

FENG SHUI FUNDAMENTALS

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What's this book about?

As you read these chapters, you will discover that *bazi* and *feng shui* are science. When it is science, there must be a logical explanation and a rationale process to study, observe and develop theoretical methods to obtain a result that is measurable. Many ancient text and research are used for references but we must make them practical for modern applications. It is quite impossible to find a house with a grinder stove in the kitchen, let alone having a well. Nowadays, kitchens are smaller and some designs even have the stove and the basin placed side by side. Are these locations practical? They are not, but based on the dwelling space available, we have to make do.

Another issue is having a toilet in the bedroom. Is it bad *feng shui*? It is. But from the marketing point of view, purchasers prefer ensuite bathroom in their property. If we can resolve the issues technically, then let's do it. If not, even by placing *feng shui* objects and figurines will not help at all. I would not even recommend that. Based on my belief, I would advise that it is best to change the way you respond to any challenges you may have by changing your attitude. Also, based on practicality, just close the bathroom door.

As you understand about energy and creating happiness, if you want harmony, which is good energy, then seek harmony in all the things you do, in all the things you want.

In this book, you will understand that you cannot change your *bazi*. Someone asked: "If a person charts his *bazi* and realises that his future is not desirable, can he do something to change it?" The answer is no. But there are ways to diffuse the undesirable outcome by making alterations to the place he lives or move to another location which is more *feng shui* compliant. This is where *feng shui* plays a major role for the awareness of the change one needs for a more fulfilling life.

Be sure to keep in mind that *feng shui* and *bazi* are based on studies of natural forces. So, be like water, flow with life and you will get what naturally is already yours - wealth, health and longevity.

Chapter

1

CHAPTER 1

Feng Shui and Me

“I am the master of my fate and the captain of my destiny”

- Nelson Mandela

Getting into the practice of *feng shui* was truly a chance encounter. Or was it really? Is there such a thing as a chance encounter since your destiny is already written in your birth chart? What I want to establish in this chapter is that even though it is in your destiny to be in your current career, you still had to choose to take a series of actions to get the job and stay in it – applied for it, impressed the interviewers, signed the offer letter, reported for work, worked diligently, and more. In other words, arriving at your Destiny requires your focus, effort and dedication.

I have always been interested in studies relating to culture and ancient history. Whenever I come across old objects like accessories or furniture, I am curious to know how they were being used and by whom. Why were they crafted?

So, when I chanced upon an employment advertisement looking for someone to manage a shop cum gallery that promotes Baba and Nyonya heritage, I immediately applied for the job without even knowing that the job was in Penang. Nevertheless, when I received the offer letter stating the job was in Penang, I still wanted it. At that time, I was in a lucrative career in Kuala Lumpur; one that required me to wear a three-piece professional outfit. To move to Penang to manage a shop selling antiques, would be a big change. Nevertheless, I wanted to give it a try. I had no problem changing jobs.

I started going to work in casual wear; unlike my previous job, there was no strict corporate protocol to adhere to. I enjoyed the freedom of working in a place which felt intimate and familiar. The ground floor of my workplace was an antique shop while the upper floor was a gallery which displayed Baba Nyonya artifacts. It's like a mini-museum; visitors learn about the Baba Nyonya culture through pictures, posters, tools and knick-knacks of that era.

Through contact with the babas and nyonyas of Penang, I began to learn about their heritage, culture, and practices. There is a linguistic difference between the babas and nyonyas from Melaka and Singapore; and Penang. Those from Penang speak a mixture of Hokkien, Malay and English but the ones from Melaka

and Singapore converse mostly in Malay. Food-wise, Penang Nyonya food has elements of sweet and sour, with significant use of tamarind, shrimp paste, lime and chilli due to influence from Thailand. The Nyonya food in Melaka has more of an Indonesian influence with more spices and herbs.

I was in love with my work. I loved that I got to make lots of new friends; including foreigners. I was fascinated and intrigued with the antiques. How did they make clocks like that? What tools did they use to make those chairs and tables? Where did they get the materials? How did they come up with this design? I was in awe with the Baba Nyonya heritage.

Looking back to the days when I was a child, I was already very curious about household objects from a time before me; the old gramophone, wooden box-type television, charcoal iron and classic sewing machine. In school, my favorite subject was History. I was very interested about the past, more so people's recollections of it. I still am; and constantly ask questions like, "How do we treasure the memories?" "What can we learn from the past?", "How can I use ancient knowledge to move forward?"

