

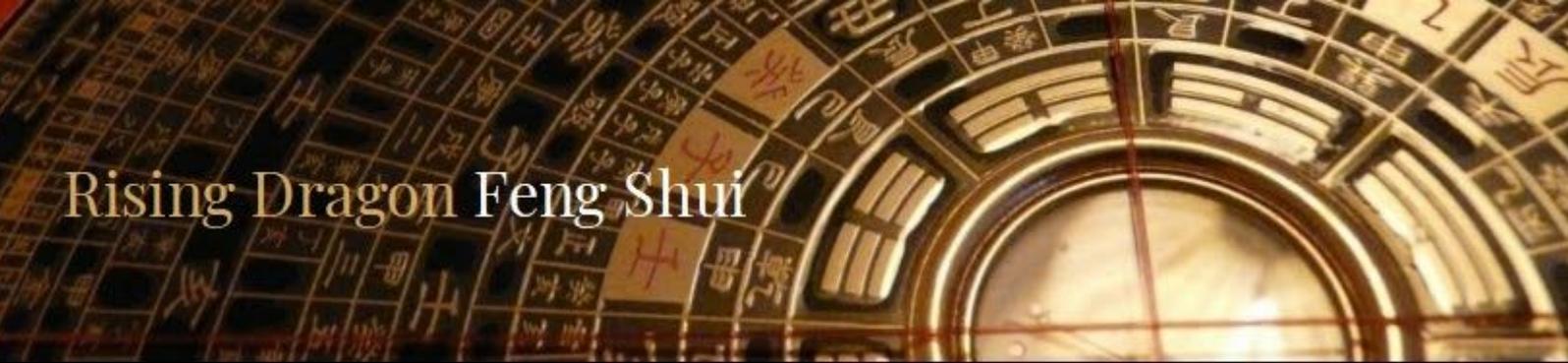


Rising Dragon Feng Shui

# 灶君公 Zao Jun Rites

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*Service by Rising Dragon Feng Shui*



# Rising Dragon Feng Shui

## Zao Jun Rites Service Guide

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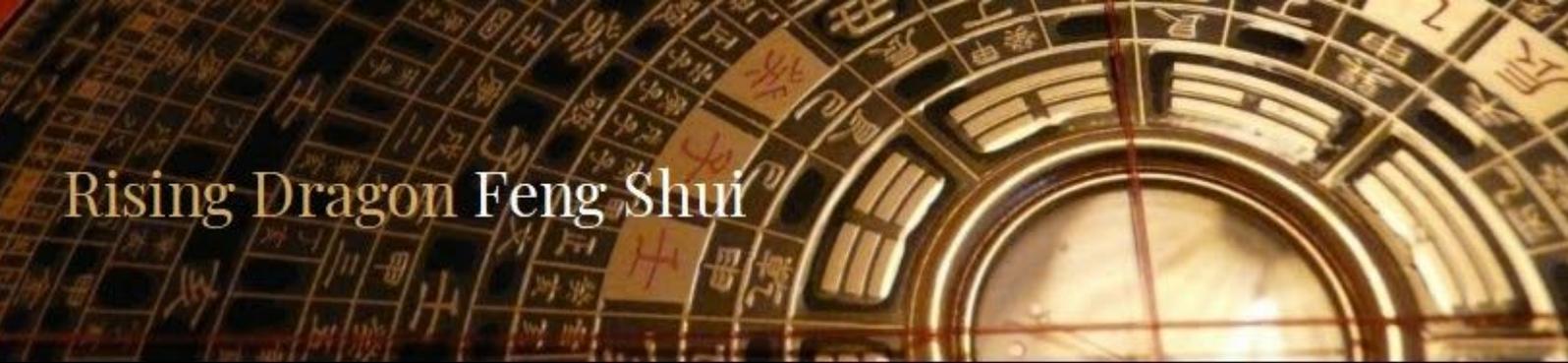
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# Rising Dragon Feng Shui

## Introduction

Many people are aware that 2020 was the year of the Rat and that at Chinese New Year, the year of the Ox will begin. What is less well known is that there are many important steps to preparing for the New Year.



Of the famous Taoist trinity –

1. Heaven luck
2. Earth luck
3. Man luck

– we need to prepare on all levels.

The *Zao Jun ritual* is one practice which unites all three, combining spirituality with Feng Shui and one's own personal efforts so as to create the best possible outcomes in 2021.

## Introducing Zao Jun

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Zao Jun (灶君公) is the name given to the Kitchen Deity of each household who is tasked with reporting to the higher heavens. On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month, the report is filed at night - this is like your annual review in the spirit realm. This will determine the strength and weight of the support or challenges the heavens place upon you for the next 12 months.

