

# CHINESE LUNAR MANSIONS ASTROLOGY

二十八宿 (Èr shí bā xiù)

## BRIEF PRIMER

	Eastern Palace Azure Dragon	Northern Palace Black Tortoise	Western Palace White Tiger	Southern Palace Vermilion Phoenix
<b>Jupiter</b> 木 Wood	Horn   Serpent 角木蛟	Dipper   Unicorn 斗木獬	Legs   Wolf 奎木狼	Well   Wild Dog 井木犴
<b>Venus</b> 金 Metal	Neck   Dragon 亢金龍	Ox   Ox 牛金牛	Bond   Dog 婁金狗	Ghost   Goat 鬼金羊
<b>Saturn</b> 土 Earth	Root   Badger 氏土貉	Maiden   Bat 女土蝠	Stomach   Pheasant 胃土雉	Willow   Water Deer 柳土獐
<b>Sun</b> 日 Yang	Room   Rabbit 房日兔	Emptiness   Rat 虛日鼠	Hair   Rooster 昴日雞	Star   Horse 星日馬
<b>Moon</b> 月 Yin	Heart   Fox 心月狐	Rooftop   Swallow 危月燕	Net   Crow 畢月烏	Ext. Net   Deer 張月鹿
<b>Mars</b> 火 Fire	Tail   Tiger 尾火虎	Encampment   Pig 室火豬	Turtle Beak   Monkey 觜火猴	Wings   Snake 翼火蛇
<b>Mercury</b> 水 Water	Basket   Leopard 箕水豹	Wall   Yu Owl 壁水獒	Three Stars   Ape 參水猿	Chariot   Worm 軫水蚓

Lunar mansions astrology, much like saying "Western astrology," consists of differing systems, traditions, and approaches. It's like seeing one astrologer reading a Placidus Tropical chart versus another reading a Whole Signs Sidereal and then asking, "Wait, which one is correct?"

One approach, oft documented as being the oldest, dates back to the Zhou dynasty (1046 - 771 BC), though archaeological evidence suggests 400s BC. This approach tracks the nightly cyclic movement of the moon across the skies. Each nightly transit of the moon is one mansion, for a total of 28 mansions that is also the 28 days of the moon's orbit around Earth. Thus, the earliest system of lunar mansions astrology is believed to be around 3,000 years old, tracked by the lunisolar calendar. The modern-day astrologer adopting such an approach would work with a **sidereal chart**.

Each lunar mansion is a segment of the Moon's ecliptic. In concept, the 28 lunar mansions might be likened to the 36 decan rulers of Egyptian/Babylonian astrology that mark the segments or subdivisions of every zodiac sign.

A second approach to lunar mansions astrology, dating to the Warring States period (770 - 221 BC), sections the sky into four directional quadrants. The location of the Big Dipper in each quadrant signals the four seasons. (Technically, there are five sections—the center being the pole

star.) Each of these four directional quadrants are further subdivided into eight mansions for a total of 28 mansions.

The 28 lunar mansions are assigned correspondences per yin-yang theory and Wu Xing, the five movements of alchemical change (陰陽五行, yīn yáng wǔ xíng), with the current dominant approach to correspondences canonized around the 11th century AD. In the subsequent table, the Wu Xing correspondence for each lunar mansion is noted, which then corresponds with the mansion's associated planet (e.g., Wood – Jupiter, Fire – Mars, Earth – Saturn, Metal – Venus, and Water – Mercury).

The placement of the sun, moon, five major planets corresponding with the Wu Xing, and other comets and constellations, such as Spica were observed and interpreted in divination. Placement of Spica, a fixed star, in an auspicious lunar mansion was particularly important in electional astrology (event astrology).

In Taoist mysticism, the powers from each of the 28 mansions can also be channeled in talismanic crafting. Each mansion is governed by particular patron deities, as first noted in *Prince Shetoujian's Sutra of Twenty-Eight Mansions* (舍頭諫太子二十八宿經). These patron deities are invoked through specific rituals and offerings, as noted in the text. In Buddhist scriptures, the twenty-eight lunar mansions are mentioned in the Mātanga Sutra (摩登伽經) and in the Sūtra of Lunar Mansions and Planets (宿曜經), which could suggest that Chinese lunar mansions astrology descends from Babylonian or the twenty-eight nakṣatra of Indian lunar mansions astrology.