As I delved more into the shop's art pieces and began to take a more active role in promoting the gallery, my then-boss told me about David Koh, a *feng shui* practitioner whom he wanted to engage to hold a

talk on *feng shui*. That was how I got to know David Koh, Founder of the Malaysian Institute of Geomancy Sciences (MINGS).

I was in charge of organizing the talk; so naturally, through my interactions with David got to know him, and *feng shui*, better. I discovered that what I had experienced in my growing up years had nothing to do with *feng shui*!

Feng Shui has never been about superstition or black magic. Neither is *feng shui* a religion, or remotely related to any religions. If anything, *feng shui* is logical and rational, and requires the use of scientific analysis for accurate and effective solutions. Through understanding the relationship between directions, land forms, soil conditions and man-made structures, I saw the rationale behind how we can harness Nature to create harmony, health and prosperity in life.

From David, I discovered that the practice of *feng shui* stems from a book called the *I-Ching* or the Book of Changes. I was even more captivated by this ancient divination text from China when David shared how the *I-Ching* had inspired the creation of the abacus, the earliest tool for calculation and the precursor to the electronic calculator and other electronic devices such as the computer. From the *I-Ching*, came Medicine and Mathematics, weather forecast and the lunar calendar. Till today, I regard

the *I-Ching* as the most in-depth treasure trove of knowledge I can learn from my ancestors.

For the few months after David's talk at the gallery, I was restless and absent-minded at work. I began to daydream a lot about attending David's classes and poring over the vast body of information about *feng shui* and *I-Ching*. I considered taking up a full-time tutelage under David. But I loved the job I had and I enjoyed working at the gallery which had become 'my place'. So how could I leave? I did not know how to tell my bosses as they had so many plans for developing my potential in the business; to the extent of sharing with me their ideas about expanding the gallery and the shop to attract more business. I was split between moving up in my career and listening to the Voice, the little whisper in me that kept prompting me to work with David instead.

The Voice, nevertheless, grew louder. From a whisper, it sounded like a gong. "Nothing stays forever," it boomed. And I heard it loud and clear. Four months later, I took the plunge; I registered for Professor David Koh's classes which included practical assignments with him. As his assistant, I took the opportunity to learn everything I could, at as fast a speed as possible. Whenever David gave consultations, I took down notes and helped the client to accomplish tasks set by David. I learned intently as he explained

feng shui in a systematic manner, using researched data to back up his talks and advice. Under David's structured tutelage, my knowledge in *feng shui* progressed in leaps and bounds despite having to digest an avalanche of information on a subject I had tried my best to avoid studying due to my child-hood experiences.

It does seem that it is my calling to be a *feng shui* practitioner. It is written in my charts anyway. No matter how I tried to get away from being involved in *feng shui*, I could not avoid my destiny. When I was young, my ambition was to be a teacher. When I was a little older, I wanted to be a philosopher; at one time I aspired to be an interior designer and for a few years I wished I could be a psychologist.

As it turns out now, I am all that I once dreamed I wanted to be. I am a teacher, teaching the philosophies of *feng shui*. When facilitating my clients to know themselves so that they can better relate with others and their surroundings, I guess I am also playing a little of the role of a psychologist. I provide consultancy on interior furnishing and placement of furniture and objects in a person's house; that's the interior designer in me, I suppose.

Everyone has an inner Voice. For me, it took me nearly four months to listen to the internal guidance

to leave the job in Penang to learn from David. The path I have chosen has led me to be a *feng shui* practitioner; this is by far the happiest decision I have ever made.

Ask for opportunities

It was 2000 and *feng shui* consultancy was booming in popularity. Many property investment companies, developers and real estate companies were organizing talks and seminars on *feng shui*. Corporations, ranging from international organizations involved in trading, finance, construction and real-estate development to local Small Medium Industries wanted to consult *feng shui* masters to improve their investments and businesses. Individuals from all walks of life clamored for *feng shui* advice to improve their finance, health, relationships and more. David, who was then an established *Feng Shui* Master, needed someone to help him with the growing demand.

That was where, being his apprentice, I stepped in.

In the beginning, I was involved in helping David plot the charts of his clients after each consultation. At the end each year, I compiled information and materials for publication of the following year's forecast for clients, general public and attendees of David's talks.

I also assisted David to plan and prepare visual aids for his talks.

