



The first cycle of the zodiac was introduced about 4000 years ago, making the Chinese Lunar Calendar the longest chronological record in history. One complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five simple cycles of 12 years each. Twelve animals were assigned to each of the twelve years when, according to legend, Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from Earth, but only twelve animals came to bid him farewell. As a reward, he named a year after each one in the order of arrival. First came the Rat, then the Ox, the Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar. Thus, we have the twelve animals signs of today.**

Moreover, during the complete 60-year cycle, each of the animal signs (sometimes referred to as the twelve Earth branches) is combined with the five main elements - Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water - which bring harmony to the world we live in, as Water creates nourishment, thus producing Wood, which fuels Fire giving way to the ashes to form Earth, where we find Metal, which can be turned into liquid once more, making the full cycle start again. Under this philosophy, we see that no element can be called the strongest or weakest. They are forever dependent on one another and are equal. They are linked by the chain of life that brings about their existence, and there is no power struggle. Each has its own place and function.

The Moon, being the closest heavenly body to Earth, has shown its many visible powers to mankind since the dawn of civilization. It can modify the ocean tide, as well as other bodies of water. Would it be too farfetched to believe that its power can also affect us? After all, we are three quarters liquid. Even animals and plants are subject to its force. Could you be influenced by the moon depending on the day and year that you were born?

** Note: There are other versions of the legend.

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