

Year of the Dynamic FIRE MONKEY:

An Astrological Map of 2016

by Gaela Morrison

February 8, 2016 launches the year of the Fire Monkey. The second New Moon after the Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year in Asian Cosmology. Losar, the Tibetan New Year falls on February 9th.

We are now in the time of what the Buddhists refer to as the Dön Season (January 29 – Feb 7th), where obstacles, emotional upheavals and challenges can show up en masse from the past year to be released. Seeing them as our spiritual allies, we can clear our path for a bright start in the New Year. Purifying our environments both physically and energetically during this time is hugely beneficial.

Prepare for a huge shift in energies from the past year as the Yang Fire Monkey will absolutely shake things up, especially following the past year of the gentle, steady, and peace loving Yin Wood Sheep. The freedom loving flamboyant Fire Monkey is brilliant, innovative and unpredictable, and is well known as the mischievous trickster. Monkey correlates most closely to the sign of Leo in Western Astrology.

"I entertain

I am the seasoned traveler

Of the Labyrinth.

The genius of alacrity,

Wizard of the impossible;

My brilliance is yet unmatched

In its originality.

My heart's filled with potent magic

That could cast a hundred spells.

I am put together

For mine own pleasure.

I Am the Monkey!"

The quintessential Fire Monkey, **Hanuman**, deity of unlimited power, undying devotion, magic, intelligence, and bravado. (right)



To understand the fundamental nature of Fire Monkey, it's helpful to look at the *elements* that make up his character. The *five elements, or spirits*, are the alchemical forces of nature in constant process of changing relationship with one another. In 2016, the element of **Yang Fire** combines with the **Yang Metal** of the Monkey. Yang is the masculine principle, extroverted and action oriented. Double Yang makes for a high frequency, lively, action packed year!

Spirit OF FIRE is the most Yang, expansive and transformational of all the elements, and is the biggest piece of the pie in the chart of 2016. The last 2 years being Wood, Fire is the *full* expression of Wood's vision. Passionate, expressive, spontaneous, and both creative and destructive - Fire is aligned with the Power of the SUN, bestowing radiance, optimism, warmth, inspiration, and great JOY.

The higher expression of Fire energy promises tremendous potential: Fire signifies spiritual transformation, divine insight, illumination, compassion and love, luminous vitality, and Magic! It corresponds to the Heart, and connecting with the fiery spark of conscious awareness. The symbolism is: *'the light of the cosmos extending through us and manifesting our actions on Earth.'*

Spirit of METAL is refined, focused, success oriented, sharp intelligence and wit, self-reliant, and a leader. With clarity, confidence, creativity, perseverance and resiliency, Metal represents embodied knowing and wisdom, a keen sense of justice, and a natural intuitive sense. On the challenging side, Metal can be arrogant, rigid, opinionated, stubborn, and critical. The image of *Yang Metal* is cutting through obstacles with the sword of truth, the sword as a deadly weapon, or the skill and precision of a surgeon's knife.

Element Alchemy: Metal with Fire is volatile territory, forming a clashing relationship in the destructive cycle. A harsh combination that signifies chaos, rebellion, impulsiveness, explosiveness and aggression, will likely make for a turbulent year. Expect things to become even more polarized, with stronger tensions and duality and extremism. But read on, there's really good news too. These are general tendencies, and while its beneficial to be conscious of these behaviors in the world around us, its essential be aware and take responsibility for our own thoughts, behaviors and actions.

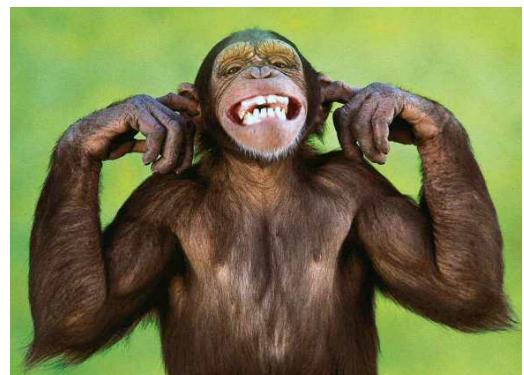
Enter the Monkey: So what's in store for us this year? Unpredictability! In a nutshell, get ready for fast and furious change, a year where **anything can happen**, and anything is possible. Its time to leave your old story behind and update it with a new story that grounds your future path for the coming years. Nothing should be taken for granted. Nothing. Think outside the box and dare to dream big!

Personally/Relationships: Monkey See – Monkey DO:

Fire Monkey brings **potent magic**, and the energy for manifesting our deepest nature.

This is year of **self-power**. It's imperative to rely on our own inner authority and inner strength, while taking proactive steps in unabashedly expressing our uniqueness in the world. It's time to fully show up in all our glory, to break free of old patterns and beliefs and follow our hearts desire. It's necessary to release any shame, regrets or self-deprecation to make the best use of the energies this year, as it offers opportunities galore to take quantum leaps and create miracles.

The exuberant Fire Monkey does his own thing, in his own way. A confident risk taker, a natural leader, and an ingenious inventor, Monkey is a brilliant problem solver, and is fearlessly expressive. This year, be audacious! Prepare to be more visible and recognized – the attractive and charming Monkey is a performer, and *loves* to be in the limelight at center stage. Watch for self-centeredness and narcissism as a negative expression.



Communication is enhanced, and Fire is connected with the power of words, so careful how you use them. Monkey is a social creature, the master of 'snappy patter' and fun, and wildly entertaining, so upping your game in the social arena may be in order. An emphasis on playfulness and humor, will call for us to amp up our sense of humor for a big fat dose of comic relief. Thank goodness. Relationships and affairs of the heart may literally out of the blue show up, or existing relationships unexpectedly break apart.