Prior to the report being filed, it is possible to make changes to it by communicating with Zao Jun. Specifically, we may want to tell him that we repent of certain things we did wrong in the last year and that we will make a vow to do something to make up for it next year. This can help to mitigate the problem, although be certain to follow through and make good one's mistakes.

Additionally, we may want to perform a good deed by praising the good others have done. They don't need to be present at our address; the *Akasha deva*, or Deities of the Karmic Records, are very quick at compiling all the data they receive. One can speak of how grateful we are for our parents, teachers, partners, doctors or others in our life and praise what good they've done. This will then be tacked on to what their Zao Jun reports and help them have a better Ox year.

In order to pass these messages to our Zao Jun, a fire offering ceremony will be held. Fire is the medium which can transmute the essence of things from the physical to spiritual realms. Great offerings will be made to each of the Zao Jun, including money, clothing, flowers, fragrance and food, which helps to create a happier atmosphere in the home. After invoking the Zao Jun of all participants, the blessed offerings will be burned and offered to the deities along with the sincere wishes and repentance of each participant.

## How Can I Participate?

This practice is an integral part of Taoist and Chinese folk religious practices. It is included and verified in efficacy by His Holiness Living Buddha Lian Sheng and is therefore included within the scope of True Buddha School Buddhist practices.



All people are welcome to participate. You do not need to be Buddhist, Taoist or Chinese; all spiritual backgrounds are welcome, along with those who simply hold the notion that spirit exists and that there are higher and lower realms (heaven and hell).

Due to the current ongoing global pandemic, the fire ceremony will be held remotely in London. Participants can join by sending in a completed registration form along with a donation.

This sponsorship will allow us to purchase a supply of paper gold, money and clothing for your Zao Jun, along with flowers, incense and foods. It is by invoking him and offering him this great bounty, that he will be willing to come and hear your prayers. By touching on his heart, we hope to make him compassionate towards us, that he will report that we are improving and reforming our character and are worthy of support.

This is a once a year opportunity. Once the reporting for the Year of the Metal Rat 2020 is done, it will set our trajectory for the Year of the Metal Ox 2021. There is no opportunity to change the report thereafter. It is not until 2022 that a new reporting period arrives.

Each participant represents their entire household and everyone from that household is welcome to send their wishes on that same registration form.

The ceremony this year will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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## What You Get:

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- A complete set of jinzhi paper offerings for your Zao Jun. This will include gold and silver bullion, bank notes, small change and fine clothing
- The full range of ceremonial offerings for your Zao Jun in addition to the jinzhi. This will include incense, food and flowers
- All offerings will be consecrated in a blessing ceremony prior the Zao Jun rites being performed
- All offerings will be burned along with your wishes and repentances for 2020 following the correct ritual procedure at the correct time

## Pricing:

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Payment is by donation. Since some of you will be unfamiliar with what would be a typical amount, suggested donations are:

- £108 for 1 person
- £168 for 2 people
- £218 for family

The spirit of donating is simply that one feels in one's heart that one has made a contribution. To someone who is without an income, donating even £50 might be putting one's heart into it since it would mean foregoing some of one's groceries. It's still better to do a little; the biggest mistake is to do nothing because one can only do a little! If we have offered participation in this ceremony to you, you won't be turned away for lack of financial means; we're offering this ritual to those we think well of and want to see succeed.

Those with the means to help others can know that paying the suggested donation or more would allow others to benefit, something that Zao Jun can immediately report.

**To join now, simply complete the enrolment form and send your donation.**

*The following pages have further detail for the curious minded. It's not required to read it but if you want to know more about karma, the Akashic Records and how it all works, it should be interesting for you.*

## The Stairway To Heaven

According to traditional custom, the unseen world has many levels. In the Eastern wisdom traditions, the first level of the heavens coincides with our physical reality. At this lowest level of heaven are the spirits which inhabit trees, rivers, oceans, lakes and mountains which make life on earth possible for humans.



Think about it a moment – trees have a natural instinct to reach for the light. They freely give food and shelter and without their breathing in carbon dioxide and breathing out oxygen, human life would be impossible. And yet the trees themselves can only exist because of the earth beneath and the water circulating around.

To our modern minds, these things may seem so everyday that we almost overlook how profound this is.

If we look again with fresh eyes in a sense of wonderment, we see that we owe deep gratitude to these natural forces which are constantly supporting us and subtly changing our experience of life.

