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presents

AS201a – Zi Wei Dou Shu 1, Beginning Class, Part 1



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Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
Pinyin Pronunciation	5
<i>Review of the Stems and Branches and the Chinese Calendar</i>	7
The Ten Heavenly Stems (十天干)	7
The Twelve Earthly Branches (十二地支)	8
Oppositions (六冲 liu chong)	9
The Three Combinations (三合 san he).....	10
The Cycle of Sixty (六十甲子)	11
The Chinese Calendar	11
Further Discussion of the Hour or Time	14
<i>Setting Up the Zi Wei Dou Shu Chart</i>	20
The Palace Stems	21
Quiz 1	23
Quiz 1 Answers.....	25
Locating the Ming and Shen Palaces	27
Interpreting the Location of Ming and Shen	30
The Three Groupings for Ming Gong.....	30
The Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong.....	33
Quiz 2	37
Quiz 2 Answers.....	39
Locating the Twelve Palace Categories	42
The Meaning of the Twelve Palace Categories	45
Quiz 3	51
Quiz 3 Answers.....	52
<i>Blank Chart</i>	53

Introduction

Zi Wei Dou Shu (紫微斗數), also known as Zi Wei Astrology, is a widely used system of fate calculation in China but is not well known in the West. It is named for Zi Wei, “the Purple Emperor,” the first star you locate when making a chart. *Dou Shu* means calculation.

The stars of Zi Wei Astrology are called by their ancient names. These are the stars of the “Purple Palace” (the region around the pole star) and are associated with the Chinese imperial family. Prominent among them are the stars of the Big Dipper, as well as the sun and the moon. We call all these ‘stars’ even though many are not what modern astronomers would include in this category. The truth is, most of the stars of Zi Wei Dou Shu cannot be identified in the sky today, either because the star is no longer known by that name, or because many of them are ‘virtual stars.’ You can think of each star as a type of qi that influences some aspect of your life, but do not take the term ‘star’ too literally.

The movement of the planets is not used in this system, nor are the familiar animals found in other types of Chinese astrology.

Zi Wei Astrology was said to be created by Daoist philosopher *Chen Tuan* (陳搏), also known as *Chen Xiyi* (陳希夷), in the early Song Dynasty (died c.990).¹ Others say the Zi Wei system is actually much older, dating back to the first century BCE.

Chen Xiyi was born in Hao Zhou Zhen Yuan (亳州貞源). There are many stories about Chen; these stories have probably grown over the years and are not documented. Legend says that when Chen was a child, he could not speak. When he was four or five years old, he was playing by a river. There, he met a lady dressed in green who took him in her arms and gave him milk.

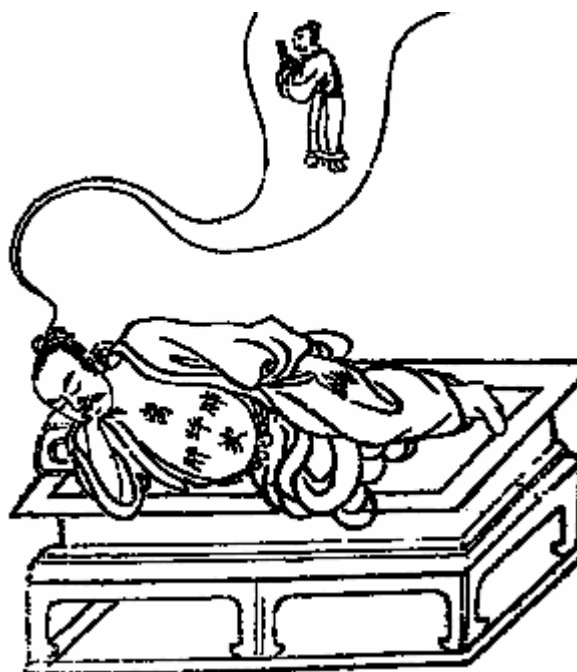
After that, Chen spoke and was smarter than other children. By the time he finished school, he learned everything his teachers knew but it wasn’t enough for him. He traveled, seeking knowledge until he mastered all subjects by himself. It is said that when he was 26, he understood the universe.

¹ Chen Xiyi wrote many detailed books on predicting human destiny: Zi Wei Dou Shu, face reading, Feng Shui, Chinese medicine, and the Yi Jing. He worked with the form of the Luo Shu (Luo Script) and He Tu (River Diagram). He strongly influenced many Song Dynasty scholars that came after him. Most notable was Shao Kangjie (邵康節), the who is said to be the originator of the Plum Flower Calculation (梅花心數 meihua xinshu).

Some say that Master Shao and others say that Master Chen created Iron Board Calculation (鐵版神數 tieban shenshu). Iron Board, although not well known, is the most accurate and the highest level of Chinese astrology.

The first emperor of the Song Dynasty wanted to build a fortress on a mountain (華山 Hua Shan) where many Daoist monks, including Chen Xiyi, lived and meditated. Chen Xiyi challenged the emperor to a game of chess (weiqi). The stakes were the rights to use this sacred mountain - for the monks if Chen won, and for the military if the emperor won. Using his skills in divination, Chen Xiyi was able to best the emperor, who was an expert at the game. The monks were able to remain.

Master Chen liked to meditate for long periods of time without eating. He is famous for developing a sleeping meditation. It is said that he spent more than 20 years in a cave on the mountain. Legend says that he lived for 118 years.



Master Chen Xiyi Practicing Sleep Meditation

Zi Wei Astrology has some similarities to Western astrology. It has *Twelve Palaces*, similar to the *Twelve Houses* of Western astrology, but fundamental differences exist between the two systems. In Zi Wei Astrology, the *Twelve Palaces* are associated with the *Twelve Earthly Branches*. Each palace relates to a different aspect of life (Career, Spouse, Travel, etc). These palace categories are different from the *Twelve Houses* of Western astrology.

The stars are distributed throughout the *Twelve Palaces* by calculations and tables. Most stars remain in the same palace in a chart but some move to other palaces from year to year.

Each star has its own meaning. Interpretation is based on the relationships between stars and on the palaces in which they fall. Simplified versions use a small number of stars; e.g., some systems use only the *Fourteen Major Stars*. This class will teach the location and interpretation of 113 stars.

Time must also be taken into account: you will learn to read charts for an overall lifetime, as well as by ten-year, one-year, and monthly periods of time. Although it will not be taught in this class, Zi Wei Dou Shu charts can even be constructed for a person based on the current day or current hour. This level of detail may actually be counterproductive as people should focus on living their life, not on watching their chart.

Zi Wei Astrology is surprisingly accurate in describing the personality through the subject's chart. It also can be quite accurate in predicting events in a person's life, but this takes a higher level of skill. For example, star 6 Lian Zhen when combined with star 48 Hua Ji means bleeding or fires. Only with experience can one know which event is likely to take place and when. These deeper levels will be discussed in the later lessons.

Over the years, many people have helped to make this class happen. I would like to thank Master Sang first, for his generosity in sharing this amazing method. Beyond this, Salina Sang, Jessie Cho, Anhtien Nguyen, Sebastian Aschitsch, Mika Yu, and Betty Stone have all contributed a lot at various times. However, any errors in the writing belong to me alone.

Lorraine Wilcox L.Ac.
Assistant to Master Sang
Los Angeles
July 2006

Course Outline: This class consists of five sections:

AS201a Zi Wei Dou Shu 1, Beginning Class, Part 1:

- Introduction.
- How to set up a Zi Wei Dou Shu chart.
- The *Twelve Palace Categories* and their interpretation.
- You can begin to interpret the chart and understand preliminary information about the character of those around you, such as a business partner or spouse. The information in this class is the foundation for everything that follows.

AS201b Zi Wei Dou Shu 2, Beginning Class, Part 2:

- How to calculate the *Fourteen Major Stars* and their interpretation
- At the end of this class you will have a good picture of the personality of the subject of the chart and his overall circumstances. The picture is painted with broad strokes and begins to come into focus.

AS211 Zi Wei Dou Shu 3, Intermediate Class:

- How to calculate 75 other stars that sit in the lifetime chart, and their interpretation.
- At the end of this class you will have a very clear and detailed picture of the personality of the subject of the chart and his overall circumstances

AS301a Zi Wei Dou Shu 4, Advanced Class, Part 1:

- This class discusses the element of time. You will learn to predict events or changes over time:
 - The *Large Cycle* (changes in luck over ten year periods of time)
 - The *Small Cycle* (changes in luck for each year based on age)
 - The *Current Year* (the influence of the current year, including stars that change each year)
 - Monthly predictions
- At the end of this class you will know how to characterize different periods of time for the subject of the chart and how to predict events in their life.

