusiasm. We can do the same and let our unconscious thoughts transform the images into their physical self.

If we let ourselves be influenced by the media and the naysayer, without consciously taking stock of our mental conditioning, the impact on our psychological well being will make us a pessimist. If the media can indirectly influence us just by reporting what's happening in our society, imagine what impact everyday people have on us. These are the people we interact with everyday and their viewpoints of what is right and what is wrong can exert a negative influence on us.

When we grow up in a negative environment, we tend to acquire the traits and characteristics of the people around us. Most criminals are a result of negative conditioning, abuse and mistreated by their families over the years as they were brought up.

Who we cohabit with can have a profound influence on us, whether positively or negatively. If we join in the company of crooks, there is a high likelihood of us becoming them ourselves.

Therefore, we should be careful of whom we choose as our friends. We can still be amiable and remain courteous in the company of new acquaintances but remain steadfast in our conviction and believe in order to stem out negative influences. It takes firm resolute and commitment in our value system to do so. If we can help it, we should mingle with people who share the same principles and values like we do as a mean of positive reinforcement. In this way, we can lend support to one another through mutual encouragement and affirmations.

We have the power to condition our mind to accept what we want from life as long as we constantly feed it with positive thoughts.

Building Rapport

If there is one simple way of being more influential with people is to remember a small detail of a personal nature that concern someone you have met. What it takes is the understanding of a few human motivations and taboos.

Have you ever been amazed that someone remembered some minute aspect of your life such as your birthday or your favorite dish or your paranoia with certain animal that you thought insignificant? You will be pleasantly surprised that not only did they remember, but they gained your admiration by asking you about it! I am sure that made you feel special. You would instantly take a liking to the person, flattered by his or her interest in you. If only we truly listen and remember the small little details about people we meet, we are on our way to building closer rapport with the people that matters to us and reap the benefit of networking in its simplest form.

The trick is to listen carefully to the casual conversation in everyday communication with people in your circle of contacts. Did they nonchalantly mention about their favorite hobbies, holiday destinations, movie stars, sports team, etc? Or the number of children they have, the schools they attended, their business endeavors, etc? If so, make it a point to remember the context, date and place and write down the information before you forget. This information might come handy some day!

For instance, in a casual conversation with a contact that you have recently get to know, he mentioned that he will be spending the coming weekend on a fishing trip. In your next meeting with him, you can ask him about the outcome of his fishing excursion and watch how enthusiastically he talks about it. He will have set a good foundation for building on your network of support. In future, if you need his help, he will most likely be emboldened to you.

As you can see, a simple gesture of remembering the personal dates, event, particulars etc can exert a positive influence in your relationship with people. Just remember to jot them down and use this information when you next contact a friend, business contact or acquaintance. You will be amazed at the results!

In the productive cycle of the five elements, "Power" is the element from which "Capacity" is harvested...

WHAT IS CAPACITY?

Self Element	Capacity Element
Wood	Water
Fire	Wood
Earth	Fire
Metal	Earth
Water	Metal

The element that gives support to self is capacity.

Destiny & Pro-activity - "How can we be proactive in controlling our destiny?"

A person's capacity has to do with wisdom, thoughts, knowledge, intelligence, learning, analytical ability, family ties, support from authority figures, favors, assistance, perceptiveness, intuition, etc.

If the Capacity Elements are favorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be wise...knowledge driven...good support from family...

If the Capacity Elements are unfavorable in the destiny's chart, the person tends to be lazy...gullible...mentally slow...

Are you finding it hard to get the support you need especially when you need it most from you family, friends, colleagues or superiors? Do you constantly struggle to pick up new knowledge, learn new skills or simply adapt to change? Have you always got yourself cajoled into doing something for someone against your better judgment?

Find Your Passion

Is there anything you truly want out of life? Are you prepared to do whatever it takes to get it? If the answer is in the affirmative, then your battle is 50% won. For most of us, we go through life not knowing our true motivation or what we truly are capable of. We have not really been inside ourselves to search for answers that lie hidden deep within our alter ego.

There are many self motivating books, products, and services available in the market that can teach us the strategies and tactics of making and achieving our goals. However, none of these books will make any significant impact on us if we do not know what we truly want. Not understanding exactly what we want and why we want it is one of the main reasons why so many people fail in their pursuit of happiness and success.

By knowing what we truly want, we can then invoke the Law of Affinity to make it come true. The basic premise of the Law of Affinity is that we focus our thoughts and feelings on our desire and it will come into our lives. Our desire can be tangible things like money, house or car and intangible form such as health, relationship, peace of mind etc. If our desire is strong enough and we are clear on why we want it, we will find the strength and the means to make it come true. On the contrary, if we are vague or unsure of the thing we want, then our motivation will be minimal, as will the results of our efforts to attain the objects of our desire. This is the efficacy of the Law of Affinity.

There is another side to this principle of affinity that we can use to create powerful "why" reasons for having the things we truly want. Instead of using the power of thoughts and visualization on how great it would be to have car of our dream or the love of our life, we can think about what it is like to NOT have those things. This is like using reverse psychology of sort in order to empower ourselves to realize why we want those things to begin with – we can consider what it is like to NOT have them.