We'll use the term "spirit" and "god" interchangeably here because although they aren't the world creating God of Western thought, they make life possible. Therefore they're a type of spirit which is higher than us and so has some god-like life-creating aspects. English language doesn't have a word that exactly matches this hence it's a bit of both – a spirit that is worldly and a lower level heavenly being that creates the physical conditions necessary for life.

## Is Time Slowing Down Or Speeding Up?

The earth-bound spirits have much longer lifespans than humans. This makes it appear to us that they have a very slow-moving consciousness. For example, trees will respond to things placed around them, moving their leaves and branches to adapt. However they don't change their stance like Bruce Lee! Run away quickly if they do!



Just as an ant lives its entire life in a few months, and to the ant that is the same as birth to age 100 in just a few months, so too our lifespan and perception of time goes incredibly quickly compared to these spirits. For us, a whole year is now passing as the year of the Rat comes to an end, but for them, it's only been one week. For the ant, it was a lifetime.

Here are some time conversions from what we experience to what they experience:

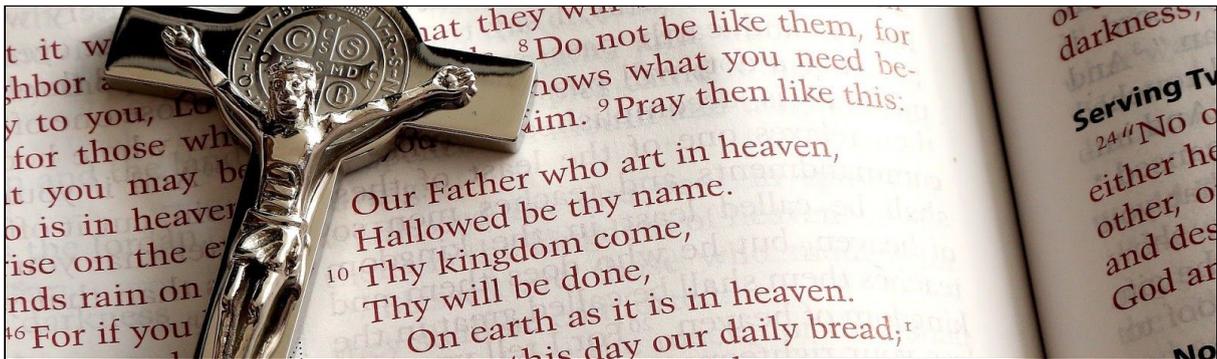
- From new moon to full moon (or vice versa) – *midnight to midday for them*
- From full moon to new moon – *midday to midnight*
- Complete lunar month from new moon to new moon – *one day*
- 12 lunar months – *one week for an earth spirit*

## Enter the Akashic Records

Every week, their time, or on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month our time, the earth bound gods report back to the higher heavens on what has been happening on earth.

Every house has a spirit which is charged with reporting this to the City God. They report what has gone on in the area they are responsible for, meaning they'll go to the non-physical heavens and report what everyone in the city has done in detail, down to those living in the house, both good and bad.

The spirits file this report with the *Akasha deva*, or the Gods of the Akashic Records. It is this record of one's karma that will determine what happens to one upon dying.

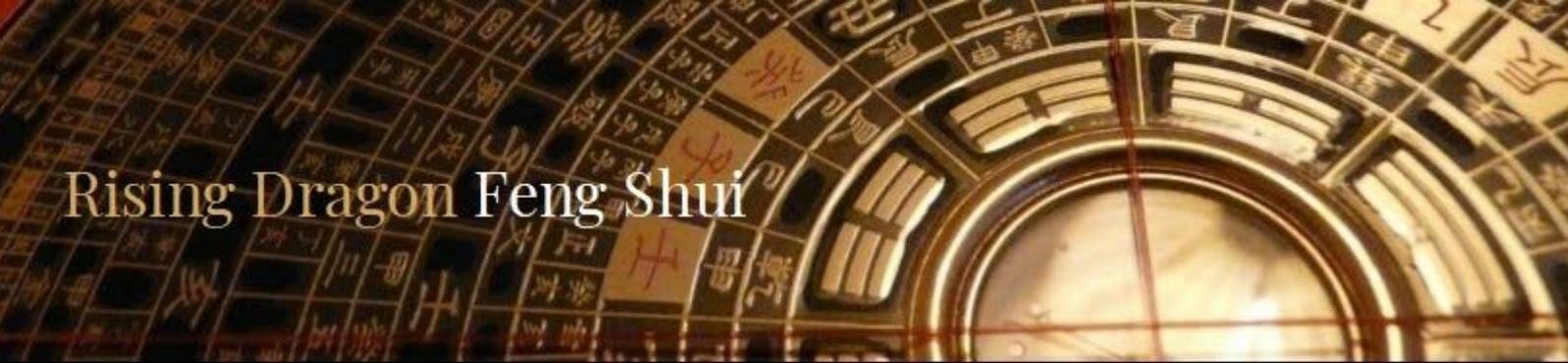


What will they say when you make it to the famous pearly gates? Will you have a good enough record to make it into heaven? If you do, will you be pure enough to make it to the higher parts of heaven where no-one even knows what war is?