AS301b Zi Wei Dou Shu 5, Advanced Class, Part 2:

- This class uses case studies to illustrate how to read a chart and make predictions. Some of our case studies have dramatic events such as a murder, a father's suicide, or a brain aneurism. Others are more routine, yet the kind of information your clients will ask you: heartbreak and divorce, the prognosis for a cancer patient, the suitability of buying investment property, etc. There will also be a few special charts: someone who is likely to make great spiritual growth in the next ten years, or a chart that shows tremendous opportunity and potential.

Beyond this, in the near future we plan to have a series of *Zi Wei Dou Shu Advanced Case Study Classes*.

Pinyin Pronunciation

The stars are given a number to help you index them, but are generally referred to by their Chinese Mandarin pronunciation using Pinyin. Pinyin is a system of transliteration, or phonetically spelling the sounds of Mandarin Chinese with our alphabet.

Of course Chinese language was not originally written with the English alphabet. A Chinese character is always included in the first reference to a star.

Mandarin uses four tones. We have transliterated without indicating the tones.

A simplified guide to Pinyin pronunciation follows:

Beginning Consonants:

c	as -ts in its
g	always hard like g in get
j	always hard like j in jingle
q	similar to ch
x	similar to sh
z	as -ds in pads
zh	similar to j
others	similar to English

Vowels, Vowel Combinations, and Word Endings:

a	as -a in father	
ai	as -ye in rye	
an	as -ohn in john	
ang	as -ong in Hong Kong	
ao	similar to -ow in cow	
e	as -a in sofa	
ei	as -ay in bay	
en	as -un in fun	
eng	as -ung in lung	
i	after ch, sh, zh	something like –urr, but shorter and with the tongue on the palate
	after c, s, z	something like uh, but very short
	after any other letter	as –e in be
in	as -een in sheen	
o	as -au in maudlin	
ong	as - in lung	
ou	similar to -ow in mow	

u	after j, q, x, y, l or n	something like -ew in knew, but with the lips more pursed
	after any other letter	as -oo in boo
ua	as -ua in guava	
uai	as -ui in quiet	
uan	as -uan in quantity	
uang	similar to -uan above, but with an -ng ending	
ui	similar to -uay in quay	
un	after j, q, x, y, l, or n	something like -une in June, but with the lips more pursed
	after any other letter	between -one in done and -win in twin
uo	as wa- in war	

Other combinations that are pronounced as one would expect are not discussed here.

Review of the Stems and Branches and the Chinese Calendar

We will now do a quick review of aspects of the calendar used in Zi Wei Dou Shu. All this review information comes from *AS101 Stems and Branches and the Chinese Calendar Class*. Here, it is tailored for Zi Wei Dou Shu. If you need additional review, please refer to the *Stems and Branches Class*.

The Ten Heavenly Stems (十天干)

The ten stems represent heavenly qi spiraling downward. They repeat in a cyclical fashion.

The stems consist of:

The Ten Stems			
Chinese	Pinyin	Number	Element
甲	Jia	1	Yang Wood
乙	Yi	2	Yin Wood
丙	Bing	3	Yang Fire
丁	Ding	4	Yin Fire
戊	Wu	5	Yang Earth
己	Ji	6	Yin Earth
庚	Geng	7	Yang Metal
辛	Xin	8	Yin Metal
壬	Ren	9	Yang Water
癸	Gui	10	Yin Water

The Twelve Earthly Branches (十二地支)

The earthly branches flow in a cycle of twelve. They represent the qi of the earth radiating outward.

The Twelve Branches				
Chinese	Branch	Number	Animal	Element
子	Zi	1	Rat	Yang Water
丑	Chou	2	Ox	Yin Earth
寅	Yin	3	Tiger	Yang Wood
卯	Mao	4	Rabbit	Yin Wood
辰	Chen	5	Dragon	Yang Earth
巳	Si	6	Snake	Yin Fire
午	Wu	7	Horse	Yang Fire
未	Wei	8	Sheep	Yin Earth
申	Shen	9	Monkey	Yang Metal
酉	You	10	Rooster	Yin Metal
戌	Xu	11	Dog	Yang Earth
亥	Hai	12	Pig	Yin Water

The number *twelve* represents the dimension of time. We have twelve months in a year, and twelve *double-hours* in a day. Each branch represents one *month* and one *double-hour*, illustrated below.

Branch	Number	Hour	Month
Zi	1	11 pm – 1 am	11 th
Chou	2	1 – 3 am	12 th
Yin	3	3 – 5 am	1 st
Mao	4	5 – 7 am	2 nd
Chen	5	7 – 9 am	3 rd
Si	6	9 – 11 am	4 th
Wu	7	11 am – 1 pm	5 th
Wei	8	1 – 3 pm	6 th
Shen	9	3 – 5 pm	7 th
You	10	5 – 7 pm	8 th
Xu	11	7 – 9 pm	9 th
Hai	12	9 – 11 pm	10 th

Note that the Chinese day starts at 11 p.m. on the prior evening, not at midnight as it does in the West. Therefore if someone is born at 11:15 pm on June 20th, you would need to convert the time and date to the zi hour of June 21st.

Zi Wei Dou Shu uses the branches to name its twelve palaces:

si	wu	wei	shen
chen			you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

The branches are *always* placed in the palaces in this manner. Zi (associated with north) is always the second palace from the right on the bottom row. Yin is always in the bottom left palace. In this way, if someone says ‘the zi palace,’ you always know where to look.

Oppositions (六冲 liu chong)

The relationship of oppositions is important in Zi Wei Dou Shu. However, in this type of astrology, oppositions are not necessarily negative as they are in other Chinese arts.



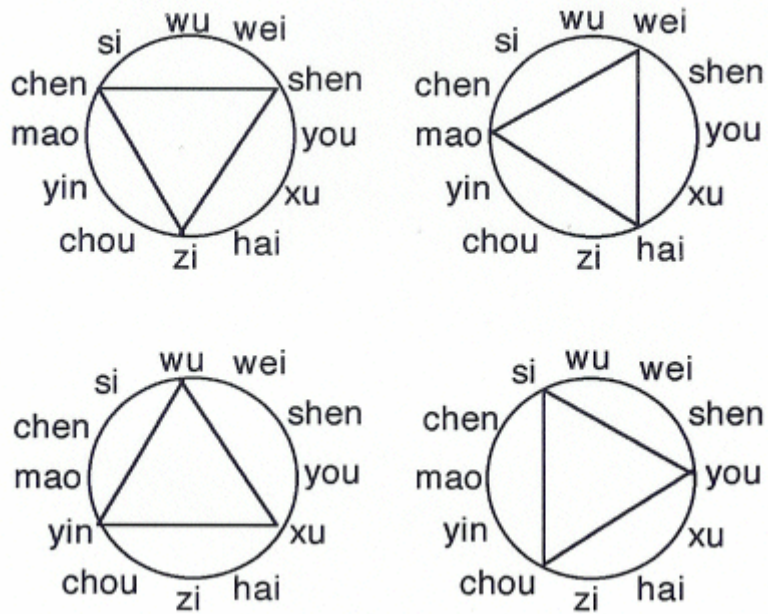
Oppositions	
Zi	Wu
Chou	Wei
Yin	Shen
Mao	You
Chen	Xu
Si	Hai

Zi Wei Dou Shu uses the twelve-palace grid, so oppositions look like this:

si	wu	wei	shen
chen			you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

The Three Combinations (三合 san he)

The three combinations are also quite important in Zi Wei Dou Shu.



The Three Combinations		
Shen, Zi, Chen	Water	North
Si, You, Chou	Metal	West
Yin, Wu, Xu	Fire	South
Hai, Mao, Wei	Wood	East

In a Zi Wei Dou Shu twelve-palace chart, the three combinations no longer look like an equilateral triangle, but if you check the three branches, you will see it is the same relationship. Here is what the combination yin wu xu looks like:

si	wu	wei	shen
chen			you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

The Cycle of Sixty (六十甲子)

The stems and branches progress in parallel cycles. When the two forces (ten stems and twelve branches) combine, they become a greater cycle of sixty. This *Cycle of Sixty* consists of six rotations of the stems and five rotations of the branches.

In Zi Wei Astrology, the stem and branch representing the year of birth are used for various calculations. The branch of the month and hour of birth are also used. Each of the twelve palaces in a chart is identified by a stem and branch. This will become clearer as you begin to make astrological charts.

The Chinese Calendar

The Western calendar is called the *Gregorian Calendar* after Pope Gregory, who had it developed into its current form. The *Gregorian Calendar* is a *solar* calendar because it is based on the earth's rotation around the sun. It consists of 365 days per year, except on a leap year when an extra day is added on February 29th.

A leap year occurs every fourth year. Years ending in two zeros are not leap years (e.g., 1900); however, a leap day is added in years ending in three zeros (e.g., 2000).

These complex rules keep months in their associated season. Without leap years, January eventually would take place in spring because the earth takes approximately 365-1/4 days to circle the sun. The extra quarter day adds up in time, affecting the accuracy of the calendar. Adding a leap day periodically compensates for this quarter-day discrepancy.

