

2019 Chinese New Year Couplets (Talismans) & the Kitchen God

© Written by Michael Hanna and revised by Daniel Hanna 2019

Are you prepared for 2019?



Two longstanding charms used all over Asia in the workplace, shops, and homes all around the year are the Chinese New Year talisman couplets and the kitchen god plaque. In modern times, due to their promising nature, people all around the globe place the couplets and kitchen god on walls and the kitchen stove or cooker extractor fans.

The couplets and kitchen god will typically be printed in black ink on red paper, (red being a lucky colour) and would then be hung around different rooms of the home, shop, office or by the front door. It's also tradition to present the Talismans as a gift to send good wishes to your friends and family through the year of the Yin Earth Pig.

The talisman/couplets and kitchen god in this article make a beautiful gift to print out and give to family and friends as a gift around Chinese New Year or any other time of the year. They are better to place around [Chinese New Year 2019](#) although they can be placed any time in 2019.

These are considered extremely powerful talismans that are believed to discourage all evil and bring peace and harmony into the building that they are placed, and I keep mine up all year to encourage a happy home.

The couplets and kitchen god talisman are favoured and used by most Chinese families and businesses. However, in recent years they have become popular around the globe including Canada, France, Singapore, USA, Australia and here in the UK. See below how to display them correctly. The Couplets are excellent to utilise during the year of the Yin Earth Pig 2019.

The Nian monster

Red is a very auspicious colour for the Chinese; representing good fortune, fame, and riches. It's also believed to frighten off 'Nian,' the New Year monster who arrives and destroys crops and homes during the Chinese New Year celebrations. 'Nian' is repelled by red, fire, and any loud noise. Hence the reason why the colour red and firecrackers feature so prominently during this New Year period. In previous times the villagers would build huge fires, paint their front doors red and place red couplets on either side of the doors. Rattles, banners,

firecrackers, and anything that would make a loud noise, would reverberate around the village. The aim was to surround and protect their village with all the things that they believed 'Nian' loathed.

The legend of the Nian monster (Nian translates to 'year') is a main factor of Chinese New Year, and the story goes that the Nian monster would come down from the mountains seeking food and would terrorise the villagers and eat them and their crops. The villagers had enough and decided that they would seek safety in the mountains. The Chinese refer to Chinese New Year's Eve as "Nian Guan" which translates to "the pass of Nian". The villagers soon got fed up of hiding from the Nian monster. On Chinese New Year's Eve, an old lady greeted a visiting old beggar who had travelled to Peach Blossom village and the old lady gave the beggar some food and told him to go up into the mountains to avoid the wrath of the Nian monster. The old beggar promised to scare the Nian monster away from the village if the old lady would give him a bed for the night at her home.

Unable to persuade the beggar to go with her to the mountains, the old lady gave him a bed in her home. During the middle of the night on New Year's Eve, the Nian monster came storming into Peach Blossom Village in search of the villagers and animals. A big fire burned brightly in the middle of the village and so when Nian arrived at the door of the old ladies home the Talismans on the front door was visible. Distressed by the red Talismans but still hungry, the monster ventured closer to the old lady's door when suddenly he heard the loud sound of firecrackers and the old beggar appeared at the door in a bright red robe. The sight of red and noise was too much for Nian and, wailing, he ran out of the village never to return.

Feng Shui Chinese New Year couplets and talismans

The Feng Shui Couplets and Talismans can be placed on the exterior of the property and each side of the main door of your home, shop or office. They can also be placed inside your home or office in any vital room such as the kitchen, bedroom, office and living room. The tradition is to hang the Talisman's on either side of the cooker or hob on the 4th February 2019 where they would stay for the two months following New Year. However, many, including myself, like to leave them in place all year round for continued good luck throughout the year. I would recommend laminating the talismans if you can as the steam can make them twist and warp.

The two projects below make brilliant fun for people of all ages as well as being a fabulous task in the classroom. The activity would enable children to learn about other cultures in a fun and interactive way. If you're a teacher, please feel free to download this file and use in your class. If you're happy to share with us some of your student's finished work we'd certainly love to see them.

Printing Instructions for the Talismans/Couplets

I have added two different versions below that you can print off: one is in black and white and the other in colour, which you can print straight from your printer. The other option is to print the black and white version and colour it in

yourself or print onto red paper which makes a great activity with children and adults alike. If you're a teacher, you'll recognise that the second option will engage the children more and arouse their curiosity about the customs and traditions of a Chinese New Year. Please feel free to use these templates in your class, but we do request that you do not alter or change any of the text. I would also recommend printing this on thicker than standard paper if possible for a stunning effect.

Black & white version:

We recommend you print this on an A4 sheet of paper or you can print straight onto the red paper/card. If you prefer you can print onto white card/paper; this would be a great activity session with your children or students. It's very common for the whole family to join in and usually when it's complete the head of the household will place the Couplets. I'd also like to mention that if you do use red paper/card to print on, or if you colour them in, it's best to use the same red as shown below. Using a different shade of red can cause many unwanted problems.

