

# 猴年大吉



2016

The year of the Monkey

**Chinese New Year Must Have**

**By**

**Peter Yap**

## Contents

1. Spring cleaning 大扫除 .....	3
Auspicious days and times.....	3
Month breaker.....	3
2. Discontinuation of Work 收工.....	4
3. Commencement of Work 开工.....	4
4. Prayers to Grand Duke 拜太岁 .....	4
5. Prayers on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Lunar Month.....	5
Auspicious directions.....	5
Inauspicious directions.....	5
Auspicious times.....	5
6. Reception of the God of Wealth 接财神 .....	6
Procedure for Receiving the God of Wealth.....	6
Direction of the God of Wealth.....	6
What You Need To Know About the Reception of the God of Wealth.....	7
Offerings for the Reception of the God of Wealth.....	8
Time and Ceremony for the Reception of the God of Wealth .....	9
7. Good time to leave home for CNY visits 拜年吉时 .....	10
8. Chinese New Year Dos and Don'ts 新年宜忌 .....	10

# 1. Spring cleaning 大扫除

If 2015 has been an auspicious year for you, cleaning must start from your main door going inward. This is to make sure your auspicious luck continue into 2016.

If 2015 has not been a good year, you must start from inside your house going toward your main door. This is to make sure you sweep away all your bad luck.

## Auspicious days and times

Thursday, 28 Jan 2016 from 11am to 12:59pm and from 3pm to 4:59 pm. Conflicting zodiac sign – Rabbit

Tuesday, 2 Feb 2016 from 7am to 10:59am and from 5pm to 10:59pm. Conflicting zodiac sign – Monkey

If 2015 has been worst and it cannot be any more worst and you would like to start all over again, you can choose Breaker day to make sure you can start afresh in 2016.

## Month breaker

Tuesday, 26 Jan 2016 from 9am to 12:59pm and from 3pm to 10:59pm. Conflicting zodiac sign – Ox

## 2. Discontinuation of Work 收工

Thursday, 4 Feb 2016. Conflicting zodiac sign – Dog

Friday, 5 Feb 2016. Conflicting zodiac sign – Pig

## 3. Commencement of Work 开工

Thursday, 18 Feb 2016 from 11am to 2:59pm and from 5pm to 6:59pm. Conflicting zodiac sign – Rat.

Friday, 12 Feb 2016 from 7am to 8:59am and from 1pm to 2:59pm. Conflicting zodiac sign – Horse.

## 4. Prayers to Grand Duke 拜太岁

8 Feb to 22 Feb 2016. Conflicting Zodiac Signs who should pray – Monkey, Tiger and Snake.

## 5. Prayers on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Lunar Month.

Monday, 8 Feb 2016

### Auspicious directions

喜神 God Of Happiness - North West (Must avoid as 死门 Death Door is also here)

贵神 God Of Nobility - North West (Must avoid as 死门 Death Door is also here)

才神 God Of Wealth - East

吉门 Lucky Door – East

生门 Living Door - South East (Must avoid as 恶神 Wicked Deity is also here)

开门 Open Door - North East

### Inauspicious directions

恶神 Wicked Deity - South East

五鬼 Five Ghost - West

死门 Death Door - North West

### Auspicious times

Chou 丑 1am - 2:59am with 天乙贵人 Heavenly Nobleman. Zodiac sign Ram must avoid this time.

Chen 辰 7am - 8:59am. Zodiac sign Dog must avoid this time.

Si 巳 9am - 10:59am. Zodiac sign Pig must avoid this time.

Wu 午 11am - 12:59pm. Zodiac sign Rat must avoid this time.

## 6. Reception of the God of Wealth 接財神

Monday, 8 Feb 2016 Direction of the God of Wealth – **East**

God of Wealth will arrive on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lunar Month (08/02/2016) from East.

Unsuitable Zodiac for the Reception of the God of Wealth are Tiger and Monkey.

**Most auspicious time from 1am to 2:59am and the most auspicious time is at 1:40am.**

### Procedure for Receiving the God of Wealth

Direction of the God of Wealth

The God of Wealth will arrive from the East ( $97.6^{\circ}$  to  $112.5^{\circ}$  at Yi 乙 bearing on the 1st day of the 1st lunar month (Monday 8 Feb 2016, Geng Shen 庚申 day during Chou 丑 time).

If you wish to receive the God of Wealth, put up a portrait of this deity in the East of your living room, facing the West. He might bring lots of riches to your house!

Unsuitable zodiac(s) for the reception of the God of Wealth for year 2016: Tiger and Monkey.

## What You Need To Know About the Reception of the God of Wealth

Here is a general outlook of what the Chinese Custom and Tradition of the Reception of the God of Wealth is like.