One of the major tasks I had to perform as an apprentice was to read, and read, and read. There were piles of books and reference material I needed to be familiar with. From the long list of books, I chose to read the ones which I would need to refer to for the cases I was handling at the time. Interestingly enough, the books recommended by David seem to turn up in my life at the precise moment when I needed them.

The best part of being David's apprentice was when I learned to use the various tools used by a *feng shui* practitioner. The most significant tool is of course, the *luopan* or compass. When I first held the compass, the critical and analytical part of me complained; "Why is it so big?" "Why are there so many lines in different axes and what are their significance?" "What do the Chinese characters on the *luopan* mean?"

In the *feng shui* circle, the identity of a *feng shui* practitioner is identifiable with the *luopan* – an amateur practitioner will use a normal compass but a *feng shui* professional needs a reliable and accurate *luopan*. The *luopan* is a circular metal device which was invented for easy assessment of the astrology charts. It shows the directions of the four cardinals and the four diagonals of the Eight Trigram (bagua)

directions. The eight trigrams are symbols that represent movements and changes as they are expounded in the I-Ching, the Book of Changes. Each trigram is associated with a season, family member, animal, compass directions, personality and others.

According to some historical research, the compass needle was invented in 4000 BC; it was presented to the Yellow Emperor by the Goddess of the Nine Heavens. It was chronicled that the Yellow Emperor used this gift of the compass to mastermind the battles against evil enemies. Literally, he had it in his fingertips the directions and effects of all the natural elements to create a winning strategy.

I was mesmerised with my learning tools. Apart from having the *luopan*, I was also taught to put numbers in the nine magic squares.

When I started to visit client's house or apartment, I learned that I have to always take a point in the centre of a house to ensure accuracy of plotting the four cardinal directions; even if the centre point of a house happens to be in an indoor garden or a pool.

As I progressed in my lessons, I had to read more. There was a book I picked up amongst the pile of printed materials and I was immediately deeply spellbound when I read about the *gua*. A *gua* is a trigram, a graphic representation of three solid

or interrupted parallel lines as illustrated in the I-Ching. There are sixty-four *gua*; each one explains a different aspect from a wide range of subjects; a situation, weather or economic development based on location. The subjects can even go as far as discovering a distant history. I had to familiarise myself with fallen dynasties, memorise symbols and zodiac signs with their constellations according to their planets. Learning was a painstaking process and it took me a long time to thoroughly understand the workings of the sixty-four trigrams.

I worked very hard; on many occasions I was wide awake at night figuring out the various combinations of the trigrams and their meanings. I didn't mind the hard work though; I had nothing to lose, being young and without the need to support my family. Focusing solely on my passion, I was able to immerse myself fully into my new and exciting venture. When I left Penang, I also erased all memories of the Baba and Nyonya antique shop cum gallery. Okay, for the first few days, I experienced a wee bit of regret; but very quickly the new world of *feng shui* and *bazi* excited me.

Choosing to learn *bazi*

David asked me to choose which of the three disciplines, *feng shui*, *bazi* or face-reading I would like to master first. Without hesitation, I selected *bazi*. I had graduated with a degree in Business Management and worked in Human Resources; and was fascinated to know what make people tick. Every individual thinks and acts differently and I wanted to know if people were by nature a certain way, or whether their life experiences had made them the way they are. Some might say I am just nosy, but I would like to think that I am just curious about people and life in general. I wanted to know what life is. What are the elements that set us apart? Is there a special essence in each individual that makes one successful and the other, no matter how hard he tried, fail? If everything is set in numbers, would I have the choice to turn my life around?

I decided against learning face reading since the structure of a person's face can be changed easily through plastic surgery and this could render the reading inaccurate, not reflecting the intrinsic characteristics of the client.

Then, why didn't I take up *feng shui* first? In *feng shui*, we change the external environment to attract what a person wants to experience in life. So, if things don't work out, or when the year changes its

course, would you then place new *feng shui* items at different locations in your home or office to fend off evil or invite good fortune?

Let's look at the placement of objects to increase the energy or aura of a certain space, or the locations of furniture at home. We need living energy to create momentum for change; not pieces of 'dead' objects that are commonly used for placement, for example a wooden horse or paper doll. Since these items have no life, wouldn't it be more effective to place a kettle of water and leave it to boil in that space instead?