The Chinese developed a *lunar* calendar instead, based on the phases of the moon. Twelve lunar months make up a year: this leaves us about ten days short of a solar year. To correct this, a leap month is added periodically so that the First Month of the Chinese lunar calendar appears at the expect time. Therefore, a year consists of 12 or 13 lunar months.

A leap month is added seven times in 19 years in order to keep the calendar ‘in accord with heaven.’ Certain solar events must always take place at specific times in the lunar calendar, e.g., the winter solstice must always take place in the 11th lunar month. When a leap month is added, it must be put in the place that will keep the solstices, equinoxes, and New Year Day’s within the correct time frame.

Leap Month Rule: The first 15 days of a leap month maintain the same branch and number as the month preceding it. From day 16 on, the branch and number of a leap month are counted as the following month. The day of the month is read the same way, but the leap month is divided between the previous and the next month. This results in two months of about 45 days.

For example, look at the page for 2006 in the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*. There is a leap month between the seventh and eighth lunar months. Days 1 through 15 (August 24th through September 7th inclusive) belong to the seventh month. The funny thing is that July 29th and August 28th of 2006 both wind up being the fifth day of the seventh lunar month.

The sixteenth through the twenty-ninth day (there is no thirtieth day this month) of the leap month (September 8th through September 21st inclusive) belong to the following eighth month. Therefore, September 15th and October 14th 2006 both are the twenty-third day of the eighth lunar month.

Each month begins on the day of the new moon and lasts for 29 or 30 days, as it takes about 29-1/2 days from new moon to new moon. The full moon always takes place on the fifteenth day of a lunar month.

Chinese months do not have standard names; they are simply referred to as the *First Month*, *the Second Month*, *the Third Month*, etc. In these lessons, names such as ‘January’ refer to the Gregorian Calendar. Numbered months, such as the ‘eleventh month,’ refer to the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Chinese also developed a solar calendar, but Zi Wei Astrology uses the lunar calendar, so we will not discuss it here.

In order to do the calculations necessary for Zi Wei Astrology, we must convert the date of birth from the Gregorian calendar to the Chinese lunar calendar. We need to find the:

- **Stem and branch for the year of birth** (Remember, the year begins with Chinese lunar New Year which is the first day of the first lunar month. For example, January 28th of 1995 receives the stem and branch of 1994 because it fell in the 12th month of the previous year in the Chinese lunar calendar. ***We do not follow the February 4th rule used in Feng Shui.*** For dates in January or early February, refer to the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* to ascertain in which Chinese year they fall.)
- **Chinese lunar month of birth:** branch and month number (Remember the *leap month rule* if applicable.),
- **Day of the lunar month,**
- **Chinese double-hour:** branch and number.
- You will also need to know the stem and branch of the current year in order to make predictions for the current year. This will be used in the *Advanced Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*.

You have already learned to how to find this information in the *Ten-Thousand-Year Calendar* (萬年曆) in the stems and branches class.

This information is placed in the center of the chart.

Further Discussion of the Hour or Time

The hour table is repeated here for your convenience:

The Hour Branches			
Branch	Branch Number	Double Hour	
Zi	1	23:00-01:00	11 pm-1 am
Chou	2	01:00-03:00	1-3 am
Yin	3	03:00-05:00	3-5 am
Mao	4	05:00-07:00	5-7 am
Chen	5	07:00-09:00	7-9 am
Si	6	09:00-11:00	9-11 am
Wu	7	11:00-13:00	11 am-1 pm
Wei	8	13:00-15:00	1-3 pm
Shen	9	15:00-17:00	3-5 pm
You	10	17:00-19:00	5-7 pm
Xu	11	19:00-21:00	7-9 pm
Hai	12	21:00-23:00	9-11 pm

- Remember that the day starts with the first branch, zi, at 11 p.m. of the evening before. Therefore, if someone was born at 11:18 p.m. on September 16th, we would say the birth hour is the first branch, zi, on September 17th.
- Always use local time. We do not need to convert the hour to Greenwich Mean Time or any other standard. We are concerned only with the time according to the position of the sun in the place of birth. The time when the sun is most closely perpendicular overhead (noon) is always wu, the 7th hour.
- We must consider *Daylight Savings Time* if it was in effect at the time of birth. The current law in the United States is that the time moves forward one hour starting at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in April, and returns back to Standard Time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday in October. Before 1966 there was no federal law regarding Daylight Savings Time, and local governments may or may not have used it. We correct for Daylight Saving Time by ‘falling back,’ or subtracting one hour from the stated time.

In addition, during World War 2, some places had ‘war time’ and moved the clocks forward two hours. In Asia, many countries that came under Japanese control were switched to Tokyo time, even if that was quite different than the sun’s time.

Wherever the subject was born, you need to research the situation regarding the time there. When a birth time occurred during Daylight Savings Time or some other manipulation of the clock, the accuracy of a chart affected.

A series of books can be used as reference if the status of Daylight Savings Time is not known for a birth date: *Time Changes in the U.S.A.*, *Time Changes in Canada and Mexico*, *Time Changes in the World*, and *various Time Change Updates*, by Doris Chase Doane. These books can often be found at amazon.com.

- Beyond this, if you are in doubt about a chart, you may want to check the longitude to calculate the exact sun time in a location. Some countries also make unusual time zones that are not very close to the actual sun time. Here is some information on time zones:²

The world is divided into 24 time zones. If there were a clock for every time zone together in the same room, they would each show a different hour, but the minute hand of the clocks would all be in the same position. This is not the reality of sun time. The time according to the sun varies by minutes within a time zone. We just agree to make the whole time zone the same time to avoid confusion, and to have a standard time within a geographic area.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the standard time on which all zones base their clocks. This means that Greenwich, England has an accurate time according to the sun. We can calculate from Greenwich Mean Time to improve accuracy because it is the one place that uses local sun time and all other time zones are derived from it, not from their own local sun time.

Calculating Sun Time

You can calculate local sun time up to the minute, using the longitude of a location. *This is not necessary if the chart seems to match the person and the birth time is not too close to the borderline between time periods.*

You need three pieces of information to do this:

- the birth time
- the longitude of the birth place
- the time zone where the birth took place

Longitude means the lines that go around the earth through the north and south poles. It is written like this: 52°W39'. This is read "52 degrees and 39 minutes west" of Greenwich England. Unfortunately, the term *minute* is used both for *time* and for *longitude*. There are 60 minutes of longitude in one degree.

Each degree of longitude is equal to four minutes of time. Fifteen degrees of longitude equals one hour. Hence, most time zones are 15 degrees wide.

² The following discussion is somewhat simplified. To learn more, search on-line using the phrase 'time zones.'
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Here is how you can calculate local sun time:

- Find the longitude of the birth location in an atlas or on the internet.
- Divide the degrees of longitude by 15. Use the whole-number part of the answer as the hours in the calculation below.
- Multiply the decimal part of the answer by 60 to get *minutes of time*.
- Take the *minutes of longitude* and round them off as follows:
 - If it is near 0, add 0 minutes of time to the minutes found in the previous step.
 - If it is near 15, add 1 minute of time to the minutes found in the previous step.
 - If it is near 30, add 2 minutes of time to the minutes found in the previous step.
 - If it is near 45, add 3 minutes of time to the minutes found in the previous step.
 - If it is near 60, add 4 minutes of time to the minutes found in the previous step.
- Add the hours and minutes of time found in the above steps to find the sun-time difference between the birth location and Greenwich, England (0° longitude).
- Some resources will list the time for a city as ‘GMT minus 5 hours,’ for example. (*Minus* means *west* of Greenwich. *Plus* means *east* of Greenwich.) If you calculated 4 hours and 49 minutes, you know the time is 11 minutes off because the calculated 4 hours and 49 minutes is 11 minutes different than the listed 5 hours. This 11 minutes is the *correction factor*. In this case, you need to add a correction factor of eleven minutes to the birth time.

Do we add or subtract the difference?	West of Greenwich	East of Greenwich
	GMT <i>minus</i> hours	GMT <i>plus</i> hours
Calculated number is <i>less</i> than listed number	<i>add</i> difference to birth time	<i>subtract</i> difference from birth time
Calculated number is <i>greater</i> than listed number	<i>subtract</i> difference from birth time	<i>add</i> difference to birth time

- If you do not already have the GMT time difference for the city, find the time zone in which the birth city is located in the table below:

Time Zones of the World					
West			East		
Standard Name of Zone	Longitude	GMT minus hours	Standard Name of Zone	Longitude	GMT plus hours
Greenwich Mean Time	0°	0	Greenwich Mean Time	0°	0
West Africa	15°W	1	Central Europe	15°E	1
Azores	30°W	2	Eastern Europe	30°E	2
Brazil Zone 2	45°W	3	Baghdad	45°E	3
Newfoundland	52°W30'	3:30			
Atlantic	60°W	4	(No agreed name)	60°E	4
Eastern	75°W	5	(No agreed name)	75°E	5
			Indian	82°E30'	5:30
Central	90°W	6	(No agreed name)	90°E	6
			North Sumatra (Burma)	97°E30'	6:30
Mountain	105°W	7	South Sumatra	105°E	7
			Java	112°E30'	7:30
Pacific	120°W	8	China Coast	120°E	8
Yukon	135°W	9	Japan	135°E	9
			South Australia	142°E30'	9:30
Alaska-Hawaii	150°W	10	Guam	150°E	10
Hawaiian	157°W30'	10:30			
Bearing (Samoa)	165°W	11	(No agreed name)	165°E	11
International Date Line	180°W	12	New Zealand	180°E	12

- Take the time you calculated and compare it to the number of the birth time zone in the *GMT plus or minus hours* column above. The difference between these two times is the *correction factor*.