<b>EAST: Azure Dragon 青龍</b>		
1	Horn (Jiao 角 Xiu 宿)	WOOD. The Jiaolong Dragon (or Serpent) 蛟龍. <i>In constellation:</i> Virgo. "Horn" is in reference to the two horns of the azure dragon. Promising future. Steady ascent prognosticated. Growth and new directions. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Abundance, increase, plenitude, harvests, healthy births, fortuitous marriage.
2	Neck (Kang 亢 Xiu 宿)	METAL. The Dragon 龍. <i>In constellation:</i> Virgo. The neck of the azure dragon. An exceptional talent and personality. Confidence and fortitude. Naturally lucky and born with a great potential for accruing power. Generous and self-disciplined. Kind and noble. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Ward disease, justice, winning trials.
3	Root (Di 氏 Xiu 宿)	EARTH. The Badger. <i>In constellation:</i> Libra. The chest and claws of the dragon. Tough exterior, vulnerable and sensitive interior - someone with both talons and heart. Changeable. Adaptable. Fluid. Seeking balance.
4	Room (Fang 房 Xiu 宿)	YANG. The Rabbit. <i>In constellation:</i> Scorpio. Chest cavity of the azure dragon. Childlike innocence and curiosity. Compassionate. Persistent. Exudes warmth. Calm and peaceful. Avoids conflicts. Refined taste. Exudes elegance.

5	Heart (Xin 心 Xiu 宿)	YIN. The Fox. <i>In constellation:</i> Scorpio. The heart of the azure dragon. Empowered consciousness. Willful. Determined. Opinionated. Unconventional. Can be both timid and affectionate but also cunning, shrewd, and focused. Complex. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success and advantageous favors for public figures.
6	Tail (Wei 尾 Xiu 宿)	FIRE. The Tiger. <i>In constellation:</i> Scorpio. The tail of the azure dragon. Passionate. Visionary. Fearless in the face of challenges. Creative. Impulsive. A doer. Warm-hearted yet can be perceived as intimidating. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Receive fortunes, inheritances; success in academic endeavors.
7	Winnowing Basket (Ji 箕 Xiu 宿)	WATER. The Leopard. <i>In constellation:</i> Sagittarius. Tail tip of the azure dragon. Mysterious. Modest. Gentle. Low-key yet unruly. Poise. Highly intelligent. Seeks independence. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success in career and business. To multiply good luck and fortunes.
<b>SOUTH: Vermilion Phoenix 朱雀</b>		
1	Well (Jing 井 Xiu 宿)	WOOD. The An (Dog). <i>In constellation:</i> Gemini. An explorer, one who is open-minded. Fair. Free-thinking. Objective. Comprehensive. Always with a readiness to help, and to be of help. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Increase beauty and favors; safe travels. Academic success; abundant harvests.
2	Ghost (Gui 鬼 Xiu 宿)	METAL. The Goat. <i>In constellation:</i> Cancer. Crown of the vermilion phoenix. Gentle in appearance; introverted. Goal-oriented; focused on spirituality. Philosophical. Clarity of thought.
3	Willow (Liu 柳 Xiu 宿)	EARTH. The Roe Deer. <i>In constellation:</i> Hydra. The beak of the vermilion phoenix. Destined for professional success or position of authority. Talented. Strong need for security.
4	Star (Xing 星 Xiu 宿) <i>or</i> Seven Stars (七星)	YANG. The Horse. <i>In constellation:</i> Hydra. The eye of the vermilion phoenix. Energetic. Broad-thinking with great foresight. Bold, unrestrained thinker. Innovative. Swift movements. Courageous. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Successful real estate transactions; business success.
5	Extended Net (Zhang 張 Xiu 宿)	YIN. The Deer. <i>In constellation:</i> Hydra. Body joints of the vermilion phoenix. Clear and quiet as moonlight, nimble as the deer. A healer, a lover of the arts and culture. A great imagination. Sensitive. May be detached from reality; a dreamer. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Increase success of past investments made or past hard work; to receive rewards or promotions.

