



House of Light & Harmony

Timely Tips

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The only journey is the journey within.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Know thyself means this, that you get acquainted with what you know,
and what you can do.

Menander

If we do not plant knowledge when young, it will give us no shade
when we are old.

Lord Chesterfield

If you have an hour, will you not improve that hour, instead of idling it
away?

Lord Chesterfield

Follow your honest convictions, and stay strong.

William Thackeray

According to the Chinese, you can learn to be more in tune and in the flow of universal Sheng Qi and your personal Yuan Qi. This is done by relaxation, meditation, being peaceful, exercise, knowledge and through Feng Shui in your home, office and garden. Through these means, you can create and surround yourself, family, plants and pets with positive energies that attract Good Fortune.

That's what the Chinese have been doing for the last 3,000 years and continue to do today.

Chinese people believe they can attract Good Fortune and avert misfortune by speaking "lucky" words and surrounding themselves with "lucky" objects. This alludes to the fact that a positive attitude is paramount.

Auspicious Chinese symbols are found everywhere - on arts, crafts, architecture, household objects, and are part of celebrations and special occasions. Good Fortune is central to all aspects of Chinese life and culture.

Five types of Good Fortune are most sought after by the Chinese - *Good Luck, Prosperity, Longevity, Happiness and Wealth.*

This month's ten TIMELY TIPS outline the auspicious objects, plants and animals that represent each of the five types of Good Fortune and are now used in most cultures globally by Feng Shui specialists.

TIP # 1 GOOD LUCK SYMBOL "fu"



Chinese Good Luck Symbol in oracle bone carvings, the Chinese character *fu* looks like two hands placing a jar of wine onto an altar.

The hands are offering wine to the Gods in the hope of obtaining blessing. Hence the meaning "blessing." The Chinese character *fu* can be used to mean "Happiness", "Good Fortune" or "Luck" in general.

As Lao-Tze says in The Way (Dao De Jing):

"Good fortune lies within bad,
Bad luck lurks within good."

TIP #2 OTHER GOOD LUCK "fu" SYMBOLS

God of Luck

Scepter (ru2 yi4)

Dragon

Door Gods (men2 shen2)

Vase (ping2)

Cloud (yun2)

Buddha's Hand (fo2 shou3)

Oyster (hao2)

Chinese Bat

Spring Couplet (chun1 lian2)

TIP # 3 PROSPERITY SYMBOL “lu”



lu, the Chinese symbol for prosperity, is all about *attaining High Status, High Position, and Good Income.*

Anyone who has Chinese friends or who has lived in China knows that Chinese parents place tremendous emphasis on their child’s education.

Such intense parental pressure on their children’s studies has roots in ancient times.

Back then a scholar who studies hard and passes the imperial examinations becomes a high-ranking official.

He brings great honour to himself and his family. His position guarantees an affluent and comfortable life.

The higher one’s titles the higher the pay and the social status.

Typical *lu* aspirations in China today are for high positions in government, or managerial positions in large foreign multinational companies or Chinese companies.

TIP #4 OTHER PROSPERITY “lu” SYMBOLS

The Deer -- the mythical deer is said to live over a thousand years, so it is also a symbol of longevity.

The God of Prosperity

A picture of a Carp Leaping over a Dragon's Gate

The Number Six

The Peony

Three Ingots (yuan2 bao3)

Sticky Rice Cake (nian2 gao1)

The Rooster

The Monkey

TIP #5 LONGEVITY SYMBOL "shou"



shou is about having good health and living a long life.

The Chinese longevity symbol is the most revered among the five good fortune symbols.

This is a picture of the Chinese character *shou* titled "Eight Immortals Congratulating the Birthday of the Elderly." The Eight Immortals symbolize Eternal Life.



Chinese folks wish their Elders on their birthdays

"(Enjoy) Good fortune as wide as the Eastern Sea,
and Life as long as the Southern Mountain."

Another famous longevity saying that's a favorite
and often presented and displayed on calligraphy scrolls is

"wan4 shou4 wu2 jiang1"

Meaning...

"A life of thousand years without end"

Such is the esteemed value of *shou* in China that most homes
display this Chinese longevity symbol. Now many homes
worldwide display this *shou* symbol.

The *shou* of family members are enhanced through landscape
paintings and calligraphy posters or scrolls hung on walls or a
statue of the God of Longevity.

TIP #6 OTHER LONGEVITY "shou" SYMBOLS

God of Longevity (shou4 xing1)

Pine tree (song1 shu4)

Bamboo (zhu2)

Cypress (bai3)

Crane (he4)

Tortoise (gui1)

Peach (tao2)

Moon Goddess (chang2 er2)

Eight immortals (ba1 xian1)

Queen Mother of the West (xi1 wang4 mu3)

Reishi mushroom (Ling2 Zhi1)

Chrysanthemum (ju2)

Longevity Noodles (chang2 shou4 mian4)

The Number Nine (jiu3)

TIP #7 HAPPINESS SYMBOL "xi"



Not "one happiness" but "double happiness"; that's the Chinese happiness symbol *xi*.

Look at these oracle bone drawings which show the original *xi* character.

It looks like a drum on a square frame. The dots on both sides stand for the sound produced, signaling the beating of a drum on an occasion of celebration.

xi means "celebration" or "happy", "joyous" and "to like."

What more joyous or important occasion for celebration than a Chinese wedding?

The Chinese double happiness symbol is synonymous with marriage.

Red paper cuts of *xi* are pasted on doors and walls of Chinese weddings and in the bridal chamber.

Homes across the globe are adorned with the Double Happiness symbol, particularly in bedrooms.

TIP #8 OTHER HAPPINESS “xi” SYMBOLS

Mandarin Ducks (yuan1 yang)

Phoenix (feng4 huang2)

Qi Lin - an auspicious mythical creature

Carp

Spider (xi3 zi)

Firecrackers

Lotus

Date

Chestnut

Peanut

Melon and Seeds

Pomegranate

Red Eggs

Four Happiness Boys

TIP #9 WEALTH SYMBOL "cai"



Get rich and accumulate material things -- that's what the Chinese wealth symbol *cai* means.

cai comes from a thriving business, trade or good harvest.

The Chinese view *cai* as necessary for happiness.

Chinese business people surround themselves with objects that are symbols of wealth. They hope these auspicious objects will "help" their businesses run smoothly and make good profits.



The Chinese wealth symbol is well represented by gold fish.

jing1 yu2 "gold fish" is the ultimate symbol of wealth and abundance, as *jing* literally means "gold" and *yu* sounds like abundance.

As such, business people love to place a bowl of gold fish in their offices or homes as a wealth symbol.

This is a picture of a child holding an oversized gold fish and a lotus leaf. It's a common Chinese New Year motif that means "successive years of abundance." This is because the word for "lotus" *lian* is pronounced the same as the word for "continuous".

TIP #10 OTHER WEALTH "cai" SYMBOLS

Coins (qian2)

The Number eight (ba = fa1, to prosper)

God of Wealth (cai2 shen2)

Tangerine (ju2)

Gold and Silver ingots (yuan2 bao3)

Dumplings (jiao3 zi)

Red packet (ya1 shui4 qian2)

God Liu Hai

Fa1 cai4 plant

Beckoning Cat (zhao1 cai2 mao1)

For a Feng Shui consultation for harmony, balance, energy revitalization and peace for home and/or office, or for Prepping™ (Advanced Staging) a house for an easy, quick sale, please contact Joseph at

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