

WORKSHOP ON AUSPICIOUS DATES SELECTION BY MASTER CHEW
23 rd July 2006 (Sun) @ Safra, Mt Faber



In the Eyes of a Participant :-

The morning was cool and it made most people very reluctant to get up from the bed on a lazy Sunday morning due to the earlier downpour during the dragon hours.

I woke up anyway due to my biological clock in the brains. Today is a very important day – a milestone which I would never believe I would make myself to attend a memorable workshop, conducted by my Bazi Master Chew Keat Leng.

Going back to my childhood's memories:-

Going back to my childhood days, I would recall growing up in an environment surrounded by family members/relatives & neighbours who were extra superstitious. Most of our daily, weekly or festive routines would be 'governed' by this little Chinese Red Book called the 'Tong Shen' or "Tong Shu". These routines applied to celebrations, prayers, moving house, admission to hospitals, weddings, childbirths etc.

The children in my neighbourhood at that time were mostly enrolled in mainstream Chinese schools. However, my Dad saw the future of English as the important medium in the Spore's education system & decided to go against tradition by registering me in an English language school for my primary education. As a result, I felt a little outcast amongst my young peers. Hence, with the science & logic which paved the way of my academic education journey, this marked my destiny of being a skeptical person & always challenging those traditions &

cultural practices without logical explanations. I would incur the ire of the relatives & elders if I asked too many questions. Deep inside me, I found it frustrating too to be controlled by these dates in this supposedly magical Red Book. One would understand why because Chinese culture and religious practices were not taught openly in schools during those days except for this simple lesson called “Civic” subject. So that made me even more doubtful on the ancient beliefs and practices of choosing auspicious dates for whatever reasons one might have.

The life journey is very strange at times. After going the long path of life experiences, I crossed paths with some FS Masters who had enlightened me with the science of FS & the under-lying meanings of the interpretations of one’s birth data or Bazi. It was through Master Chew that I benefited very much from the in-depth teachings, values & understanding of one’s destiny. This is because he used many Chinese idioms/proverbs or the classical way of interpreting the Bazi analysis which no English translations can effectively bring out the essence of understanding the Bazi interpretations from the conceptual method of learning. As I am still going through this learning journey, I was pleasantly surprised to learn from my Seniors that Master Chew was going to conduct a workshop on 23 July 2006 in sharing the use of this Chinese Tong Shen with his students & their guests. The objective was to be able to understand the use of this book in a responsible way when looking at Date Selections for common things affecting our daily lives.

Hmm..... why not? I thought to myself. Finally, I might be able to seek the answers to many of my unanswered questions since my childhood days and trying to understand why my elderly family members & relatives were so ‘fanatic’ over some customs & taboos.

The Workshop Day

The Sunday morning started seeing a steady stream of workshop participants coming into SAFRA workshop room @ Telok Blangah from different parts of Singapore as early as 9.00am, one hour ahead of the workshop time. Most faces were enthusiastic, eager & hungry for invaluable information which Master Chew had promised to deliver during the 6-hour workshop inclusive of lunch. So far, most of us had never come across any Master who has conducted a public workshop on this topic. This workshop was not only exclusively for Master Chew’s present & past students, but also made available to other participants through words of mouth. It was also a warm sight to see Master Goh Guan Leong & his students attending this workshop as well. Incidentally, Master Goh is a disciple of Master Chew and he is now teaching Bazi courses in Chinese medium professionally at another venue. He is the author of 4 Pillars book currently available in both English & Chinese.

The morning kicked off with the main Organising Committee Members addressing the participants with a welcome message before Master Chew went into the workshop proper. This was followed by a decent buffet lunch in one of the restaurants at Safra for networking purposes. Old and new students networked with each other and there was much laughter here and there. Yes, the occasion was very ‘yang’. The 2nd part of the workshop continued after lunch before calling it a day by 4.00pm.