If you currently have a run down car which has seen better days and constantly breaks down, would you feel ashamed to be seen out in public driving it? If you live in a crummy old house with roof that leaks whenever it rains, would you feel embarrassed to have guests in your home? If you have debts accumulating up to your nose, would you find life a constant struggle to make ends meet?

It is obvious that you will react with bewilderment at these questions and the thoughts of continuing to exist in such circumstance indefinitely will drive you crazy. Therefore, even though the Law of Affinity teaches us to focus on the positive aspects of actually having the things that we truly want, we can also use reverse engineering by considering how we would feel if we were going to have to continue to be unhappy by NOT having the objects of our dream. Consider how you would feel if you continue to be stuck with your 4-wheel junk or live in your dilapidated house that you called home or being stressed by the daily haunt of debt collectors – instead of a brand new sports car or a luxurious mansion with landscaped garden or enough money in the bank for a life of fun and merriment?

Both the above techniques apply the Law of Affinity in opposite modes but achieve the same objective of motivating you into going after the things you truly want either through positive affirmation or shocking realization. Once you are able to differentiate between the "what" and the "why" of your desire, you are on your way to utilizing the Law of Affinity to fulfill your desire in life. When you truly understand what you want and why you want it, you will let your mind to focus on it, believe that you will have it, and it will come to you.

You Are What You Think

Our thoughts can make us or break us! This is one reason alone why we should control our thoughts and make it our ally and not our enemy.

No matter how wealthy or prosperous we are, we will not be happy as long as we are not in control of our thoughts. People may appear to have a wonderful life such as a loving family, a beautiful home, a satisfying career but if they are filled with negative thoughts, they will not be able to fully enjoy what life has to offer. Instead, they may focus their thoughts on what they do not have or lacking compared to their peers.

On the other hand, there are people who has considerably less, work through the grind to make a living, drive a modest car, lives in a humble home and yet find peace and happiness in their daily lives and appreciates what life has to offer.

No matter what the circumstances, we can choose our thoughts and how we response to any given situation be it positive or negative. The choice is up to us and we should use our thoughts in a way that energize us such as creative thinking, meditation, visualization etc. Negative thoughts make us weak and sap our energies such as thoughts arising out of hatred, anger, jealousy, envy etc.

Whenever we find ourselves indulging in negative thoughts, we should consciously take cognizance of the situation and put a stop to it. Otherwise, it will become habitual overtime and we will find it difficult to banish them even if we want to. Our mind will then be a fertile place for negativities to grow and fester. Studies have shown that 90 percent of what we think about is habitual. In order to rid ourselves of negative thoughts, we should strive to create new thoughts to replace the negative ones each time it appears. It will not be easy but it can be done.

For instance, if you think that doing house chores is tiresome, be thankful that you have a home. If you think that you are too ugly, be glad that you are healthy. If you think that a married life is restrictive, be thankful that you have a loving family.

The next time you are faced with a negative thought, you should make an effort to convert it into something positive and learn to see things from a different angle. In time, you will develop new thinking habits that will enable you to live your life more positively and happier.

Your Will Power to Success

You may have heard of the maxim "If you have the will, you will find the way". This truism is one of the universal drivers of human motivation that is directly related to our success in life. Our will power can be the only factor that stands between our success and failure.

There are people who have the will power to accomplish Herculean task by sheer will power and there are those who can find various excuses to carry out a simple chore for lack of it. In most cases, people do not fail because of lack of knowledge, lack of experience or lack of ideas but simply because they lack will power to carry them through when the odds are stacked against them. History is filled with the testaments of people who had created impossible dream and people who missed the chance of a lifetime due to their failure to harness the power of their own will.

We can be very well educated, blessed with a strong physique, brimming with ideas but if we are short of will power, our success will be limited. In any sporting game, an athletic will not only trained rigorously on his or her physical stamina, but will also mentally program the inner resource of the mind to outrun, outlast and outdo the competitors in a marathon race. Just as we need physical exercise to strengthen our muscles, the mind must also be trained with the proper skills to win in life.

We can will ourselves into doing anything that matters to us if we persistently hold on to our determination to succeed and making it habitual. It is that simple. The process of obtaining this self-mastery of our mind's powers is a gradual one. It involves determination and the daily task of making it a habit. Once we have learned how to harness this inner resource of our mind, we are on our way to accomplish the things we want in life. Persistency and determination is the key!

Conclusion

The five elements in a person's natal chart manifest as the five attributes in a person's life, whether these attributes are enabling or inhibiting, all depends on the timing of our birth and the actions that we choose to take. If destiny bestows upon us a silver platter, we decorate it with fine cutlery of gold. If life serves us a lemon, we make lemonade from it. In other words, we make the best of what we have. Granted, the natal chart represents our innate Qi which is infused in us at birth. However, the journey of our lives can take a favorable course if we are proactive in steering the wheel of destiny in the following order – Self produces Capability, Capability generates Wealth, Wealth cultivates Power and Power harvests Capacity which in turn strengthens Self in our cycle of luck.

As can be seen from the above articles, we have a role to play in the game of destiny and by playing a proactive role we can make our lives happier and more prosperous than what destiny has in store for us. Pro-activity is the key!

For more free information and consultation on the Chinese Four Pillars of Destiny, please visit our website <http://www.proactive-qi.com>.