- Determine if you need to add or subtract the correction factor from the birth time as follows:

Do we add or subtract the difference?	West of Greenwich	East of Greenwich
	GMT <i>minus</i> hours	GMT <i>plus</i> hours
Calculated number is <i>less</i> than listed number	<i>add</i> difference to birth time	<i>subtract</i> difference from birth time
Calculated number is <i>greater</i> than listed number	<i>subtract</i> difference from birth time	<i>add</i> difference to birth time

- Be sure to correct for Daylight Savings Time as well, if in effect at the time.

Let's do an example:

- The longitude of Los Angeles is 118°W16'. This means it is 118 degrees and 16 minutes west of Greenwich, England (0°).
- 118° divided by 15 is 7.866666667. The whole number is 7, so we have 7 hours.
- .866666667 times 60 is 52. We add 52 minutes to make 7 hours and 52 minutes.
- 16' can be rounded off to 15. So we add 1 more minute of time to total 7 hours and 53 minutes. This is the sun-time difference between Los Angeles and Greenwich.
- Los Angeles is in the Pacific Time Zone, 120°W, or 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. We compare the Pacific Time Zone 8 hours to the sun-time difference of 7 hours and 53 minutes. The calculated time is 7 minutes less than the listed time, so the correction factor is 7 minutes.
- Since L.A. is *west* of Greenwich (GMT *minus* 8 hours) and the calculated number is 7 minutes *less* than the listed number, we need to add 7 minutes to Pacific Standard Time for someone born in L.A. (If it was during DST, we would also need to subtract an hour.) If a birth time is on the border between two time periods, we need to add 7 minutes to be more precise. If it is in the middle of the time period, it won't make any difference.

This means that when the clock says noon in Greenwich, it will say 4 a.m. in Los Angeles (earlier in the same day). However, if the clock were set to sun time, it would say 4:07 a.m.

In any other location, a different calculation would apply.

In most cases, a precise calculation such as this is not necessary. Since we only need an accuracy within a two-hour period, there is a lot of leeway. The people who often have the biggest problem are those who are told they were born at an odd-numbered hour, for example 7 a.m. In that case we need to know if it was a few minutes before or a few minutes after. It can change the time from the mao to the chen hour, which makes a big difference in the chart.

In general, the Chinese are not as obsessed with this level of accuracy as are people from the West. For example, if an astrology reading has a border-line time, they will simply make two charts and compare them to the person's character and situation. This is reasonable, as we cannot be sure the birth time was accurately recorded in the first place. This is what Master Sang does, and with experience you will be able to compare the charts and choose the right one for the client too.

Now we are ready to begin making the chart.

Setting Up the Zi Wei Dou Shu Chart

A blank chart consists of twelve boxes arranged into a square. Each of the twelve boxes represents one *palace* or *gong* (宮). The twelve branches are placed in the bottom right corner of each palace. Zi always starts in the second palace from the right in the bottom row. The other branches flow clockwise around the square. The yin branch palace is generally considered the first of the twelve palaces. It is always in the bottom left corner. The branches fall in this manner in all charts. They never move or change. Because these branches never move, we use them to name or identify each palace position. They are called the *palace branches*. The palace branch is like an address; it always takes you to the same place in the chart. A blank chart looks like this:

Si	Wu	Wei	Shen
Chen	Name: Date: (Western birth date) Time: (Western birth time)		You
Mao	Year: (year stem and branch) Month: (lunar month number and branch) Day: (day of the lunar month) Hour: (hour branch and number)		Xu
Yin	Chou	Zi	Hai

Fill out the center with the appropriate information. You will also need to know if the subject is male or female.

A blank chart for you to copy and use is provided at the end of this document. Please note that it has some lines in the center that we have not yet discussed. Leave them blank for now.

As you fill out the palaces, you need to write small because eventually each palace will contain a lot of information. You may also want to use pencil, so you can erase errors in calculation.

The Palace Stems

We now need to add the stems for each of the twelve palaces (called the *palace stems*).

The palace branches are already in their fixed location on the chart.

The palace stems are based on the stem of the subject's year of birth. Find the palace stem for the yin branch palace from the following table:

Stems For the 12 Palaces					
Branch of the Palace	Stem of Year of Birth				
	Jia or Ji	Yi or Geng	Bing or Xin	Ding or Ren	Wu or Gui
Yin	Bing	Wu	Geng	Ren	Jia
Mao	Ding	Ji	Xin	Gui	Yi
Chen	Wu	Geng	Ren	Jia	Bing
Si	Ji	Xin	Gui	Yi	Ding
Wu	Geng	Ren	Jia	Bing	Wu
Wei	Xin	Gui	Yi	Ding	Ji
Shen	Ren	Jia	Bing	Wu	Geng
You	Gui	Yi	Ding	Ji	Xin
Xu	Jia	Bing	Wu	Geng	Ren
Hai	Yi	Ding	Ji	Xin	Gui
Zi	Bing	Wu	Geng	Ren	Jia
Chou	Ding	Ji	Xin	Gui	Yi

In a jia year (1984 for example), the bing stem goes in the yin palace, making bing yin. The same layout occurs in a ji year (1979, for example).

The stems progress in order clockwise around the chart from the first palace, (yin branch). The stems of the eleventh and twelfth palaces (zi and chou) always repeat the stems of the first and second palaces (yin and mao). This is because ten stems are distributed through twelve palaces.

The uses of these palace stems will be described in future lessons. However, they should be placed on the chart at this point. Be sure to place the palace stem close to and just over the palace branch.

Explanation: You are actually setting up the stems and branches of the twelve palaces to mirror the stems and branches of the months from the year the subject was born. You can check this by looking in the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* at the subject's birth year. To review, the first month is always the third branch, yin. The palaces also start with yin.

The two stems that head each column in the above table are in the five combinations relationship with each other, so they have a close affinity

Example:

- AB was born in a bing stem year.
- In the table on the previous page we find the column for **bing** (and xin).
- We find that yin, the first palace, receives the stem **geng**.
- The other palaces follow in order clockwise.
- Stems geng and xin repeat in the zi and chou palace.

Gui Si	Jia Wu	Yi Wei	Bing Shen
Ren Chen	Name: AB Date: 8/24/56 Time: 10:50 am		Ding You
Xin Mao	Year: Bing Shen Month: 7 Shen Day: 19 th Hour: 6 Si		Wu Xu
Geng Yin	Xin Chou	Geng Zi	Ji Hai

If you look in the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*, you will find the first month of 1956 was geng yin, the same as in the yin palace in this chart. This is not important for performing the calculation, but may help you to conceptualize what you are doing.

Note: In these classes, a *chart* refers to an astrology chart for a person. A *table* will always refer to information arranged in rows and columns such as this, such as on the previous page.

Quiz 1

1. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1944. What is their year stem?

si	wu	wei	shen
chen	Year stem:		you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

2. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 1?

3. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1965. What is their year stem?

si	wu	wei	shen
chen	Year stem:		you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

4. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 3?

5. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1976. What is their year stem?

si	wu	wei	shen
chen	Year stem:		you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

6. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 5?

7. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1987. What is their year stem?

si	wu	wei	shen
chen	Year stem:		you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

8. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 7?

9. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1958. What is their year stem?

si	wu	wei	shen
chen	Year stem:		you
mao			xu
yin	chou	zi	hai

10. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 9?