6	Wings (Yi 翼 Xiu 宿)	FIRE. The Snake. <i>In constellation:</i> Crater. Wings of the vermilion phoenix. Impulsive. Seeks ascension and always in flight toward new heights. Active and restless. Instinctive, spontaneous. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success and acclaim in artistic, musical, or literary endeavors.
7	Chariot (Zhen 軫 Xiu 宿)	WATER. The Earthworm. <i>In constellation:</i> Corvus. Tail of the vermilion phoenix. Empathetic, resilient. High concept and not materialistic. Accepting and tolerant. Introspective. Cautious. Can be restrained or solitary. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success in love and marriage; safe travels. Divine protection over motor vehicles.
<b>WEST: White Tiger 白虎</b>		
1	Legs (Kui 奎 Xiu 宿)	WOOD. The Wolf. <i>In constellation:</i> Andromeda. Front of the white tiger, spirited and courageous. Instincts and personality of the wolf. Both an independent creature and one who fares well in teamwork. Loyal. Alert. Reacts quickly to changes in the environment. Trustworthy and steadfast. Dutiful.
2	Bond (Lou 婁 Xiu 宿)	METAL. The Dog. <i>In constellation:</i> Aries. Neck of the white tiger. Prognosticates financial success and material abundance. Fosters goodwill. Charismatic. Friendly and warm. Exudes a great deal of self-control. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Blessings of good health and longevity; abundant harvests of crops; wealth and happiness; increase one's charisma.
3	Stomach (Wei 胃 Xiu 宿)	EARTH. The Pheasant. <i>In constellation:</i> Aries. Works well under pressure. Takes in a lot of stress and pressure without breaking. Hard-working, a rock and anchor to their loved ones. Responsible and diligent. A good listener. A problem solver. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success with long-term investments, trade, business, and to increase one's social influence.
4	Hairy Head (Mao 昴 Xiu 宿)	YANG. The Rooster. <i>In constellation:</i> Taurus. The back of the white tiger. This is also the spear and the ink brush. An individualist; confident and competitive. High achieving. One who shines, one with pride. Character of a rooster. Is often misunderstood. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Justice; revenge; restore balance.
5	Net (Bi 畢 Xiu 宿)	YIN. The Crow. <i>In constellation:</i> Taurus. The underbelly of the white tiger. Potential power stored. Waits in the shadows for the right opportunity to pounce. Wise. Elusive. Highly intelligent and cunning. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Success in military conflicts. Blessings to strengthen the army. Military and government.

