

How Does The Time Of Birth Affect Your Bazi?

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1. Introduction

Bazi, which means eight characters or four pillars of destiny, is derived from a person's year, month, day and time of birth. So naturally, people with different birth dates and time will have different bazi. The elements in the bazi show the energy or qi that is present around the person when he/she is born. It is this energy that affects the behaviour of a person and governs his/her life. This is why by decoding the bazi of a person, we are able to understand a person's character and behaviour and how it affects the other aspects of his life, such as relationships, career, living environment, etc.

Most people know their birth dates but few know their birth time, unless they refer to their birth documents, such as birth certificates. As the hour pillar represents a person's life from 52 years old onwards and the children and career palaces are located in the hour pillar, it is necessary to know the correct time of birth in order to do a complete analysis of a person's life and an accurate analysis of his/her children and career. This paper discusses how the time of birth affects your bazi and how to verify if your time of birth is correct. It also discusses whether there is a need to adjust the time of birth due to the adjustment of time made by the Singapore Government. As the bazi system of reading a person's destiny was devised in China a few thousand years ago, this paper also discusses whether there is a need for people born in other time zones to adjust their time of birth when reading their bazi.

2. The Chinese Time System

Since ancient times, the Chinese have used a time system which divided the 24-hour day into twelve two-hour periods known as 时辰 as follows:

Table 1: Ancient Chinese Time System

Time	时辰
2300 to 0100 hours	子时
0100 to 0300 hours	丑时
0300 to 0500 hours	寅时
0500 to 0700 hours	卯时
0700 to 0900 hours	辰时
0900 to 1100 hours	巳时
1100 to 1300 hours	午时
1300 to 1500 hours	未时
1500 to 1700 hours	申时
1700 to 1900 hours	酉时
1900 to 2100 hours	戌时
2100 to 2300 hours	亥时

3. The Hour Pillar

Bazi uses the ancient Chinese time system as the earthly branch of the hour pillar. After deriving the year, month and day pillars of a bazi, the hour pillar is derived by using the day master element and the time of birth with the following table:

Table 2: Derivation of Hour Pillar

Day Master Time of birth	甲 己	乙 庚	丙 辛	丁 壬	戊 癸
0000 – 0100 早子	甲	丙	戊	庚	壬
0100 – 0300 丑	乙	丁	己	辛	癸
0300 – 0500 寅	丙	戊	庚	壬	甲
0500 – 0700 卯	丁	己	辛	癸	乙
0700 – 0900 辰	戊	庚	壬	甲	丙
0900 – 1100 巳	己	辛	癸	乙	丁
1100 – 1300 午	庚	壬	甲	丙	戊
1300 – 1500 未	辛	癸	乙	丁	己
1500 – 1700 申	壬	甲	丙	戊	庚
1700 – 1900 酉	癸	乙	丁	己	辛
1900 – 2100 戌	甲	丙	戊	庚	壬
2100 – 2300 亥	乙	丁	己	辛	癸
2300 – 0000 夜子	丙	戊	庚	壬	甲

Example: A person with a 甲 day master born between 0900 and 1100 hours, i.e. 巳时, will have 己巳 as the hour pillar.

4. Why Do People Born Within The Same Time Period Have Different Bazi?

Table 2 is used to derive the hour pillar of the bazi. As each time period is two hours, people born in the same year, month and day and within the same two-hour period will have the same bazi. However, there are some exceptions. There are instances when people born on the same day at different times within the same two-hour time period can have different bazi. These are:

1. before and after midnight
2. before and after the cut-off time of a season/month
3. before and after 立春, i.e., the cut-off time of a new year

4.1 Differences in Bazi of People Born Before and After Midnight

The 子 period in Table 2 has been divided into two sub-periods. The period from 2300 hours to midnight is known as the night rat or 夜子 and the period from midnight to 0100 hours is known as the early rat or 早子. For the same 子 period, the 夜子 belongs to the

previous day whereas the 早子 belongs to a next day. Therefore a person born before midnight will have a different day master from a person born after midnight, although they may be born within the same two-hour period. Let's show an example to demonstrate this.

Example 1: Bazi before and after midnight

A person born on 14 June 1962 at 2359 hours (night rat), his/her bazi is as follows:

甲 癸 丙 壬
子 未 午 寅

A person born on 15 June 1962 at 0001 hours (early rat), his/her bazi is as follows:

甲 甲 丙 壬
子 申 午 寅

The luck pillars for both bazi are the same as the month pillar from which the luck pillars are derived, are the same. The difference in the time of birth is only 2 minutes but the day masters are different. The person born before midnight is a yin water day master while the one born after midnight is a yang wood person. The character of these two people are very different because the day master, which contributes to the character of a person, are different. Besides, the relationships of the other seven stars in the bazi in relation to the day master are also different. For example, to the water day master, fire (season element) is 財, whereas to the wood day master, fire is his/her 食伤. Therefore a person born at midnight has to determine carefully whether he/she was born before or after midnight.