Rationally, water flows when moved by external forces. The external forces could be the air, the wind and by using our fingers to stir the water. And when water is heated to its boiling point, it churns up steam, emitted as vapour from the kettle's spout. Wouldn't this move the 'living' energy in that space better than a wooden horse which is an immovable object and 'dead' energy? For practicality, instead of boiling water in the middle of your living room to activate *qi*, you can place an ionizer or an essential oil diffuser.

For your home, why not consider having living objects instead? Crystals, plants and water features will invite *qi* into your home. Moreover, you can move the living objects around whenever needed. For example, if you place a plant to activate your wealth creation

for this year in accordance with your *bazi*, then when the time has passed, just remove the plant and put it somewhere else.

I would like you to look at every *feng shui* or *bazi* reading with an open and inquisitive mind. Find ways to understand how you can always choose to raise the condition of your life the way you want. In fact, when you know you have the power to manage your life, you will choose wisely to take the actions you need to be successful. And the truth is, there is the 4Rs that you can align your thoughts to, to chart your destiny, the way you want it.

The 4Rs

In Chinese, the 4Rs is written as 天时地利人和 and add one more which is 言和. The 4Rs can be translated as:

Right place
Right time
Right people
Right words (communication)

Here's an examples of how one can apply the 4R's to create success in life. Take for example, a farmer. To plant durian, a farmer must ensure his land (Right Place) is suitable for cultivating this fruit. He must consider when (Right Time) to plant and this can mean weather conditions and market demand. If his land is unsuitable, then plant something else. If there's no demand, choose another crop to plant. During the off season, he can decide to plant other crops to supplement his income. In order to make a good living from his harvest, the farmer needs to sell (Right Words) to customers (Right People).

The 4R's can be applied by anyone and across all industries. Say you are an accountant in Malaysia and in 2013, you had your *bazi* chart done. To your delight, you found signs of money coming to you between 2013 and 2020. Rather than think a sack of money will mysteriously come to you, wouldn't you be on a lookout for a business opportunity in

the area of your expertise? If you are well studied about your profession and the country's plans, you would be aware that the Government was planning to implement the GST. This would definitely be a good opportunity for you! In fact, even as far back as 2012, the Government was already talking about GST implementation. Perhaps even then, you would have already attended the compulsory courses, created a new business unit, invested in upgraded software and systems, trained manpower to manage the anticipated increase in workload. What you are doing is creating the 'Right Place' so that when the 'Right Time' (GST implementation in April 2015) arrived, you are ready with the 'Right Words' and 'Right People'. Getting prepared will lead to the fruition of the money prophecy. If you are the type that just sat and complain about everything and wasting your time doing the same old thing, would the prophecy of money being attracted to you come true?

By looking at your *bazi*, you can also minimize life's hurdles. And you can make decisions to live your life differently based on the readings. Say you found out that you will have no luck in love and marriage. Instead of brooding at the unfairness of life, go meet new friends. Be at the right place, at the right time, make friends with the right people and be aware to speak using right words. By practicing the 4Rs, you will have lasting friendships to cherish.

Despite an unfavourable *bazi*, it is still possible to change your life for the better. There are always opportunities in life – all that is required is your willingness to take positive actions. Let me give you an example. One of my clients had an employee named Adam. Noticing his potential, Adam's boss invited him to start a new business together. Adam was courageous enough to agree. With that business venture, Adam was finally his own boss. But no matter how much Adam tried to excel or execute his brilliant ideas, nothing seemed to work. At last, they had to wrap up the business because it was not viable to continue any longer. Adam was disheartened by his failure and wanted to see if anything could be done to change his fortune.

So he requested for a *bazi* reading. Adam possesses a tertiary education and was well regarded by his boss who appreciated his diligence at work and his ability to come up with creative ideas and solutions. In addition, Adam has pleasant facial features and some would even consider him handsome. However, when I checked Adam's birth date to chart his *bazi*, I was surprised to discover that he was born on what is termed a 'useless' day. His chart indicated that he will face hardships, trials and tribulations in his life. This was exactly what had happened.

I gave him some advice how he could move forward with his life and came up with suggestions to improve the *feng shui* at home. He was not interested since he believed he was 'fated' to fail. Basically, he just gave up on life.

You may ask: if Adam had heeded my advice to improve the *feng shui* at home, would he then experience success in his life? I cannot give you a definite answer. But what I can do is to share with you my experience about what I was courageous enough to do for myself.

Moving into teaching

It was after a few years of apprenticeship with David that I started giving consultations, speaking at seminars and conducting *feng shui* courses. I took responsibility to create my future by learning the trade and polishing my skills so that when the opportunity presented itself, I was ready.