Some Interesting Highlights during The Workshop:-

Master Chew started off with many interesting slide presentations on the Tong Shen of which key pages were highlighted. Reference pages were pointed out especially those Chinese characters printed either in Red or Black Ink. (Master Chew used to be known as a Master who gave very little visual presentation or notes to his students so that they would not be spoon-fed but to pay attention to his lectures). This time, the visual presentation was very professionally done and each participant received a workshop booklet full of information derived from the Tong Shen. This helped the majority of us to follow him as he went through slides by slides highlighting the important key points. The workshop materials definitely served as a very important reference book for all participants to understand the Tong Shen better.

(a) Auspicious Events

One key point to note is that for any auspicious events, it is always important to have them take place before noon when the yang energies are very strong. This includes marriages, new births, prayers, placing of matrimonial beds etc etc

(b) Conceptions

Conceptions were also discussed on the appropriate directions of the matrimonial beds, and the best time for the couple to conceive due to the different factors covering yin & yang energies, food intake, medical assistance etc. Also in a humorous way, the correct direction of the bed in the hotel room could be used if the HDB flats' orientation does not permit the best bed placement for the couple to conceive based on their combined birth data. Now we know why some couples have to go overseas to start a family discreetly.

(c) Wedding Dates

Another challenge for most Masters would be to derive a suitable wedding date for a new couple. Clashes of the zodiac signs of the bride's & bridegroom's family members would have to be considered carefully. In most cases, half the member family's members would be 'discounted' due to the clashes. Many a times, the auspicious timing may be suitable but the chosen date itself is not a good alternative. The course participants realized that one needs a good foundation of understanding Bazi in order to choose an alternative auspicious date in a responsible way.

(d) Renovation

Lots of people like me may not understand the Chinese lingo "renovation" as in "Thong Tu" or "Phor Tu". For example, it is important to note that "Thong Tu" is very important for yang dwellings,. "Por Tu" is only for burial of the dead people. So it is very important for all of us to use "Thong Tu" for auspicious date selections. Only Practitioners or Masters who are trained in Yin Fengshui practices may use Phor Tu in a responsible way.

(e) **Fixing of Main Door / Master Bedroom's Door**

The fixing of Main Door of one's home was also strongly emphasized as this is the "mouth" of the Residents' dwelling when the energies enter the home. This also applies to the apartment's Master Bedroom's door which many people would overlook in most cases during the renovation process. Another insight gained was the size of the double doors (now quite commonly used in HDB flats), thus co-relating to the concept of the celestial beings, namely the White Tiger's & Green Dragon's positions. This will determine whether the lady of the house would be domineering in character, to much laughter from the audience. If so, then one would then understand the behaviour of the Matriarch in the house.

(f) **The Stove**

The Stove is very important aspect in the house too. The auspicious time to place the stove would also have some impact on the Wealth of the family, particularly - the Breadwinner in the family.

(g) **Surgical Operation**

Choosing an auspicious date for surgery is also important especially if it is for a major and crucial medical condition. The success or obstacles ahead related to the surgery may be attributed to the person's unfavourable elements in his birth data programming. To put this clearly, if a person cannot have additional "Metal" element to interact with his set of Bazi, by introducing additional metal (Surgical knives & tools) may thus pose a challenge to this person if the whole Bazi Chart collapses.

(h) **Tai Tsui (Grand Duke Jupiter)**

The dreaded Tai Tsui (Grand Duke Jupiter) was also highlighted as this annual GDJ will affect individuals born with different zodiac signs each year. Each year, it is very important for those born in conflict with the GDJ based on the zodiac sign not to confront the GDJ position by carrying out renovations, or digging the ground in the afflicted sectors of the house. Otherwise, one would experience lots of obstacles during the year for offending the GDJ. At the same time, this knowledge can also be used during business negotiations to reduce any confrontations or differences in opinions by not confronting the GDJ position in the office.