4.2 Differences in Bazi of People Born Before & After Cut-off Time of a Season

There are twelve months in a year, each represented by an earthly branch as follows:

Table 3: Twelve Months Of A Year

First Day	Month	Sub-season	Main Element	Approx. Start Date
立春	寅	Early Spring	Wood	February 4 th or 5 th
驚蟄	卯	Mid Spring	Wood	March 5 th or 6 th
清明	辰	Late Spring	Earth	April 4 th or 5 th
立夏	巳	Early Summer	Fire	May 5 th or 6 th
芒種	午	Mid Summer	Fire	June 5 th or 6 th
小暑	未	Late Summer	Earth	July 7 th or 8 th
立秋	申	Early Autumn	Metal	August 7 th or 8 th
白露	酉	Mid Autumn	Metal	September 7 th or 8 th
寒露	戌	Late Autumn	Earth	October 8 th or 9 th
立冬	亥	Early Winter	Water	November 7 th or 8 th
大雪	子	Mid Winter	Water	December 7 th or 8 th
小寒	丑	Late Winter	Earth	January 5 th or 6 th

Each of the twelve months in a year is a sub-season. The approximate starting dates of each sub-season are shown in Table 3. The switch over or cut-off time from one sub-season to another does not happen at midnight but can be at any time of the day. This is because the twelve sub-seasons in a year are not equal. The cut-off time of each sub-season can be obtained using complex calculations which are not within the scope of this paper and is therefore not discussed here. However, it should be noted that the cut-off time of a sub-season can happen anytime within a two-hour time period. When that happens, a person born just before the cut-off time and another born after cut-off time will have different bazi because they are born in different sub-seasons. Following is an example:

Example 2: Bazi before and after cut-off time of a sub-season

A man born on 8 August 1973 at 0010 hours, his bazi is as follows:

			戊	丙	己	癸	
			子	子	未	丑	
71	61	51	41	31	21	11	1
辛	壬	癸	甲	乙	丙	丁	戊
亥	子	丑	寅	卯	辰	巳	午

The season, the strongest element in the bazi, is 未 (late summer). The whole month pillar is 伤官, which drains the day master.

A man born on 8 August 1973 at 0015 hours, his bazi is as follows:

			戊	丙	庚	癸	
			子	子	申	丑	
71	61	51	41	31	21	11	1
壬	癸	甲	乙	丙	丁	戊	己
子	丑	寅	卯	辰	巳	午	未

The season is 申 (early autumn). The whole month pillar in this case is 偏财. The luck pillar is shifted by one pillar because the season is different. Although the other three pillars are the same, the month pillar will have a big impact on this person's life because the month branch has the highest weightage in the whole bazi.

4.3 Differences in Bazi of People Born Before & After Cut-off Time of a New Year

In Table 3, 立春, or the first day of a new year falls either on the 4th or 5th of February. The switch over or cut-off time from the previous year does not happen at midnight on 4th or 5th of February but can happen at any time of the day. Not only is 立春 the change to a new year, it is also the change of a sub-season. Therefore for a person born before 立春,

not only will he/she have a different year pillar from a person born after 立春, but also a different month pillar. Below is an example to demonstrate this:

Example 3: Bazi before and after cut-off time of a new year

A man born on 4 February 1969 at 0755 hours, his bazi is as follows:

			庚	庚	乙	戊		
			辰	戌	丑	申		
	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10
	癸	壬	辛	庚	己	戊	丁	丙
	酉	申	未	午	巳	辰	卯	寅

A man born on 4 February 1969 at 0805 hours, his bazi is as follows:

			庚	庚	丙	己		
			辰	戌	寅	酉		
	71	61	51	41	31	21	11	1
	戊	己	庚	辛	壬	癸	甲	乙
	午	未	申	酉	戌	亥	子	丑

The year and month pillars are different and because of that the luck pillars are not only different but the sequence is reversed. The luck pillar is reversed because a man born in a yin year has his luck pillar in the reverse order.