When David started to go on the speaking and training circuit, I helped him prepare the presentation materials and the hand-outs. I also handled the registration process. When he spoke, I was attentive, listening intently to gain a more in-depth understanding of the topics he was sharing. After

the session, he would often leave me with questions and inquiries for me to look through, do the reading and recommend solutions for his consideration and presentation to the questioner or client. Being eager to learn and unafraid of hard work, I was grateful for the opportunity to do what David requested.

As the ever reliable apprentice, I followed David's every foot-step; even if I had to walk under the scorching sun manoeuvring my way through the usually muddy and dusty roads in construction sites to check out property locations. I went through an avalanche of notes to make sure that the reports I presented to David were precise and accurate.

Eventually, David, seeing the quality of my work, allowed me to handle a few of his clients on my own. He was giving me due acknowledgment that I was now ready for field work. To me, it was akin to a disciple of *wushu* finally graduating with distinction in martial arts; the *sifu* has given me permission to leave the mountain!

My work received praise and thumbs-up from David's clients. As word got around, these clients recommended me to their friends. Within a short few months, I had increased my clientele list and I was working long hours to meet the demand.

Despite my consulting workload, I continued to assist David whenever he presented, particularly to corporate clients. I watched as David mesmerized the audience with his knowledge of *feng shui*; and how audience looked inspired to try new ways to improve their lives. Every time I watch him giving an impressive and powerful presentation, I wished I could be on stage and be as inspiring.

The seed of speaking on stage was planted in my mind. I dreamed that the day will come when I would face the audience on stage rather than sit amongst them or perform logistics tasks related to organizing the talk. I was determined that I will make it happen.

That day came. David received an invitation from a financial institution. It was time for me to tell David my hope. I had the script in my head and walking up and down my workstation, deciding on the right time to speak up.

Finally, after pacing for a while, I picked up courage and walked towards David. Looking up from the paper he was writing, David removed his spectacles. He seemed to know what was coming. Taking a deep breath, I requested that he grant me the opportunity to conduct his session at the seminar organized by the financial institution. I told him I was ready for a new challenge. After spilling my thoughts, I waited nervously for an affirmative answer. To my excitement,

my beloved master said “yes”. And that was how I got my first speaking engagement.

Then, I worked around the clock to get my presentation material and handouts ready. I was determined to deliver a perfect presentation. The thoroughness of my planning, preparation and practice enabled me to present a talk so captivating; I managed to seal another presentation deal right after the session. That was sweet success indeed!

It is true that my *bazi* indicates I would have the opportunity to speak to big groups. That didn't mean I could just sit and wait for the opportunity to come to me. I had to do something; one of which was to prepare by equipping myself with the necessary relevant knowledge and skills so that I am ready when the opportunity to speak presents itself.

It is this simple; if you want to move forward in your life, stop waiting for someone or something to happen, start taking action to live what you want. Opportunities are bountiful; know what you want, work towards it, and have the courage to ask for what you want.

Slowly but surely, I gained popularity as a speaker, particularly with corporations. The more I presented, the better I became at presenting. When I delivered my first talk, I was nervous. After every talk, I learned

from my mistakes and improved. I got better and I was more composed. Yes, it is true I am destined to be a speaker. But it takes effort to be good speaker. And to be great presenter, it requires commitment and perseverance.

The more effort I put into speaking and conducting training, more 'luck' and opportunities followed. The Star, Malaysia's Number One English Daily, invited David and me to write a weekly column entitled "Properties from a Feng Shui Perspective". With my photograph featured alongside David's, my reputation as a *feng shui* practitioner and speaker grew even more.

Even though I am considered quite successful as a *feng shui* consultant, I believe there's still a lot of potential. I continue to work diligently towards becoming an even more efficient and competent professional.

Be open to opportunities

Do you really believe in the saying “Opportunity only knocks once?” What if I tell you that opportunities have been knocking not once but many times but you have been sleepwalking through your life? Even if your *bazi* shows you signs of potential challenges in life or difficulties in business, let your heart remain open to possibilities. There’s a Chinese proverb that comes to mind - 山穷水尽疑无路，柳暗花明又一村 - when you think you are doomed and it seems there are no way out, look within the dense garden of willows and flowers, you will find a new village. No matter how tough it seems, know that there is always hope to get out of the situation.