If you only have modestly good karma, you might only be able to make it to the lower reaches of heaven where there are still many chores and responsibilities. The earth bound spirits realm is another possibility. In general, life is peaceful for trees and mountains, yet they must contend with the increasing ignorance of mankind who treats them as if dumb objects placed there for his pleasure and enrichment.

Worse still would be to fall into the lower realms. Reincarnation there would mean unspeakable suffering for vast amounts of time. The suffering of being here is difficult even to contemplate and there is little happiness. Even when it does arise, it is brief and transient.

Because the heavens are compassionate and benevolent, they use the reporting to the Akashic records as a means of trying to guide us. Often, when we are virtuous and filial, we don't see an immediate change. Why? Because we have to wait for the year to end. When it does, those good deeds are reported, and our luck changes for the better in the next year.



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The same is true of misdeeds. People often think that because no-one saw that they committed an act of sexual misconduct, or took something to which they weren't entitled, or that they lied or said harsh things about others behind their backs, that they got away with it. It often seems that way because there appears to be no immediate retribution. The truth is that the reporting was yet to happen.

To us, it may appear that a long time has passed since we did the deed, good or bad, and that no karma has come around because of it. Yet the truth is that this is simply because of the time difference between the human level of consciousness and that of the higher forces.

There is a traditional Chinese saying:

*“Heaven knows, Earth knows, You know and I know”.*

This means when someone does something wrong, they and the person affected immediately know. Because spirits can hear our thoughts as if we were speaking aloud, the Zao Jun will know too even if no-one was around to see. And because Zao Jun knows, the Heavens will know too. Once in the Akashic records, it will be part of our karma that will shape our destiny.

## Will 2021 Be A Better Year For You?

In part this depends upon our bazi. By our birth we can see whether the energy in the coming year is favourable or dangerous. If the light that shines for us in the heavens is blocked by Jupiter, it would be a time when we can easily lose our way in the darkness. This is called Tai Sui and we need to seek an Annual Ruler God Shrine if we are suffering this.



Whilst bazi shows us how smooth the year will be, it doesn't tell us the extent to which things happen. Many people are born on the same day, so in effect they have the same bazi. Yet they don't have the same experiences in life. This is because we all have our own karma.

Whether one will become the next business tycoon, superstar, or simply enjoy a great marriage and a life that is fulfilling and meaningful is determined by karma and not bazi. Using bazi knowledge enables us to be more successful at creating good karma for ourselves, but those who show spiritual mastery, who are of greatly charitable nature or who practice great morality can all experience going beyond their predestined bazi.

Participating in the Zao Jun ritual uses all three levels. Your repentances, gratuities and resolutions to do better are Man luck. The spirits of your home represent Earth luck. The reporting to the heavens and the change of lunar calendar represent Heaven luck. When we act like this, no matter how good or bad our bazi, we extend our potential.

## The Path To Success

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For 2021, there are a range of services you can take advantage of to achieve your goals:

1. **Zao Jun Rites** - repenting for our mistakes, committing to improve and offering our gratitude are the things that make ordinary humans into giants. We all should be doing this
2. **Annual Year God Shrine** - a light shines for each of us from the heavens. During certain years, this light becomes blocked. We easily lose our way in the darkness without our guiding light. This is called Tai Sui, or clash by Jupiter. An Annual Year God Shrine mitigates this, affording us some light so that we aren't completely in the dark.

In 2021 anyone with Ox or Goat anywhere in their bazi suffers a full clash, the harshest form. Those with Dog or Dragon suffer side clash, which is still a major challenge. For these, an Annual Year God Shrine is vital support.