5. Is It Necessary To Adjust The Time of Birth?

When analysing a bazi, we should always analyse it based on the time shown in the birth documents, without adjustments. If it is not accurate, we should not immediately jump to conclusion that the time of birth is wrong and adjust the time of birth, as there are many reasons why an analysis is not accurate. They are:

- a. The date of birth is wrong. I have come across a person who is an adopted child. Her adopted mother used the day she adopted her as her date of birth. Naturally, when we tried to read her bazi, it was inaccurate. We were not able to read her bazi because her adopted mother did not tell her the real date of birth before she passed away.
- b. The person has changed his/her character and eating habits and thus he/she is not following the bazi he/she was born with. When this happens, it is not necessary to read the person's bazi as the analysis will not be accurate even if adjustments are made to his time of birth.
- c. Fine adjustment is necessary to take into consideration the number of days the person is born within a sub-season. Let's take an example of a person born on the 4th day of the 寅 month. If the person has a 戊土 day master and needs a root to strengthen him, by normal analysis, he will be considered weak as we will use the main element (甲木) as the season element. However, being born on the 4th day, the governing element

is 戊土 and not 甲木. Therefore the governing element on that day, 戊土 can be used as a root to strengthen him and he can still be considered as relatively strong.

- d. Ten-thousand year calendar (万年历) has different cut-off times. Ten-thousand year calendars are printed by different publishers and many of them have different cut-off times for the sub-seasons. Although the differences may only be a few minutes, it makes a lot of difference for people born near the cut-off times. In such a case, it may be necessary to refer to different ten-thousand calendars.
- e. Time of birth is wrong. Although it is possible to read a bazi without the hour pillar, in some cases, reading a bazi without the hour pillar may result in an inaccurate analysis. This is especially so when the hour pillar plays an important role in connecting the earthly branches to the heavenly stems. Let's show an example to demonstrate this:

Example 4: Bazi with an important hour pillar

A person born on 10 April 1976 at 0005 hours, his/her bazi is as follows:

庚	壬	壬	丙
子	辰	辰	辰

If we analyse the above bazi without the hour pillar, the day master does not have any roots. The 癸水 hidden in the water pots (辰) are yin elements and are not strong enough to support the yang water day master. The main elements in the water pots are earth, which are the day master's 七杀 and therefore attack the day master, making him/her weaker. However, if we read the bazi with the hour pillar, not only does the day master have a root, 子 also combines with the 辰 to form more water to support the day master.

6. How Do We Of Verify The Time Of Birth?

When analysing a bazi, how do we know that the time of birth is right or wrong and whether adjustments are necessary to make the analysis more accurate? There are a few methods to verify if a person's time of birth is correct. It may be necessary to use more than one method to confirm the correct time birth. The methods are:

- a. Using the stars in the hour pillar for verification. Let's demonstrate this with a simple example:

Example 5: Using stars in the hour pillar for verification

A male born on 8 May 1975 at 0930 hours, his/her bazi is as follows:

己	甲	辛	乙
巳	寅	巳	卯

His wife's star (己土) is in the hour pillar. If he met his wife at his work place and she is younger than him, the hour pillar can be considered correct to a certain extent. Other methods of verification can be used to confirm the time of birth.

- b. The business and children palaces are located in the hour pillar. By checking the hour pillar and together with the career and children stars against the person's career or children, we can verify the time of birth. However, this method may not be suitable for a young person who is still schooling and/or not married.
- c. The hour pillar represents a person's life from 52 years old and above. For a person who is older than 51 years, the hour pillar can be verified by comparing the pillar to his/her life he/she is going through.
- d. From a person's bazi, it is possible to see his/her living environment. A person's bazi will show if he/she lives near temples, churches, schools, markets, supermarkets, hospitals, clinics, banks, residential buildings, roads, road junctions, rivers, ponds, graveyards, etc. The direction and estimated distance where these features are located can also be seen from the bazi. When verifying the hour pillar, we need to know the features to the right of the person's home. Let's show a simple example to demonstrate this.

Example 6: Bazi to read a person's living environment

A person with the following bazi:

壬	癸	X	X
子	巳	X	X

is likely to live in a place where there is river/stream to the right of his/her home.

- e. Use features on his/her face or body such as moles, birth marks and injuries. The features on a person's face or body can be read in a bazi. If the person has these features on the right of his/her face or body, it is possible to verify if the hour pillar is correct. The colour of the mole can also further confirm that the hour pillar is correct.

Example 7: Bazi of a person with a mole

A person with the following bazi:

甲	壬	X	X
辰	申	X	X

is likely to have a black mole on the right laughter line (右法令纹).

- f. Use the similarity of the person to his/her relative. It is common for a person to have similar facial features with his/her relative. This can be seen in his/her bazi.

Example 8: Bazi of a man who look like his brother

A man with the following bazi:

甲	甲	X	X
子	申	X	X

looks and behaves like his brother.