After plotting his own *bazi* chart, a student in my weekly *bazi* class asked, “What if I was born on an ‘unfavorable’ day? Does it mean I will have a bad life?” Here is my advice: Life is always beautiful, go find the silver lining in every dark cloud. Even if you are in a tunnel, hold strongly to a belief that there is light at the end and keep your head held high.

Always be positive. When you have a bright idea, move boldly - strive to learn and execute the idea. Even if you need to travel a thousand miles, go. If the requirement is that you need to write a proposal to obtain funding, do it. If what it takes is that you improve your command of a certain language, sign

up for classes. Take every step to equip yourself with the necessary skills. Look for possibilities; stop coming up with excuses.

Keep it simple!

Simplify your life. Make things easy to learn. Allow yourself to be comfortable with the new business, new idea or a new way of thinking. Stop thinking how far the journey will be; just take the first step.

Some of my *bazi* students like to complicate the process of learning. Many times, I have reminded my students to make learning *bazi* simple. You just need to remember that in *bazi*, there are ten stems and twelve roots. Memorise them.

Next, the energy cycle goes in this sequence: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. We use Wood to start Fire which creates ash (Earth). Ash becomes minerals (Metal). Minerals liquidify into Water which nourishes plants (Wood). And the cycle repeats itself.

When you begin your *bazi* lessons, you don't have to make it difficult by associating the zodiac signs with the stems and the roots, or the yin and yang and other elements. Leave them for advanced studies. You only need to note that "S" is for stem and "R" is

for root. Then, just memorise this – S3 (*yang*)+S8 (*yin*) is Wood. S2 (*yang*)+S7 (*yin*) is Fire. S5 (*yang*)+S10 (*yin*) is Earth. S4 (*yang*)+S9 (*yin*) is Metal. S1 (*yang*)+S6 (*yin*) is Water. Or even simpler, only remember the *yang* number, then add 5, that would give you a *yin* stem.

As for “R”, root, draw a circle, start from North with R1, East with R4, South with R7 and West with R10. In between the four cardinal points, add R2 and R3 between North and East. Add R5 and R6 between East and South and so on. All the odd numbers are *yang*, and the even numbers, *yin*. That’s all you need to know to start plotting your *bazi* chart. The rest you will learn eventually.

It is just like cooking. The five basic ingredients are pepper, salt, oil, onion and garlic. No matter what you cook, you need these basic ingredients. Learn the basics first. As you become familiar with the process, then you start to experience with new fusion dishes.

Likewise, you need to wake up, brush your teeth, kiss your loved ones, then you go to work with a big smile on your face. Do these first. Life is simple, don’t complicate it. Then, let the process lead you to find your way to success.

Chapter

9

CHAPTER 9

Curiosity about *Feng Shui* and *Bazi*

- Answered.

“He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.”
- Chinese Proverb

Many still view *feng shui* and *bazi* as hocus pocus or religious shenanigans that defy scientific explanations. Instead of investigating the legitimacy of *feng shui* and *bazi*, some people choose to walk away from simple and logical remedies that could turn their life around. My suggestion is this – if you have doubts about the authenticity of information or advice, you have the responsibility, not just the right, to ask questions to clarify. Questions like “How will this method work for me?”, “Does the advice make sense?” “Is it practical to follow this guidance?” “Do I have the financial capacity to do what is recommended?”

Ask questions instead of making a rash judgment based on hearsay. It is also important to ask

questions of the right person; in this case, a qualified Practitioner. Let me reiterate that *feng shui* is based on extensive research and scientific data; and I am one of many professionals who conduct regular research to validate *feng shui* and *bazi* concepts and practices.

Although *feng shui* and *bazi* practices are based on extensive research and scientific data, I nevertheless subscribe to the Buddha's counsel in the Kalama Sutta; "Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it."

Some of my students and clients have asked useful questions and here I would like to share my answers to those queries. Some answers are straight-forward and do not require further explanation; so if it is a "yes" or "no" suffices, that's the answer I will give. Truth is, most times, simple and straight-forward.

Q1

I have been living in my house for ten years. I found out recently that the main door and the bedroom door locations are not favourable according to my *bazi*. What should I do?

Since it is a landed property, the solutions are relatively easy; move the doors to recommended locations. For condominiums and apartments, you can't make changes to the structure but there are life choices you could consider:

1. Stay put and endure the consequences; or
2. Move to a new, and suitable property.

Q2

How about using *feng shui* figurines and ornaments to diffuse the bad *qi*? Do they work?