Monkey has endless brilliant ideas and plenty of energy to start new projects. The problem is he often gets distracted and impulsively swings to the next branch to a seemingly better-looking opportunity. If plans

suddenly go awry, carefully reevaluate and clarify your strategy, get back on track or let it go, and keep moving forward, and don't look back. With the destruction and dismantling of the old structures, comes great transformation. Don't be surprised if new unconventional solutions are found quickly, particularly to old problems. Versatile and clever Monkey is a champ at improvising, changing course quickly and navigating a new strategy. Best to adopt this approach.

Going Bananas. The downside to an over abundance of Fire mixed with Monkey's mischievous and hyperactive personality can create emotional intensity and promote feeling scattered, anxiety ridden, frustrated and out of control. Flare-ups of explosive anger, overreaction, erratic and impulsive actions, aggressiveness and recklessness may surface in personal relationships, business and global arenas. This can create a feeling of *instability*, to say the least. This lightening fast pace requires resting when needed, then acting when ready. **Grounding** is critical so do what you know to ground often – bare feet on the earth and quality time connecting in nature will help enormously.

Monkey Business

Fire Monkey inspires great things - like life changing inventions and innovative ideas. The transformational Fire energy enhances the ability to make quick decisions and offers strength of spirit. Monkey's courage, determination and masterful leadership ability makes this a great year for taking calculated risks in entrepreneurship and starting new ventures, but only move forward with clarity. Focus, move fast, and stay devoted to your plan. You Snooze, You Lose. The more daringly original the plan, the better chance it has of succeeding. Manifesting big visions has significant potential in this year!



A major theme is **Dominance**, which, on the up side, can support great skills for leadership potential and self-power. On the not so up side, the mercurial Fire Monkey is fiercely competitive, a ruthless opportunist, and *loves* rivalry and challenge. His drive for success and achievement can go both ways, which then flips dominance into intense bossiness, conflicts and power plays. When taken to extremes, Monkey's mischievous nature may slide into deceit, conspiracy, scams and sneaky schemes. Stay alert for aggressive actions of others having a 'must-win-at-any-cost-mind-set' trying to steal your thunder. Read the fine print! . Jealousy is the shadow emotion that may rear its ugly green head, motivated by these unseemly behaviors. A good way to work with this personally is to spin the jealous feeling around to feel authentic joy and happiness for that person instead of wanting to grasp at what is perceived they have. The good news is that the truth of Fire will illuminate and openly reveal many dishonesties and deceptions.

Like everything else this year that's fluxuating and unpredictable, money flow can be very erratic. Fortunes, finances, and luck can turn either way in the blink of an eye. This can feel really upsetting and unstable, undermining our basic sense of trust. The antidote is to be flexible and openhearted and to TRUST the bigger picture amidst all the uncertainty, and trust that the changes are for the highest good.

Universal: Its all about change and transformation. The way change manifests in the world will vary greatly. Chances are that interest in spirituality will grow; we'll see more open-minded and openhearted attitudes, with more tolerance of differences. It's a wonderful year to travel, particularly for pleasure, adventure and fun. We should see a lot of growth in education, arts, and particularly entertainment. On the other hand, probably more invasions, anarchy, rebellions, explosions, etc. as power and dominance is played out in a less appealing fashion. Dramatic intense storms and weather patterns no doubt will continue as usual. The USA was born in the Year of the Fire Monkey on July 4, 1776, so more Monkey shenanigans may show up on our home turf and in the polarized political scene.

Feng Shui Bagua chart of 2016: the Yin Earth trigram in the center dominates the year, indicating illness and disease as the central theme. We could see things like pandemic flu or the Zika virus we are seeing now. This year, health and self-care is vital to give attention to. Yin Earth relates to Mother Earth, Gaia, and the Enlightened Feminine, creating a strong polarity with and perhaps even softening the plethora of yang energies in the chart. One could only hope. In **numerology**, 2016 is a nine year; Monkey is the 9th sign of the zodiac. Nine is an auspicious number in Feng Shui, and also supports completion of what is no longer useful.

Monkey Mind + Monkey Magic

In Buddhism, monkey mind refers to that pesky incessant thought looping of racing disjointed thoughts. It will likely amp up this year. This is not the year to be a creature of (bad) habits, and if a sincere effort is not made to break and replace with good habits, Monkey may just come kick our ass. To make good use of the opportunities of this very high frequency year, I highly recommend committing to some form of consistent meditation, tai chi, qi gong or other contemplative practice. It helps to bridge the physical body with the spiritual body. Anything that gives you a higher perspective and connects you with your heart essence and true nature, **cultivates compassion**, and helps to balance and transform overwhelming energies will serve you very well. The Fire Monkey year has demonstrated to be a very powerfully transformative and auspicious year in the Buddhist tradition.

Tips for navigating the year:

Health Care. Move your body! Instigate habits of regular physical activity; it will burn off excess stress and align your chi with the fast action of the year. Too much brilliant fire has a tendency to burn us out or get out of control. Stop, rest when overwhelmed. *Then* go get after it! Ground. Quality time in nature is paramount!

Water is the primary healing resource in the chart. When feeling frustrated or exhausted, go for water – whether in nature, in our home, in or on our body, as it will support healing and flexibility, temper big fire energy and cool things down. It will assist in aligning with a much-needed ‘go with the flow’ attitude. Creating balance in your home and other environments preferably early in the year is fundamental.

**How we handle these invigorating and mercurial energies is up to us:
distraction, stubbornness and self centered ...or ... magic and transformation. You choose.**

Here’s to all of us manifesting the magic of our hearts desire!

May you all have a beautifully transformative and entertaining year of the beloved Fire Monkey.

Blessings and Love,

Gaela

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