(i) **Pacifying Day**

Other sub-topics covered included the dates to simmer down one's anger, herein known as pacifying day or cooling down day. This is extremely useful for conflict resolutions be it at the workplace or in social/domestic situations.,

(j) **Setting Birds Free**

Choosing an auspicious date & time to set birds free for some religious practices was also briefly discussed.

(k) **Body Cleansing**

One could also perform some cleansing by getting rid of negative energies through bathing in water by adding a special selection of few varieties of flower petals.

(l) **Visiting the Hospital**

It would be advisable to choose appropriate days to visit the sick in the hospitals especially for the weak & aged elderly people who have to take extra precautions since the energies at the hospital are more yin than yang in these places.

(m) **Housekeeping / Spring-cleaning**

It was also recommended to pick suitable dates to clear the clutters in the house and dispose deities/religious figurines etc etc for obvious reasons.

(n) **Special Tip - Alternative Renovation Dates**

A special tip was also given to the participants to look out for “Toh Xiu” (renovating secretly) to be used as a last resort if there is an urgent need to renovate the house. The important thing to look for is that the “Sheng Sha” is not on duty on that day to provide this little buffer/window to carry out the renovations without offending the Tai Tsui or GDJ.

The Finale of Workshop

At the end of the workshop, everyone was enlightened & inspired with newly gained knowledge of interpretation those intimidating Chinese classical characters in the Tong Shen. Some members were also joking about setting up stalls at Kuan Yin Temple @ Waterloo Street to become a new breed of Tong Shen fortune tellers.

All participants were again reminded that this workshop was just a basic level to understand how to use this book. Many other factors had to be considered too.

Overall Personal Reflections

For myself, though the entire workshop was conducted in Mandarin, I had no difficulty in understanding what Master Chew was sharing with the audience. He was able to pace his momentum and addressed some questions from the audience to clear some doubts raised by the audience. The only uphill task is for me to understand the workshop material further by being extra hardworking in trying to decipher 50% of the Chinese characters (remember, I am more comfortable in reading English text since I did not do well in my Chinese language during my school days).

My friends & I left the venue reluctantly but very contented. Though the workshop information had been very comprehensive, it seemed that it was still not enough for anyone to use this Tong Shen professionally as there were many other factors to be considered. E.g. a good understanding of Bazi analysis, some knowledge on FengShui practices as well as

Zhi Wei Dou Shu (ZWDS) technique to understand and decipher the Chinese characters in this Tong Shen.

Wow!! What a day but I realise one must take one step at a time and be patient in going through this learning path. I have heard many a time how some students of famous Masters who are taking short-cuts without grasping the basics & values properly. Master Chew always reminded his students - one must always be responsible for his/her interpretations of the Bazi readings to any person as this person's destiny will be dependent on the interpretation. The end result is for the person to be able to enhance his life journey through opportunity & hard work + wisdom. An irresponsible interpretation may create a downward life cycle for the same person.

For example, if an inauspicious date is chosen for a surgical operation, a possible paralysis or death may occur, thus affecting our guilt conscience due to our weak foundation of understanding the Bazi analysis.

This workshop has made me even more determined to re-visit my basics and to continue to pursue this learning journey in a responsible way no matter how long it takes.

And I would no longer view looking at the Tong Shen as a superstitious practice anymore.

May I express my greatest thanks & appreciation to my past and present Masters, my seniors & peers who have helped me to see life from a different perspective through this common passion of sharing the invaluable knowledge of understanding the scientific theories on Feng Shui applications as well as logical/rational way to interpret the Bazi Chart. I use it quite widely now at the workplace on an informal basis as colleagues around me do not feel intimidated regardless of religion, through the simple use of the 5-elemental interactions & Ten Gods' theory. It served as an useful tool in helping colleagues to understand their own personalities and the social interactions in the work environment in a fun way.

The Sunday was indeed a day well-spent on gaining this piece of invaluable knowledge.

Contributed by : Eve