Quiz 1 Answers

1. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1944. What is their year stem? **jia**
2. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 1? **ji**

ji si	geng wu	xin wei	ren shen
wu chen	Year stem: jia or ji		gui you
ding mao			jia xu
bing yin	ding chou	bing zi	yi hai

3. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1965. What is their year stem? **yi**
4. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 3? **geng**

xin si	ren wu	gui wei	jia shen
geng chen	Year stem: yi or geng		yi you
ji mao			bing xu
wu yin	ji chou	wu zi	ding hai

5. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1976. What is the year stem? **bing**
6. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 5? **xin**

gui si	jia wu	yi wei	bing shen
ren chen	Year stem: bing or xin		ding you
xin mao			wu xu
geng yin	xin chou	geng zi	ji hai

7. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1987. What is the year stem? **ding**

8. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 7? **ren**

yi si	bing wu	ding wei	wu shen
jia chen	Year stem: ding or ren		ji you
gui mao			geng xu
ren yin	gui chou	ren zi	xin hai

9. Place the palace stems in the chart for someone born in 1958. What is their year stem? **wu**

10. What other year stem will have the same palace stems as in Question 9? **gui**

ding si	wu wu	ji wei	geng shen
bing chen	Year stem: wu or gui		xin you
yi mao			ren xu
jia yin	yi chou	jia zi	gui hai

Note: These are the only five possible arrangements of the palace stems. You can use this answer key as a cheat-sheet if you like.

Locating the Ming and Shen Palaces

We now need to find which two palaces most represent the subject of the chart.

Ming Gong (命宮) is the *Destiny or Fate Palace*. It is considered *pre-heaven*, which means what a person is born into, his or her constitution or inheritance. Ming gong is also considered the palace that most represents the individual's personality.

Shen Gong (身宮) is the *Body Palace* and is considered *post-heaven*. This is what happens to a person after he or she is born.

Basically, pre-heaven (ming) is like the car that you have, and post-heaven (shen) is the road you drive it on. This will be explained more below.

1. Find the palace that contains the same branch as that of the birth month of your subject.
2. Take the branch of the hour of birth. Which number is associated with it?

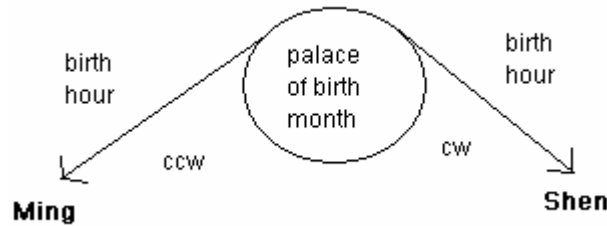
Branch	Branch Number	Double Hour	
Zi	1	23:00-01:00	11 pm-1 am
Chou	2	01:00-03:00	1-3 am
Yin	3	03:00-05:00	3-5 am
Mao	4	05:00-07:00	5-7 am
Chen	5	07:00-09:00	7-9 am
Si	6	09:00-11:00	9-11 am
Wu	7	11:00-13:00	11 am-1 pm
Wei	8	13:00-15:00	1-3 pm
Shen	9	15:00-17:00	3-5 pm
You	10	17:00-19:00	5-7 pm
Xu	11	19:00-21:00	7-9 pm
Hai	12	21:00-23:00	9-11 pm

3. Call the palace with the branch of the birth month "1," and count **counterclockwise** (ccw) the number of palaces equal to the number of the hour.² This is the location of the **Ming Gong** or **Fate Palace**. For example, if the hour branch is wu, then count back seven palaces, since wu is the seventh branch.

² Many similar calculations exist in Zi Wei Astrology where we count clockwise or counterclockwise from a palace to locate a star. The counting always starts with the palace in question as "1," not the first palace to either side.

Instead of using the number of the hour branch, the Chinese would generally call the first palace 'zi' and count the rest of the palaces as chou, yin, mao, etc. up to the hour of birth, rather than 2, 3, 4, etc.

4. For the **Shen Gong** or **Body Palace**, count **clockwise** (cw) the same number of palaces (equal to the number of the hour) from the palace that contains the month branch. Remember to call the palace containing the month branch “1.”



Example:

4	Gui Si	3	Jia Wu	2	Yi Wei	1 Month Branch Bing Shen
5	Ren Chen	Name: AB Date: 8/24/56 Time: 10:50 am				2 Ding You
MING 6	Xin Mao	Year: Bing Shen Month: 7 Shen Day: 19 th Hour: 6 Si				3 Wu Xu
Geng Yin	SHEN 6	5	Xin Chou	Geng Zi	4 Ji Hai	

The branch for AB’s month of birth is shen.³ We mark *Month Branch* in the palace that contains the shen branch.

The branch for AB’s hour of birth is si. Si is the 6th branch.

We count six palaces **counterclockwise** from the shen branch palace (the month branch) because si is the 6th branch. This puts us in the **mao** palace. The **ming gong** is located here.

We count six palaces clockwise from the palace that contains the month branch (shen) because si is the 6th branch. That places the **shen gong** (身宮) in the **chou** palace.

Explanation: Since ming is pre-heaven, we count backwards (counterclockwise). Since shen is post-heaven, we count forward (clockwise).

³ Don’t confuse the shen (申) branch palace with shen gong (身宮), the body palace. These are different words in the Chinese language.

You can look up the ming gong and shen gong in the following tables if you do not wish to do the calculation:

Ming and Shen Palaces													
Birth Hour	Palace	Birth Month											
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Zi	Ming	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou
	Shen	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou
Chou	Ming	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi
	Shen	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin
Yin	Ming	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai
	Shen	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao
Mao	Ming	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu
	Shen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen
Chen	Ming	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You
	Shen	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si
Si	Ming	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen
	Shen	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu
Wu	Ming	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei
	Shen	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei
Wei	Ming	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu
	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen
Shen	Ming	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si
	Shen	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You
You	Ming	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen
	Shen	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu
Xu	Ming	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao
	Shen	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai
Hai	Ming	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin
	Shen	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi

Notice that if the hour branch is zi or wu, both ming and shen will be located in the same palace. This signifies that there will be extremes in the subject's life. Details will be discussed below.

Interpreting the Location of Ming and Shen

The location of both ming gong and shen gong are important in interpreting the chart. As we will see, ming gong is your starting place, and shen gong is the direction in which you travel.

The Three Groupings for Ming Gong

Ming Gong (命宮) is the Destiny or Fate Palace. It is considered *pre-heaven*, which means that it is what you are born with or born into, your constitution or inheritance. Ming gong is also considered the personal palace most representing you.

The location of ming gong is one factor in determining your basic personality. What is the branch of the palace that contains ming gong? Find it in the following tables and note its group: Is it one of the four corners, the four directions, or the four earths? This grouping is based on the three combinations:

Four Corners	Four Directions	Four Earths
Shen	Zi (north)	Chen
Hai	Mao (east)	Wei
Yin	Wu (south)	Xu
Si	You (west)	Chou

corner si	south wu	earth wei	corner shen
earth chen			west you
east mao			earth xu
corner yin	earth chou	north zi	corner hai

The Four Earths are also called the *Four Graves* (四墓). These are the four branches associated with the earth element. Earth is heavy and does not want to move. People with ming in an earth palace have to struggle more in life. They find it hard to change and progress since inertia is strong. They need to expend double the effort to achieve. It is better for these people to move far from their birthplaces and seek development elsewhere in order to become ‘unstuck.’

This is especially true if ming is located in chen or xu (the two yang earth branches). Chen is called the *Heaven Net* (天羅) and xu is called the *Earth Net* (地網). In either case you must always break through a net to achieve things.

The Four Directions are Zi, mao, wu, and you, as these branches represent North, East, South, and West respectively. They were also traditionally called the *Four Failures* (四敗) because of their attraction to a lifestyle of romance, fun, parties, social life, drinking, gambling, and excessive spending.

This type of person is said to be a *peach blossom* (桃花). Peach blossoms bloom on trees from the end of twelfth month until the spring rains destroy them in the first month (yin). They are bright, colorful, fresh, and beautiful – but easily blown away. They do not last long.

In the past, a person considered to be a peach blossom was not believed to lead a productive life; hence, the name the ‘Four Failures.’ However, this lifestyle may work today for people in the sales or entertainment industry, for example.

The Four Corners are the four branches in the corner positions of a twelve-palace chart. They are also called the *Four Horses* (四馬) since people with their ming in a corner palace like to travel and move a lot. The corners signify a restless person who may invite trouble for no apparent reason.

Palace categories other than ming are also affected by the grouping in which they fall. (You will learn about the other palace categories later in this class.) For example, if the spouse palace is in one of the four corners, there may be more than one marriage, since corners may mean too much activity. If the career palace is in one of the corners, that person will change jobs, or have a job on the side.

Shen gong, as we have said, is the ‘body palace’ and is considered post-heaven. This is what happens to people after they are born. Again, an analogy is that pre-heaven is the car you own, and post-heaven is the road you drive it on.

The location of shen gong gives similar effects as the location of ming gong. The difference is that ming gong tends to represent the earlier part of your life, while shen gong represents the latter, perhaps after the age of 35.

Stars may generally be good in ming but bad in shen, or the other way around. (We have not yet learned any stars, but we will begin with the *Fourteen Major Stars* in Part 2 of the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*.) What do these variations signify?

Stars in Ming	Good	Bad	Good	Bad
Stars in Shen	Bad	Good	Good	Bad
Meaning	Not sufficient in material things	Life improves after age of 35	Very good luck overall.	Very bad luck overall.