Psychologically, the figurines and *feng shui* paraphernalia may make you feel good; however these are not long-term solutions. Let me share a real case scenario. A couple with two children lived in an apartment located at the end of a long corridor. The layout caused energy to move into their apartment quickly, and out just as quickly. Life was a struggle for them – money came and went quickly.

When they consulted me, I advised the placement of crystals and plants in their apartment to rework the energy flow. This was the only solution they were able to afford; moving out was not an option.

Soon after the placement, their financial status improved; but only for six months. The reason was because strong energy was still flowing in from outside the apartment and the crystals and plants placed in the apartment were not strong enough to overcome the unfavourable energy. This is a case of the macro environment affecting the micro environment. Usually, what you place inside your house cannot diffuse the unfavourable energy that is moving outside the house. So, the best solution is to move to a suitable dwelling place.

Q3

I was told that based on my *bazi*, a house facing a road intersection is favourable for me. Is this true?

This is an absolutely false belief. A house facing an intersection is a definite taboo. Because of its location, the house (and therefore the occupants) will not be able to withstand the forceful energy slamming into the house. Imagine a typhoon ploughing its way to this house - you either get blown away or be shredded to pieces. No way can you fight the forces of nature. Avoid living in this kind of location. Move.

Q4

I noticed there are developments on a piece of land opposite my house. I can't stop the development and I know it will affect the *feng shui* of my house. What can I do?

Move out from that place. For example, moving vehicles on the flyover close to your property, they are forcefully drawing the energy out from your place. Once there is no sustainable energy, which means that when *qi* is not circulating harmoniously in your property, you will not be able to hold on to your wealth and health development. If it is a building, however, such as a row of low-rise shop lots or a row of landed properties, these developments will not affect the land *feng shui*. If it is an office tower or a high rise building, you should consider moving.

Q5

There are affordable properties developed on non-*feng shui* compliant locations. Will the strong *bazi* of the development company's directors help to diffuse the negative impact of the development? Will being involved in such projects affect these directors?

Since the directors do not live on the land being developed, there will be no effect. Your *bazi* points out where your luck and danger lie so you will be able

to capitalize on opportunities and avoid or minimize crisis in life. Coupled with application of *feng shui* advice, you can further improve your wellbeing.

Nevertheless, *feng shui* will impact the lives of people who live in a particular property; whether the property is owned or rented. So, a property investor who rents out his properties will not be affected by the *feng shui* of those properties. Their tenants will, though. The rule is this – only those who live in a particular property will experience the force of *feng shui*.

Q6

I am an employee whose seating position in the office is not conducive for my growth. What can I do?

Find out your *gua* number then place a suitable crystal or live plant at an appropriate spot in your cubicle or room to diffuse any negative energy. (Refer to Chapter 4)

Q7

Unlike me, my husband does not believe in *feng shui*. I discovered from checking our *bazi* that we are not destined to get along and should not have married each other. I want to save my marriage. What should I do to create a harmonious relationship with my husband?

My advice to couples - learn to communicate with each other in a loving manner. The problem with many couples is the need to control each other, how the other person thinks, feels or does things.

It is likely that knowing your *bazi*, and that of your husband's, you have allowed the information to unnecessarily stress you out. In your case, your *bazi* reading showed that your relationship with your spouse is strained. However, this does not mean that the relationship is destined to fail. It is still your choice (and his too) to make things work.

Stop finding faults, arguing or losing your temper over trivial matters; instead gain control over your mind and focus on what you can do to be loving and accepting. You can't change the way your husband act and react, but you can choose to respond to him and any situation, in a positive manner. The choice is yours; always.

Both of you are already not getting along; if you continue to do things that aggravate the relationship that only means you are making a destructive choice. Why not choose to do something constructive? Start communicating with each other to resolve conflicting issues. This is what you call a constructive life.

Q8

I was told to wear a certain colour to enhance my luck. But I really don't like that colour on me. Will it be effective if I use that colour in a less obvious way e.g. hidden under my clothes or in my pocket or bag?

It is advisable to wear the colour that is favourable to you visibly; even if it is just a dot of that colour. If red is your favourable colour, wearing a small red accessory like a scarf or a tie pin will draw attention to you. An item in your colour, for example an electronic device, kept hidden in your bag, is not much of an attraction strategy. Learn to be comfortable with using the colour, even though you don't like it. Be clear about what you desire to achieve – if a certain colour can help you get what you want, why do you resist it?