1. The God of Wealth incense papers are available at all incense shops. The portrait of the God of Wealth should be pasted at an appropriate position and not on the bathroom door, near garbage bin or female apparels. This year, **it is best positioned in the East of the living room, facing the West.**
2. The altar will be set up prior to the auspicious time, but the joss-sticks and candles would not be lit up until then.
3. Ideal areas for reception are outside the main door or at the balcony. It can also be done in the house but all clothing must be kept beforehand.
4. Long joss sticks are preferred. After prayers, joss sticks must be placed in the incense.
5. Worshipper must take a bath beforehand to show sincerity. The altar table should be cleaned with water and wiped dry. The table should be situated 1, 2, 3, 8 or 9 feet away from the main door, but there is no restriction if the ritual is performed at the balcony (windows must be opened) or HDB corridor. It should preferably face an open space.
6. It is best to present the “God of Wealth Wish Card” with your name, age, address and wish written on it when you offer your respects to the God of Wealth. Write “丙申年值年财神恩賜” on the top right-hand corner of the card and “治子” or “信女” followed by your name on the bottom left-hand corner. This card should be burnt together with incense papers, which is best done outside your house.
7. After reception, you must walk backwards upon entering the house. While you proceed to paste the portrait of the God of Wealth, it is best to take 3 or 8 steps. Other options include 13, 23, 33 or 18, 28 or 38 steps.

## Offerings for the Reception of the God of Wealth

1. 3 types of sweet cakes – Nian Gao 年糕, sweet candy and Fa Gao 发糕(symbolize sweetness for the coming year)
2. 5 types of fruits – you can choose any five - apples, mandarin oranges, a fruit called 'luk-yau', bananas, oranges, pears, Chinese pears and pineapple
3. a Chinese pumpkin (symbolizing abundance)
4. 3 cups of Chinese tea
5. 3 small cups of Chinese wine
6. 3 pieces of 2 feet long Joss-sticks
7. 1 set of God of Wealth incense papers  
(available at incense shops)

These are just standard items. Different clans of the Chinese people may use different quantities or types of items.



## Time and Ceremony for the Reception of the God of Wealth

1. All items have to be set up on a table covered with red cloth before the auspicious hour.
2. 1:00am – Have a bath to cleanse yourself.
3. 1:15am – we must first pay respect to the various divinities in our residence such as Quan-Yin, Buddha, Kuan-Ti, Earth-Gods etc and God of Heaven 天公 (if any).
4. **1:40am** – We will make our wishes and seek blessings with joss sticks and say our prayers to the East direction. All family members may do so except those whose zodiac signs are in conflict. Joss-sticks and incense should be offered after that. The old portrait (last year's portrait if any) of the God of Wealth will be burnt together as well. After each and every member have made their prayers and inserted their joss-sticks into the incense holder burn the incense papers in a container in front of the main entrance. And an **important** thing to note is that it is advisable to write down your name, age, address and wishes for the year on a red paper, which is to be burnt along with the incense paper offerings (as mentioned in “God of Wealth Wish Card” above). After this the red-crackers are lighted. Usually the red-crackers are 3 feet, 8, feet, 9 feet, 18 feet, 32 feet or 100 feet long. I normally prefer the 18 feet red-crackers.
5. Around 2:15am – After the fire-cracker session, we will proceed to take the God of Wealth's portrait and 'bring-him-inside' our home. It is advisable to move backwards to enter the house when receiving the God of Wealth. It is best to take 3 or 8 steps when positioning the portrait of the God of Wealth. His portrait has to be placed in a proper position. It should not be placed on toilet doors, near garbage bins, dirty clothes, etc. **it is best positioned in the East of the living room, facing the West.** If not, it can also be placed near the family altar.

The ceremony is completed. The altar outside the home will not be removed until after the 3rd day of Chinese New Year. It will be re-set up or re-arranged again the next day for 1st Lunar New Year Day prayers, and re-arranged again for 2nd Day of the Lunar New Year - 'Hoi-Lin' 升年 (Opening the Year).

## 7. Good time to leave home for CNY visits 拜 年吉时

The auspicious time to leave home for Chinese New Year visits are Chen 辰 7am - 8:59am, Si 巳 9am - 10:59am and Wu 午 11am - 12:59pm.

## 8. Chinese New Year Dos and Don'ts 新年宜 忌

### DOS

- **Spring clean your house before CNY arrives**  
To chase away all the bad fortune
- **Buy new clothes and have a haircut**  
To welcome the New Year with a fresh image and avert misfortune
- **Stay up late on New Year's Eve**  
To wish for longevity for your parents
- **Greet everyone with a smile and utter auspicious sayings**  
To usher in good luck and a smooth-sailing year
- **Prepare even-numbered mandarin oranges for New Year visits**  
To convey good wishes to your friends and relatives
- **Repay all your debts before CNY arrives**  
To avoid affecting your wealth luck in the New Year

### DON'TS

- **Sweep the floor or throw rubbish on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of CNY**  
To avoid sending your wealth luck away
- **Use sharp objects on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of CNY**  
To ensure harmony and happiness in the family
- **Wash your hair on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of CNY**  
To prevent washing your good fortune away
- **Break any plates or bowls**  
Utter auspicious sayings if breakage happens accidentally

Wish the New Year showers you with all success and prosperity, good health and wealth for 2016!

~~~~~ Peter Yap ~~~~~