3. **2021 Bazi Updates** - How will the Ox affect your personal astrology? What new stars arrive in your chart? Will your immune system get weaker? Will you find new found popularity? Is this the year when helpful friends or mentors come to your rescue? By knowing what aspects of your life are coming into bloom, you can plan your strategy to success with a clarity on what you can count on and what you can expect to see change
4. **2021 Feng Shui Updates** - Feng Shui isn't static and each year, the good and bad energies move to different places. Make sure you're not tapping into noxious qi and are taking advantage of all the power-ups available by taking an update session with Master Ang
5. **Dizhu Gong Rituals** - whilst Zao Jun is in charge of reporting for the household, the Dizhu Gong or Landlord Deity is the household spirit who can help the inhabitants prosper. The day after every full and new moon, we offer them prayers to request their assistance
6. **Ancestor Prayers** - if someone departs life with unresolved debts, it's hard for them to reach the higher heavens and their living descendants often find money goes out quicker than it goes in. Prayers for our ancestors help resolve the problems of their lifetime, bringing honour to the family name and that reflects in the living. When our ancestors are well remembered, it creates the conditions for the living to flourish.

**Give us a call or whatsapp on 07842 919878 for more information.**

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## About Rising Dragon Feng Shui

Established in 2000, Rising Dragon Feng Shui is an award winning multidisciplinary Feng Shui consultancy founded by Master Angela Ang and headquartered in Great Portland Street, London.



*Master Ang discussing Feng Shui on BBC World News*

Within the UK, we've carried out many of the biggest Feng Shui audits in terms of sheer scale including Ballymore Homes' 15 acre Embassy Garden redevelopment and the NEC Birmingham. Master Ang was headhunted by the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group to support the opening their 5\* Barcelona boutique hotel and spa.



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We've done more to promote greater understanding of the true Chinese way of Feng Shui than any other UK provider. Master Ang has appeared on BBC TV and radio many times as well as correctly advising, live on Sky TV, Ashley Revell, telling him which colour to bet on when he gambled his life's worth on a single spin of the wheel in Vegas. He walked away from the casino £270,400 better off for listening to Master Angela Ang's advice.

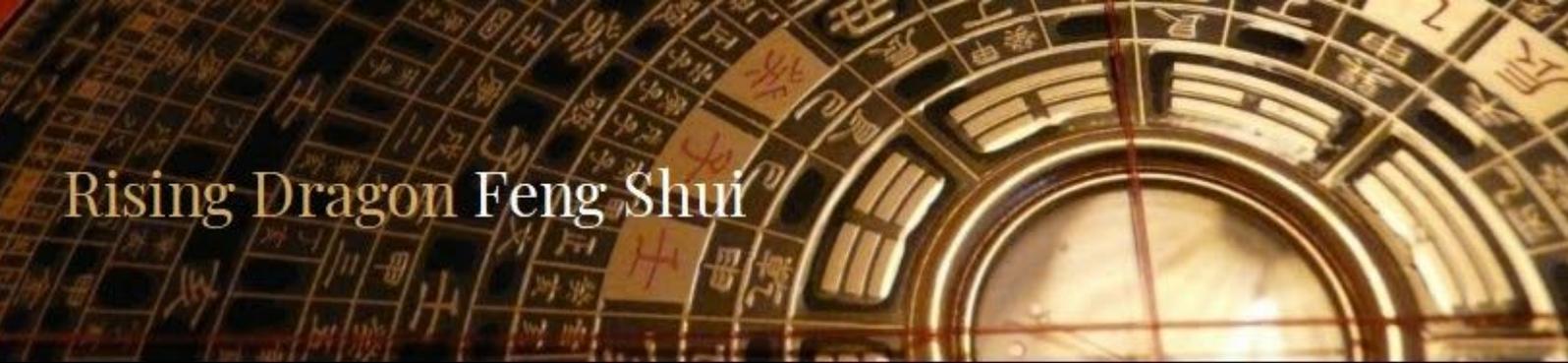


*Ashley Revell celebrates choosing red when he gambled his life's worth on a single televised bet*

Master Ang has spoken on Feng Shui to MPs in The House of Commons at the invite of David Tredinnick MP. Master Ang has briefed high net worth investors for CLSA, UBS and Charles Monat.

Master Ang is currently auditing the South Quay Plaza development in London's Canary Wharf, one of the tallest residential buildings in Europe built by world renown architects Foster + Partners with the UK's biggest luxury home developer, Berkeley Group.

The Zao Jun rites for 2021 will be conducted by Master Ang together with Master Richwoods, our spiritual consultancy director. Master Richwoods took formal Buddhist initiation in person from His Holiness Living Buddha Lian-Sheng in 1997. An accomplished practitioner of many years, she has completed a great number of rituals to summon spirits and to work for the liberation of all through correct and proper means.



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## Our Commitment

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Rising Dragon Feng Shui shares the commitment of Scarlett Entertainment to creating the greatest possible conference experience whilst maintaining values and traditions that have stood the test of time.

## Contact Details

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