7. How Much Time Should We Adjust?

As discussed in Section 5, when a bazi is inaccurate, we should check with the person and compare the events that have happened in his/her life against the bazi to confirm that the hour pillar is wrong before we make adjustments. Even if the time of birth is wrong, there is still quite a high percentage of accuracy just by reading the first three pillars, i.e. the hour, month and day pillars, unless the time of birth is near those discussed in Section 4, or if the hour pillar plays an important role in connecting the branches to the stems (Example 4). When we are very sure that the time of birth is wrong, how do we go about adjusting the time of birth? Firstly, we have to determine what possible errors can occur to the time of birth. They are:

a. Time of birth written wrongly on the birth documents.

If the time of birth is wrong, it is very difficult to determine the correct time because there are too many possibilities. However, since there are only thirteen possible combinations of the hour pillar for a normal bazi, it is possible to erect the bazi and use each of the thirteen different hour pillars to verify which is correct. Another possible error that can occur to the time of birth is mixing up a.m. with p.m. I am a victim of such an error. I was born at 12:10 p.m. but my birth certificate stated my time of birth as 12:20 a.m. You may ask how I found out the error. My father has the habit of writing down the birth date and time when a new family member was born. When I was born, my father wrote my time of birth as 中午十二点十分, which means 12:10 noon. Being born at midnight or at noon can make a lot of difference. Following is an example of a person born at 12.05 p.m., but the birth documents shows 12.05 a.m.

Example 9: Bazi with wrong hour pillar

A person born on 10 April 1976 at 0005 hours, his/her bazi is as follows:

庚	壬	壬	丙
子	辰	辰	辰

A person born on 10 April 1976 at 1205 hours, his/her bazi is as follows:

丙	壬	壬	丙
午	辰	辰	辰

For the first bazi, the day master is strong because it has a root and the root (子) combines with 辰 to form more water to support the day master. The year 2007 (丁亥) will not be a good year for this person because water is further strengthened by 亥 (比劫) and there is a possibility that this person will lose some money. As for the second bazi, the day master does not have any roots. The 癸水 in the water pots (辰) are yin elements and are not strong enough to support the yang day master. The water pots are mainly earth elements which are the day master's 七杀 and therefore attacks the day master, making him/her weaker. The 壬水 hidden in 亥 is the root of the day master and therefore he/she will do better in the year 2007.

- b. For those born around midnight, the cut-off time of a sub-season and the cut-off time of a new year, we need to erect another bazi by using the time of birth on the other side of the cut-off time. Using the two bazi, check which represents his/her life more closely and use that as the correct time of birth.
- c. For those born in other countries, it is usually not necessary to adjust the time of birth to GMT+8 (Beijing time) as statistics have shown that analysing the bazi based on a person's time of birth in the country he/she was born is accurate enough, without any adjustments. However, if it is inaccurate, the time of birth can be adjusted to GMT+8 by adding or deducting the time difference, then erect the bazi and verify if it is accurate.
- d. The Singapore Government made some changes to the official time as listed in Table 4. It is usually not necessary to make these adjustments unless, after analysing the bazi, it is confirmed that the time of birth is inaccurate. Statistics have shown that analysis of bazi without these adjustments have a very high percentage of accuracy.

Table 4: Time Adjustments Made By The Singapore Government

Dates	Time Adjustment Required
31 May 1905 and before	No adjustment necessary
1 June 1905 to 31 December 1932	Minus 4 minutes 35 seconds
1 January 1933 to 31 August 1941	Minus 24 minutes 35 seconds
1 September 1941 to 15 February 1942	Minus 34 minutes 35 seconds
*16 February 1942 to *12 September 1945	Minus 2 hours 4 minutes 35 seconds
*13 September 1945 to 31 December 1981	Minus 34 minutes 35 seconds
1 January 1982 to present	Minus 1 hour 4 minutes 35 seconds

*Note:

The official duration of the Japanese Occupation was from 16 February 1942 to 5 September 1945. Although history books say that Singapore surrendered on 15 February 1942, the Japanese did not enter Singapore in force until the next morning, on 16 February 1942. Japan announced their surrender on 15 August 1945. The official surrender ceremony took place on 2 September 1945. On 6 September 1945, advanced parties of the British troops entered Singapore, officially ending the Japanese Occupation. On 9 September 1945, Operation Zipper, which involved the landing of the main British forces to recapture Malaya, took place on the west coast of Malaya. But it was not until 12 September 1945 that the official surrender ceremony for Japanese troops in the South-East Asian region took place at the Padang in Singapore. Therefore the probable dates for reverting to "pre-invasion" time would be between 3 September and 13 September 1945.

8. Conclusion

When the analysis of a bazi is not accurate, we should not jump to conclusion that the time of birth is wrong and attempt to adjust it. We should first determine if the first three pillars, i.e., the year, month and day pillars, correspond to the person's life. If they do, we have to determine if the time of birth is wrong or if adjustments are necessary. When verifying the time of birth, a few methods should be used to double confirm that the hour pillar is correct.