6	Turtle Beak (Zi 觜 Xiu 宿)	FIRE. The Monkey. <i>In constellation:</i> Orion. Expressive and articulate, the tail of the white tiger. Can be impatient; doesn't like following the rules. Playful. Great sense of humor. A free spirit and tendencies toward the radical.
7	Three Stars (Shen 参 Xiu 宿)	WATER. The Ape. <i>In constellation:</i> Orion. The hind legs of the white tiger. Great at long-term planning. Possesses the art of transformation. Accomplished and conversant in many fields. Dexterous. Resourceful. Palace of "The Calling."
<b>NORTH: Black Tortoise 玄武</b>		
1	Dipper (Dou 斗 Xiu 宿)	WOOD. The Xiezhi Unicorn 獬豸. <i>In constellation:</i> Sagittarius. Head of the black tortoise. One who seeks justice. Righteous. Advocate of rules, order, and traditions. Analytical; highbrow; learned. Great managers. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Political success. Winning elections, examinations, or competitions.
2	Ox (Niu 牛 Xiu 宿)	METAL. The Ox. <i>In constellation:</i> Capricorn. Neck of the black tortoise. Reserved and reliable. Possesses a great deal of inner strength. Pragmatic. Stubborn. Strong prospects of achieving financial success and material abundance. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Road opener. Clear paths for prosperity and commerce.
3	Maiden (Nu 女 Xiu 宿)	EARTH. The Bat. <i>In constellation:</i> Aquarius. Nape of the black tortoise's neck. Calm; seeks stability and security. Likeable personality; can achieve rapport and affinity with many. Strong organizational skills. Strong coordination skills. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Can be used to stir up chaos and conflict in the enemy. Send epidemics or illness to foes.
4	Emptiness (Xu 虚 Xiu 宿)	YANG. The Rat. <i>In constellation:</i> Aquarius. Middle section of the black tortoise. Intelligent, popular, sociable; charismatic. Possesses a keen understanding of human nature. Gives good advice. Quick-witted and resourceful. One who will always thrive, no matter the circumstances. <i>Talismanic Powers:</i> Can be used to take away and siphon good luck or prosperity from an enemy and enrich oneself with that siphoned advantage.
5	Rooftop (Wei 危 Xiu 宿)	YIN. The Swallow. <i>In constellation:</i> Aquarius. Tail of the black tortoise. Agile; light on the feet. Introverted and prefers solitude. Prefers nature. Meticulous. Does not seek worldly achievements; seeks understanding. Roams freely in one's own spiritual world.
6	Encampment (Shi 室 Xiu 宿)	FIRE. The Pig. <i>In constellation:</i> Pegasus. Belly of the black tortoise. Pragmatic; one who builds the architecture of society. Can be depended upon for security and stability. Learns from experience.

		Down-to-earth optimist. <i>Talismanic Powers</i> : Boosts the good luck of new endeavors; blesses new pursuits; for auspicious beginnings.
7	Wall (Bi 壁 Xiu 宿)	WATER. The Yu Owl 禺鳥. <i>In constellation</i> : Pegasus. The yu is a mythical creature with a human head and the body of an owl, with four eyes and four ears. Capable and proficient. A multi-tasker. Quick to action. Introverted and prefers to hide one's own strength. <i>Talismanic Powers</i> : Academic success; blessing intellectual or scholarly professions and pursuits.

<i>Natal Planet</i>	<i>Planetary Element</i>	<i>Nourishing Lunar Mansion Elemental</i>	<i>Weakening Lunar Mansion Elemental</i>
<i>Sun</i>	FIRE	Sun in a WOOD mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Sun in a WATER mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Moon</i>	WATER	Moon in a METAL mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Moon in an EARTH mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Mercury</i>	WATER	Mercury in a METAL mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Moon in an EARTH mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Mars</i>	FIRE	Mars in a WOOD mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Mars in a WATER mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Venus</i>	METAL	Venus in an EARTH mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Venus in a FIRE mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Jupiter</i>	WOOD	Jupiter in a WATER mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Jupiter in a METAL mansion is weakened. Challenges.
<i>Saturn</i>	EARTH	Saturn in a FIRE mansion is empowered. Blessings.	Saturn in a WOOD mansion is weakened. Challenges.

## Interpreting Your Lunar Mansions Chart

I personally use Solar Fire v.9.0.17 (2014 Mar. 17)'s lunar mansions astrology tables. First, be sure to cast your natal chart under a sidereal zodiac, such as Lahiri. Click on the option "Charts, Reports & Tabulations." Then along the right-most column, click on "Tabulations," scroll down the listing, and click on "Chinese Mansions." You will see your natal lunar mansions table.

The first column of the table in Solar Fire will show the planets or personal sensitive points. Then you'll see an indication for the lunar mansion that natal planet or psp is domiciled in. Note how



the program designates “Carriage” for what this document references as “Chariot,” so there are a few discrepancies for which you’ll need to infer.

Similar to elemental dignities in Western astrology, how the innate Wu Xing correspondence of the natal planet (“planetary element”) interacts with the Wu Xing correspondence of the lunar mansion that the natal planet is domiciled in will determine whether that planet’s placement yields blessings or challenges to a native’s life path.

The animal reference provided for each lunar mansion is considered a metaphorical embodiment of the native’s traits, tendencies of behavior, and mindset when it comes to areas of life associated with that planet or personal sensitive point.