Colour version:

If you'd prefer not to colour them yourself, you could print this version straight from your printer in full-colour format. Once completed and cut out, the head of the household would be assigned to place them.

Hanging Instructions:

It would be wise to laminate the Couplets or wrap in a clear protective cover, especially the ones that will hang on the outside of the property. Doing so will help protect them against the weather. When they become too weathered, it's recommended to replace them.

These very effective Couplets/Talismans are traditionally left on the door or cooker area for two months after Chinese New Year, although many like to leave them in place all year round for continued luck. However, they must be renewed each year so please save this document for future years and also pass onto as many friends as you can. Passing forward these Couplets (without charge) is considered very auspicious. I tend to change mine two or three times a year and will typically print a few copies out at the beginning of the year. Don't worry if you lose this document as we post a revised version on the website every year.

Red Envelopes (Ang Pow)

Red envelopes also are known as "red packets" "Ang Pow" "laisee" or "Hung-Bao" are also an essential part of a traditional Chinese New Year. I have written an interesting article on this and also made another project should you wish to make your own. Follow this link for more details. <https://www.fengshuiweb.co.uk/advice/angpow.htm>

四
季
平
安

www.fengshuiweb.co.uk

“Si Ji Ping An”

May you be blessed with peace
and safety in all seasons

© Feng Shui Store

出
入
平
安

www.fengshuiweb.co.uk

“Chu Ru Ping An”

May you be blessed with peace
and safety wherever you are”.

© Feng Shui Store



Chinese mythology tells us that the Kitchen God, who was named Zao Jun and translates to 'stove master' or Zao Shen which translates to 'stove god or stove spirit' is the most significant and highly worshipped of all the Chinese domestic Gods that protect the earth and family. The Kitchen God is believed to be the guardian of the family heart (cooker) and, in ancient times, known as the creator of fire, which as we know, is needed for cooking. The Kitchen God was also the God of household morals.

It's believed that the Kitchen God would leave home on the 23rd day of the last month to report back to heaven about how every family had been throughout the year to the other gods. To avoid punishment and ensure only kind and generous words were passed on to the gods in heaven, the family would go to great lengths to appease and impress the Kitchen God before he made his departure. So, on the evening of the 23rd, the family would offer sweet, sticky foods and honey believing this an effective bribe along with the hope that the stickiness of the food would seal his mouth from saying bad things about the family and ensure a trouble free year ahead.

After the family was out of sight of the Kitchen God, who would return on the first day of the New Year, they would carry on with preparations for the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations. The family would give gifts of fruits and teas around this period similar to favours being given out around Christmas time. These last few days are also the perfect opportunity to settle accumulated debts and return borrowed items.

Although there are many stories on how Zao Jun became known as the Kitchen God, the most common tale dates right back to around the 2nd Century BC. At that time Zao Jun was a mortal being, who lived on earth and was known by the name of Zhang Lang. He married a very honourable woman but abandoned her after falling in love with a younger woman. As punishment for his adultery, the heavens cursed him with ill-fortune, and he became blind. His young lover abandoned him, and Zhang Lang resorted to begging on the streets to support himself.

One day, while begging, Zhang Lang came across the house of his former wife but being blind he didn't know who she was. Despite his shoddy treatment of her, she took pity on him and invited him into her home. She cooked him a beautiful meal and tended to him lovingly. As Zhang Lang related his story to her, he became overwhelmed with grief and unhappiness and eventually began to cry recognising the error of his ways. Upon hearing his sad tale and apology, Zhang's former wife told him to open his eyes, and his vision was returned to him. Seeing before him the honourable wife he had abandoned, Zhang Lang felt so much guilt and remorse that he threw himself into the kitchen hearth unaware that it was lit. His former wife attempted to save him, but all she managed to salvage was one of his legs.

The devoted woman then created a shrine above the fireplace for her former husband, and this is where the connection was made between Zao Jun and the stove. To this day a fire poker is sometimes referred to as "Zhang Lang's Leg." The print-out below is the Kitchen God with his consort. You should print this out and place above your oven or hob (whichever you use the most). You must remember to renew the print every Chinese New Year.

[Visit the pages below for further details on 2019 Chinese New Year etc.](#)

[Chinese New Year 2019](#) ** [Checklist for Chinese New Year 2019](#) ** [How to make your own Ang Pow](#) ** [Chinese Talismans for 2019](#) ** [Chinese animal predictions for 2019](#) ** [Flying star Xuan Kong 2019](#) ** [Avoid the fury of the Grand Duke, three killing 2019](#) ** [Chinese New Year world time converter 2019](#) ** [2019 Cures and enhancers kits](#) ** [How to take a compass reading](#) ** [How to determine your facing direction](#) ** [Feng Shui software](#) ** [Feng Shui resource](#) ** [2019 Tong Shu Almanac Software](#) ** [Feng Shui Blog](#) ** [Chinese culture](#) **



Are you prepared for 2019?

