

Twelve Chinese Animals

Rat

Years: 1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020, 2032, 2044, 2056, 2068, 2080

Rat is Yin and First Sign of the Chinese Horoscope.

Positive Traits: Intellectual, Charisma, Thrift, Appeal, Skill, Sociability, Influence

Short Comings: Meddling, Guile, Acquisitiveness, Thirty, Verbosity, Nervous, Powerful

The popular notion about Rats is anything but positive. They're seen only as dirty, thieving, disease carriers. When we consider the natural inclinations of the Rat out in the world we must set aside our biases that name the rodent an "enemy" of humankind. Rats take care of their own families and are tireless and tenacious when it comes for caring for their young. Here's an example of an elevated Rat position in history: when we see statues of the Indian elephant god Ganesh its not unusual to see a Rat in attendance. Rats are seen



as special because they are bound to be reincarnated as Hindi holy people. This is certainly a different viewpoint than that commonly held which presents Rats only as disease carrying granary thieves. Masters of chit-chat-ananda, they will talk your ear off. The positive side is that they are great communicators. Plato and Tolstoy are Rats. The wonderful creators Haydn, Mozart and Tchaikovsky are also musical members of the "Rat pack". Rats are ambitious and smart and very family oriented. They make terrific friends and are a veritable force of nature when it comes to providing for the family and tribal companions. They are busy, busy, busy. The story goes that Buddha himself once summoned all of the animal kingdom to a super important get-together. This was a very big deal at the time: after all this is the Buddha calling on line one and there were a lot of animals on planet earth. Only twelve of the uncountable creatures showed up and the first among the many who were called. Why friend Rat, naturally. Rat wants to get ahead in the world and recognizes the value of powerful associations.

The Buddha understood the positive nature of Rat and so assigned the smallest of the zodiac beasts the head of the calendar, the first year of the Chinese astrological configuration. Kenneth Grahame's famous story "Wind in the Willows" features the character Ratty who is a warm and loyal friend. He demonstrates those characteristics that shine like the warmth of the sun on his companions. Rat is a natural leader and is not above using whatever tactics are necessary to achieve a goal. Rat gets along best with Dragon, Monkey, and Buffalo. Like the Buffalo Rat is a deep thinker. Further, Rats will do their best to get along with all if it will support their goals. Rats are happiest when they are taking care of business, when they are doing what needs to be done to reach what they want and what will serve their communities of family and friends. Rat people, contemplate the many virtues of Rats. Use the Inner Smile and Six Healing Sounds to transform the negative qualities that the Universe has bestowed into positive Rat energy. Rats go forth and rule.