Note: The *Fourteen Major Stars* cannot really be called ‘good’ or ‘bad.’ Each has its own strong and weak characteristics. Some are easier to get along with, others may achieve more, but society needs many types of people. However, many of the minor stars can be considered good or bad, and certain star combinations are certainly more difficult. In addition, each star has certain palaces that bring out its good attributes and others that do the opposite.

If the branch of the birth hour is zi or wu, both ming and shen will be in the same palace. This means that the subject’s life will be extremely easy or extremely difficult, or intense in some other way. This is because the stars in the ming palace are not balanced by other stars in shen, since both contain the same stars. In addition, both ming and shen will belong to an earth, or to a corner, or to a direction, so these characteristics will also be doubled.

The Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong

Besides the three groupings for ming gong, the branch of the ming palace determines certain characteristics of a person's life. However, the influence of a palace is strongly affected by the stars that are located inside them. Therefore, the effect of the palace itself is not always apparent immediately. (We will begin discussing the stars in Part 2 of the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*.)

Find the palace that contains ming and read the associated text below.

1. Ming in Zi Palace

You embrace joy and have an attitude of optimism towards life. Your temperament is refined and elegant. You have deep affection for old friends; you could not leave them for new ones. You are able to be patient with your spouse.

You are intelligent and sincere. You like to be original and unconventional; your judgment of things is different from the masses. You are very subjective and eccentric, possibly even unreasonable. You are strong-willed.

You debate the matter, not the person. You don't carry grudges; you are magnanimous.

It is easy for you to fall prey to peach blossom. You like to make contact with people. You tend to make promises lightly but go back on your word or break your promises.

2. Ming in Chou Palace

Your outward appearance is cool-headed but you have nobody to turn to. It is better if you leave your birthplace early to seek development in a far-off location.

You like to do deeds of merit to win honor; you aspire to rise and flourish. You are willing to take on heavy responsibilities without calculating personal gain or loss.

You tend to treat others arrogantly and try to teach them lessons. You like others to have confidence in you, and to respect and praise you. When others oppose your opinions, it is easy for you to get angry. You tend to show off too much.

You have to toil. You strive to prolong your life despite illness. It is easy for you to suffer from other people's jealousy and resentment, and easy for you to be framed by others.

3. Ming in Yin Palace

Your life is toilsome. You are smart, diligent and hard working. You invite troubles for no apparent reason. You like to take shortcuts to obtain your goals. You do not like to be restricted.

You are sharp-sighted and have a lively temperament. Your style of conversation makes a deep impression on people. You are kind-hearted. You like to share your success with others. You make extensive contact with people and have fairly good relations with others.

Your personality is steadfast and resolute. You will have riches and honor.

4. Ming in Mao Palace

It is easy for you to fall prey to peach blossom; you are elegant but have a weakness for romance. You like to make contact with people.

You had a relatively weak constitution in youth, but became stronger in adulthood. Your nerves are overly sensitive. You are easily angered. You tend to get in arguments over trivial things.

You are cautious about everything because of previous setbacks. You are able to exercise self-restraint and you are observant. You have nobody to turn to; you have to struggle alone.

You are understanding and have perspective in dealing with both people and affairs. You clearly distinguish right from wrong. Remember, if jade is not cut, it cannot become a useful vessel. You have originality and special merits.

5. Ming in Chen Palace

Your outward appearance is cool-headed but you have nobody to turn to. It is better if you leave your birthplace early to seek development in a far-off location.

Your conduct is refined and courteous. Your nature is meek and good-natured, yet a little too friendly.

You take pleasure in mediating disputes for others. You are considerate, balanced, and impartial. You like to serve as a middleman. You are intelligent, shrewd and tactful in handling affairs, leisurely and unhurried.

You are indecisive. It is easy for you to stir up trouble for yourself. (Good-heartedness often meets with no reward.)

6. Ming in Si Palace

You go out of the way to look for weak points; you look at the small and miss the big. You know how to work diligently, yet you invite troubles for no apparent reason. It is easy for you to receive restraint from people.

You have a cool-headed manner, yet you worry too much. Your life is toilsome; it is easy for you to be alone.

You are honest, ambitious, intelligent, cautious, and shrewd. You make a little go a long way, and are good at engaging in business and trade.

7. Ming in Wu Palace

You are arrogant and conceited. You are elegant but have a weakness for romance and the pleasures of the flesh. You like to make contact with people. You are proud.

You will surpass all the others. You are broadminded and outspoken; your family's fortune will prosper. You are magnanimous. You are good at artful words to bring you pleasures of the flesh, and you boast and flatter. You fail to think of others when something is beneficial for you, or you don't say what you think, tending to flatter others in order to please them. It is appropriate to be open, sincere, and straightforward in order to succeed.

8. Ming in Wei Palace

You do not take other people's ideas easily. You appear soft on the outside, but are strong on the inside. You handle affairs carefully and are conscientious at work.

You have too many ideals and too few achievements. You are too sensitive and easily angered. You are bashful or coy in every gesture and movement.

You are lonely and narrow-minded. You have nobody to turn to. It is better if you leave your birthplace early to seek development in a far-off location.

9. Ming in Shen Palace

Sometimes you are full of self-confidence; sometimes you contradict yourself. It is appropriate for you to get married late.

You are clever and sharp-witted. Your speech and bearing is quite good. You are talented in the performing arts. There is loss and gain in everything.

10. Ming in You Palace

You are kind-hearted, honest, faithful, and dependable.

If you think you are so clever, it will often lead to failure. You are strong-minded and unyielding to others; you like to act alone.

You love to travel, especially to enjoy places of historic interest and scenic beauty.

You are able to console yourself and solve problems that vex you, even in times of frustration or disappointment.

It is easy for you to fall prey to peach blossom.

11. Ming in Xu Palace

You are disheartened when you unexpectedly receive an upset. Others often need to encourage, support, and cheer you up. Your outward appearance is cool-headed, but you have nobody to turn to. It is better if you leave your birthplace early to seek development in a far-off location.

You work enthusiastically and are courageous. You can learn anything with one look; as soon as you learn it, you can do it. However, you lack patience. You are calm and not excitable. This horse will not gallop fast without some whipping.

12. Ming in Hai Palace

You are tender-hearted, emotional, and sensitive. You are easily moved to tears by the environment. You receive other people warmly.

If you hear something once, you understand it.

You are humble and compassionate toward others. You do not attach importance to your own riches; you like to share your success with others.

You invite troubles for no apparent reason. You are industrious and very hard-working.

Please remember, this is only the beginning, only one of many influences. The three groupings (corner, direction, earth) are more important, and the stars in a palace can override the influence of the palace if they are strong.

In some cases, the descriptions above are rather negative. Every chart has good and bad in it. If there is something troublesome in your reading, then you can work to overcome it. Our charts can definitely be used as guides for personal growth.

Quiz 2

1. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

ji si	geng wu	xin wei	ren shen
wu chen	Year: jia chen Month: 11, zi Day: 15 th		gui you
ding mao	Hour: 4, mao		jia xu
bing yin	ding chou	bing zi	yi hai

2. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

gui si	jia wu	yi wei	bing shen
ren chen	Year: xin you Month: 1, yin Day: 12 th		ding you
xin mao	Hour: 7, wu		wu xu
geng yin	xin chou	geng zi	ji hai

3. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

ding si	wu wu	ji wei	geng shen
bing chen	Year: gui si Month: 5, wu Day: 5 th		xin you
yi mao	Hour: 5, chen		ren xu
jia yin	yi chou	jia zi	gui hai

Quiz 2 Answers

1. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

ji si	geng wu	xin wei	ren shen
wu chen	Year: jia chen Month: 11, zi Day: 15 th Hour: 4 , mao		4 Ming gui you
4 Shen ding mao			3 jia xu
3 bing yin	2 ding chou	1 month bing zi	2 yi hai

Description: Ming is in you, one of the *Four Directions*, signifying peach blossom. Shen is in mao, also one of the *Four Directions*. This doubles the peach blossom effect, although these two palaces will have different stars, so it is possible that this chart is not too extreme. Nevertheless, this person will probably be very social and focused on having a good time with the opposite sex. They are likely to be attractive, care about their looks, and have some charisma. You can also read more details about them under mao and you in the section called the *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*.

2. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

4 gui si	5 jia wu	6 yi wei	7 Ming Shen bing shen
3 ren chen	Year: xin you Month: 1, yin Day: 12 th Hour: 7, wu		6 ding you
2 xin mao			5 wu xu
1 month geng yin	2 xin chou	3 geng zi	4 ji hai

Description: Ming and shen both end up in the shen branch palace. This person has a double dose of the *Four Corners*. Not only that, when we learn the stars, we will find that they have a double dose of the same stars. It is easy for this chart to be out of balance. Since this relates to the corners, the person is like to be very impulsive, making big changes on a whim. Therefore, they will lack stability. They often bring trouble on themselves by forgetting the advice, “If it is not broken, don’t fix it.” This person will always be active and busy, mentally and physically, and will like to multi-task. You can also read more details about them under shen in the section called the *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*.

3. Find the ming and shen palaces for the following person and briefly describe what this tells you about them.

2 ding si	1 month wu wu	2 ji wei	3 geng shen
3 bing chen	Year: gui si Month: 5, wu Day: 5 th	4 xin you	
4 yi mao	Hour: 5, chen	5 Shen ren xu	
5 Ming jia yin	yi chou	jia zi	gui hai

Description: Ming is in yin, one of the *Four Corners*, signifying activity. Shen is in xu, one of the *Four Earths*, giving stability. The activity and stability help to balance each other. This person will be more active early in life and gain stability as s/he ages. You can also read more details about them under yin and xu in the section called the *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*.

Locating the Twelve Palace Categories

Each of the twelve palaces has an area or category of life that is described by the stars in that palace. In the table below are these twelve categories. Notice that the first category is the ming gong or the fate palace, which we have located in the previous section.

The Twelve Palace Categories			
Palace		Chinese	Pinyin
1	Fate	命宮	Ming Gong
2	Parents	父母宮	Fu Mu Gong
3	Karma	福德宮	Fu De Gong
4	Property	田宅宮	Tian Zhai Gong
5	Career	事業宮	Shi Yi Gong
6	Friends	交友宮	Shi Ye Gong
7	Travel	遷移宮	Qian Yi Gong
8	Illness	疾厄宮	Ji E Gong
9	Money	財帛宮	Cai Bo Gong
10	Children	子女宮	Zi Nu Gong
11	Spouse	夫妻宮	Fu Qi Gong
12	Siblings	兄弟宮	Xiong Di Gong

To assign the *twelve palace categories*, start with the palace containing ming gong. Continue placing the other eleven palaces in order in a clockwise direction. The palaces progress in the same order in all charts, but the location of the starting point – ming gong – will vary from chart to chart.

Later on, in the *Advanced Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*, you will need to use this table a lot. You can memorize them directly, or if you like, here is a sentence to help you remember the order of the palaces:

My parent's car probably careens freely,
Ming Parents Karma Property Career Friends

traveling illegally Monday, chiefly speeding sideways.
Travel Illness Money Children Spouse Siblings

This sentence makes no sense, but it is useful for remembering the order.

Example:

KARMA Gui Si	PROPERTY Jia Wu	CAREER Yi Wei	FRIENDS Bing Shen
PARENTS Ren Chen	Name: AB Date: 8/24/56 Time: 10:50 am		TRAVEL Ding You
MING Xin Mao	Year: Bing Shen Month: 7 Shen Day: 19th Hour: 6 Si		ILLNESS Wu Xu
SIBLINGS Geng Yin	SPOUSE SHEN Xin Chou	CHILDREN Geng Zi	MONEY Ji Hai

We determined earlier that AB's ming gong is in the mao palace. The rest of the palaces follow in order, clockwise. Notice in the above example that spouse and shen gong fall in the same palace (chou). Shen gong always shares its palace. It is the only palace that does. The meaning of this will be discussed below.

You can also place the palace categories using the following table:

Ming Gong Location	Parents	Karma	Property	Career	Friends	Travel	Illness	Money	Children	Spouse	Siblings
Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai
Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi
Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou
Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin
Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao
Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen
Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si
Wei	Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu
Shen	You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei
You	Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen
Xu	Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You
Hai	Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu

However, it is generally easier to find the ming and then place the rest in order in the chart than it is to use a table like this.

The Meaning of the Twelve Palace Categories

Each category represents a certain aspect of life. However, sometimes it represents aspects that are not obvious to a modern person or a Westerner.

MING: Fate or destiny. Represents the basic personality as perceived by others, the pre-heaven nature, or the constitution of the subject. It is what you are or who you are. This has been discussed above.

PARENTS: Gives information about our parents, their character and fate. Since we often look like our parents, this palace also can be examined to determine a person's beauty. Therefore, it is sometimes referred to as the 'appearance palace.' The parents palace can be viewed to predict the nature of the subject's boss as well.

KARMA: This palace category, 福德宮 (fu de gong), is difficult to translate into English. *Fu* means 'Happiness, good fortune, good luck, a blessing.' *De* means 'virtue, morals, moral character.' *Gong*, of course, means 'palace.' While others have translated this category as 'Luck and Fortune,' this doesn't take into account the morality aspect. Though not a literal or perfect translation, we have chosen *Karma*, which implies luck, as well as a lot about our character.

This palace describes our emotional outlook or inner make-up. It also relates to our financial fortune since the money palace is opposite from the karma palace. It is desirable to see good stars here. If so, the person will be happy regardless of their circumstances.

PROPERTY: Refers to land or buildings we will own, as well as preferences for types of places to live. This palace also gives some information about the family since we often live with our families.

CAREER: Type of career that suits us and the amount of success we will have. If the subject is a student (even as a child), this palace represents those efforts as well.

FRIENDS: Originally called the *Servants Palace*. Since most people can't afford servants today, we rely on our friends for help instead. Therefore, this palace tells you if you can rely on your friends. It also gives information on the character of the friends and can be checked to see the subject's relationship with business partners.

TRAVEL: This palace has a business connotation, as people did not travel as much for pleasure in the past. Most people have to go outside the home to make money. This palace tells your fate while you are traveling. It can even warn of car or airplane accidents.

Travel is always opposite ming and has a strong effect on it. Bad stars (such as 37 Qing Yang or 48 Hua Ji) in the travel palace are worse than when in ming. Good stars in travel can also be stronger than when in ming.

If you move, you can look at the travel palace as your temporary ming.

ILLNESS: From a Chinese, not Western, medical perspective.

MONEY: The money, career, and ming palaces form an important triangle called the three combinations relationship. (There will be more discussion of this relationship later.)

CHILDREN: The character of our children. It can also refer to our apprentices or students if we are close to them in mentoring relationships. It does not really refer to students in general if you teach in a classroom situation.

SPOUSE: The ability to have a significant relationship. The character of your husband or wife.

If the major stars in your spouse palace are not considered good, a good match is still possible if you marry someone who has those same stars in the ming gong of their chart. Also, if there are bad stars in the spouse palace, it is better to marry later in life or to marry an older person. We will begin discussing the stars in Part 2 of the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*.

SIBLINGS: The character of our brothers and sisters and our relationship with them.

The 13th palace, shen gong, overlaps with one of the previous twelve palaces:

SHEN: The Body Palace. A person's post-heaven nature or development. The road you drive down. This palace can be located in any of the palaces, including ming. The location of your shen palace focuses on your later life, most representing the time after the age of 35.

The palace category that is shared with the shen palace is of special interest. It is an area of focus or attention in your life. If it is in career, then career is extremely important to you. It may also be an area where you have issues that need to be worked out. If it is in spouse, it may be that married life is very important to you, but there are also cases where a person may avoid marriage due to their own fears.

If shen overlaps with karma, the person usually cares a lot about their emotions and wants to feel comfortable. Is this good or bad? If they use it to grow spiritually, it is one thing. It is quite another if they have tantrums when they don't get what they want.

If shen overlaps with ming, the person may be self-obsessed, or they may have issues with taking care of themselves. Somehow, their attention will be on the self, but in a more outward way than with the karma palace.

If shen overlaps with spouse, then marriage is very important. Often, they will put a lot of energy into taking care of their spouse.

Ming, career, money, and spouse are generally the most important palaces in interpreting a chart if the person has a career. The first three form an equilateral triangle on the chart, called the *Three Combinations Relationship*, (this was reviewed above). The spouse palace is always opposite career. Travel also has a special importance because it faces the ming palace.

Traditionally, ming, karma, and spouse were considered the most important palaces for a female's happiness. Today, it depends on whether a woman has a career and manages her own money, or if she chooses to stay home for a more traditional life.

Palace categories other than ming may also be affected by the grouping (*Four Earths*, *Four Directions*, or *Four Corners*) in which they fall. For example, if the spouse palace is in one of the four corners, there may be more than one marriage because the corners mean movement or activity. If it is in one of the four directions, there may be problems with flirtations because the four directions have a peach blossom influence.

If the career palace is in one of the corners, that person will change jobs, or have a job on the side. If it is in one of the four earths, the career will be more stable or even stagnant.

However, the influence of a palace is moderated by the stars that are inside it. For example, if a corner palace has very stable stars in it, there will be less movement. If an earth palace has very stable stars, the person may be so stable that they are easily stuck in their situation and lack imagination. We will begin discussing the stars in Part 2 of the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class*.

Discussion of the Example:

KARMA Gui Si	PROPERTY Jia Wu	CAREER Yi Wei	FRIENDS Bing Shen
PARENTS Ren Chen	Name: AB Date: 8/24/56 Time: 10:50 am		TRAVEL Ding You
MING Xin Mao	Year: Bing Shen Month: 7 Shen Day: 19th Hour: 6 Si		ILLNESS Wu Xu
SIBLINGS Geng Yin	SPOUSE SHEN Xin Chou	CHILDREN Geng Zi	MONEY Ji Hai

AB's ming gong falls into the mao palace. Mao is one of the four directions. Therefore, when he was younger (before the age of 35), AB would tend to lead a 'peach blossom' life. You can read more details under the heading of *Mao* in the *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*, above.

AB's shen gong falls into the chou palace. Chou is one of the four earths. This means that AB will become more stable and responsible as he ages, but he may have a feeling of being stuck in life. More details may be read under the heading of *Chou* in the *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*, above.

His shen palace also coincides with his spouse palace. Therefore, somehow a relationship with a significant other is important in his life. (In fact this person was tricked by a woman when he was young. After that, he would date women but would never get married or live with them.)

Siblings, karma, friends, and money are in the four corners, so these palace categories will be more active and changeable. Spouse, parents, career, and illness are in the four earths, and will be more stable, possibly involving struggle. Children, property, travel, and ming are in the four directions. These will tend to be more related to social activity and play, rather than hard work.

At this stage, Master Sang can often tell if a chart does not belong to a person, perhaps because they have the wrong birth time. For example, if someone has both ming and shen in the four directions, they should have enough peach blossom qi to have some charisma and to look attractive, whether male or female. If both are in the earth palaces, the person will have slow and deliberate movements and seem fairly conservative. If both are in the four corners, the person will be very busy, even nervous and fidgety, and it is easy for them to multi-task. It is usually obvious in cases like this, unless all the stars in the palace really add up to counteract these effects.

It is not quite so obvious when ming is in one type of palace and shen is in another, but the overall effect will be a combination of the two, with the third element lacking. For example if ming is in a direction and shen is in a corner, the person should be somewhat attractive and fairly active, but not very conservative or methodical.

These three types of palaces seem to have a much stronger effect than the information presented under the heading of *Twelve Palaces of Ming Gong*.

One important note should be made regarding interpretation of the chart. If you are reading a chart that doesn't seem to describe the subject, check the time and date. To make an accurate reading, you must know the actual date and time of birth. Sometimes the subject does not know the exact time of birth. Sometimes the subject may even give the wrong information on purpose. Could the time have been during daylight savings time?

If you are unsure, make a few charts, using the hour before and the hour after the supposed time, and see which one best describes the subject. You need not do a full chart for this. If you find the natal ming gong and place the *Fourteen Major Stars* (described in the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class, Part 2*), it should be apparent which chart describes the subject.

This is the end of the *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class, Part 1*. It is true that you have not yet learned much about how to read a chart or make predictions, but without this foundation, you can not progress to the next level. By the end of *Beginning Zi Wei Dou Shu Class, Part 2*, the picture painted by a chart will be much clearer. When you have learned the *Fourteen Major Stars*, you can know quite a bit about the subject of your chart.

When you finish the *Zi Wei Dou Shu Advanced Class*, your charts will look as complex as the one on the next page and you will have learned how to analyze this information.

Ming	KARMA 5 Tian Tong 1 LU (Lu) 15 Wen Chang KE (Ke) 36 Lu Cun 41 Tian Guan 44 Kong Wang 65 Xun Kong 66 Bo Shi 84 Bing Parents 8 20 32 44 56 Gui 23-32 Si	PROPERTY 4 Wu Qu 2 7 Tian Fu 2 18 Di Kong 37 Qing Yang 67 Li Shi 85 Si Karma 9 21 33 45 57 Jia 33-42 Wu	KARMA KE(8) CAREER 3 Tai Yang 3 8 Tai Yin 3 20 Feng Gao 21 Huo Xing 26 Tian Yao 54 Hong Luan 57 Gua Su 68 Qing Long 86 Mu Property 10 22 34 46 58 Yi 43-52 Wei	PROPERTY FRIENDS 9 Tan Lang 3 69 Xiao Hao 87 Jue Career 11 23 35 47 59 Bing 53-62 Shen	Ji
Lu	PARENTS 14 Po Jun 2 17 Di Jie 24 You Bi 32 San Tai 38 Tuo Luo 43 Jie Lu 50 Hua Gai 61 Fei Lian 65 Xun Kong 77 Guan Fu 83 Shuai 7 19 31 43 55 Ren 13-22 Ming Chen	Name: AB in 1986 (bing yin year) Date: 8/24/56 Time: 10:50 am Year: Bing Shen Month: 7 Shen Day: 19th Hour: 6 Si Type: Wood 3 YYMF: Yang Male Ming Ruler: 16 Wen Qu Shen Ruler: 12 Tian Liang	TRAVEL 2 Tian Ji 2 QUAN (Quan) 10 Ju Men 1 16 Wen Qu 39 Tian Kui 51 Tian Kong 58 Xian Chi 62 Po Sui 64 Tian Shou 70 Jiang Jun 88 Tai Friends 12 24 36 48 60 Ding 63-72 You	QUAN 2 Tian Ji 2 QUAN (Quan) 10 Ju Men 1 16 Wen Qu 39 Tian Kui 51 Tian Kong 58 Xian Chi 62 Po Sui 64 Tian Shou 70 Jiang Jun 88 Tai Friends 12 24 36 48 60 Ding 63-72 You	Quan C a r e e r
S p o u s e	MING 22 Ling Xing 25 Tian Xing 76 Fu Bing 82 Di Wang Siblings 6 18 30 42 54 Xin 3-12 Mao	The First Month of a Zi Year is: hai.	ILLNESS 1 Zi Wei 4 11 Tian Xiang 4 23 Zuo Fu 33 Ba Zuo 34 En Guang 52 Tian Ku 71 Zou Shu 89 Yang Travel 1 13 25 37 49 61 Wu 73-82 Xu	FRIENDS 1 Zi Wei 4 11 Tian Xiang 4 23 Zuo Fu 33 Ba Zuo 34 En Guang 52 Tian Ku 71 Zou Shu 89 Yang Travel 1 13 25 37 49 61 Wu 73-82 Xu	F r i e n d s
	SIBLINGS 6 Lian Zhen 1 JI (Ji) 27 Yue Ma 28 Jie Shen 29 Tian Wu 31 Yin Sha 35 Tian Gui 49 Ming Ma 53 Tian Xu 60 Feng Ge 75 Da Hao 81 Lin Guan Spouse 5 17 29 41 53 Geng 113-122 Yin	SPOUSE SHEN 55 Tian Xi 74 Bing Fu 80 Guan Dai Children 4 16 28 40 52 Xin 103-112 Chou	CHILDREN 13 Qi Sha 2 42 Tian Fu 59 Long Chi 73 Xi Shen 79 Mu Yu Money 3 15 27 39 51 Geng 93-102 Zi	MONEY 12 Tian Liang 5 19 Tai Fu 30 Tian Yue 40 Tian Yue 56 Gu Chen 63 Tian Cai 72 Fei Lian 78 Chang Sheng Illness 2 14 26 38 50 62 Ji 83-92 Hai	
Children	Money	Illness	Travel		

Quiz 3

1. We already saw this chart in Quiz 2, Question 3. Place the other palace categories in it, and then answer the questions below.

ding si	wu wu	ji wei	geng shen
bing chen	Year: gui si Month: 5, wu Day: 5 th		xin you
yi mao	Hour: 5, chen		Shen ren xu
Ming jia yin	yi chou	jia zi	gui hai

2. Which category would be of special interest, focus, or an area where this person would have issues in his or her life?

3. Which four categories would tend to be very stable, maybe even stagnant (unless later we find out there are very unstable stars there)?

Quiz 3 Answers

1. We already saw this chart in Quiz 2, Question 3. Place the other palace categories in it, and then answer the questions below.

Property ding si	Career wu wu	Friends ji wei	Travel geng shen
Karma bing chen	Year: gui si Month: 5, wu Day: 5 th		Illness xin you
Parents yi mao	Hour: 5, chen		Money Shen ren xu
Ming jia yin	Siblings yi chou	Spouse jia zi	Children gui hai

2. Which category would be of special interest, focus, or an area where this person would have issues in his or her life?

Answer: Money, because the shen palace overlaps with money in the xu palace.

3. Which four categories would tend to be very stable, maybe even stagnant (unless later we find out there are very unstable stars there)?

Answer: Siblings, Karma, Friends, and Money because they are in the four earth palaces (chou, chen, wei, and xu respectively).

Si	Wu	Wei	Shen
Chen	NAME: DATE: HOUR: YEAR: MONTH: DAY: HOUR:		You
Mao	AGE: YYMF: TYPE: MING: SHEN: First month of a Zi Year is:		Xu
Yin	Chou	Zi	Hai