Q9**How would knowing my *bazi* be useful for my career or business growth? Won't working hard and smart help me to move up in my career?**

Your *bazi* will reveal the most suitable career or business for you. Having this information will save you time and effort in your life journey. You will be able to enjoy the flow of life without having to go through excessive roadblocks to success.

Working hard in an unfavourable sector will drain your energy and deplete your motivation. It is good to be hard-working, but if you know what you are really good in, you will be able to move up to another level of achievement earlier in your life. For example, you may have a passion in cooking, but you are now working as a high ranking officer in a big conglomerate. Although you are an employee, you are financially successful, earning a good salary and investing wisely. You are leading a comfortable lifestyle. You don't necessarily have to be a chef even though that happens to be the career you are passionate about.

A lot of good cooks aspire to own their own restaurant. But not many become successful restaurateurs. For those who failed in business, it could have been written in the stars that they are best being employees

rather than business owners. They would have been better off being salaried chefs than running their own restaurants.

So, wouldn't it be better to know what your *bazi* says about your life since the knowledge could save you from a lot of heartache and headache?

Q10

I will be immigrating to Australia soon. Can I use my *feng shui* master's recommendation for buying a property in Malaysia when I am in Australia?

Yes, you can. The laws of *feng shui* work the same in any country.

Q11

I do not know my actual birth date. Can I use the date that is in my Identity Card? How accurate will my reading be?

If you were born in a hospital, your birth details would have been recorded accordingly. Your reading will not be accurate otherwise.

Q12

I was born in America and came to Malaysia when I was a few months old. Should I let the *Feng Shui* Master have this information when I consult him? Would the place of my birth make a difference?

Yes, you have to let the master know the place of your birth. In *bazi* reading, a qualified practitioner takes into consideration the elements and season of the place and time of birth. From this, we can provide advice on whether it is better if you live at your place of birth or elsewhere. *Bazi* can also determine the most suitable type of career and industry for you to be working in.

Q13

Recently, I found out from a *bazi* reading that I am in the wrong job and industry. I have been in this job for 20 years and thought I am doing not too badly. What should I do next?

Keep your job although it may not be the perfect one for you. If you are happy at work, stay. If you desire a change for the better, but do not have sufficient financial resources, it would be better if you stay put and do your best. I believe in being practical and rational about your choices in life.

Q14

My friend stays in a room with a low and sloping ceiling. Yet she is doing well in her career. Why is she immuned to the undesirable effects of such a design?

Is she enjoying good health? How is her relationship with people? Detailed information on her date and place of birth is necessary for further investigation and clarification.

Q15

My neighbor has been living in his house for more than 20 years. Recently, he consulted a *Feng Shui* Master who told him that according to his *gua* number, the front door of his house is in an unfavourable sector. However, he has been doing very well so far - financially, health-wise and in his relationships. Why is this so?

Perhaps he is in his lucky period based on his date of birth. There is also the possibility that he would have done even better in life if the main door was located in a favourable sector based on his *gua* number.

Q16

My house is in a *feng shui* compliant location but the authorities will be building a flyover soon. Will this affect me?

Definitely. Move out before the construction of the flyover affects the *qi* around your property. Your health may be affected too.

Q17

I was doing well in my career but recently I was told I will be retrenched. Can *feng shui* help me in this matter?

Yes, *feng shui* can lead you to getting a job quickly when combined with a *bazi* reading. Your date of birth will indicate the most suitable location in your home to place crystals or living plants to activate the necessary energy. Before long, you should be on your way to a suitable job or business.

Q18

I want to make sure my baby is born on an auspicious day and time. Is this possible?

Yes, it is definitely possible to plan for this to happen. However, do not underestimate the forces of Nature. There are two cases that I know of where the mothers had chosen the date and time of birth for their babies. Both had made arrangements for the procedures with their gynaecologists to ensure this happen. Then the unthinkable happened – in the first case, the doctor was delayed by an unexpected massive traffic jam. As for the other case, the mother somehow forgot the appointment date. You can't beat Fate.

Q19

Is there such a thing as hanging underwear to ward off bad luck?

This is more of a cultural belief or some grandmother's tale and definitely not *feng shui* teaching.

Q20

Does it mean that if I live in a house that is *feng shui* compliant, everything will work out for me?

Let's put it this way, life would flow more harmoniously. Whether things work out in accordance to your wishes depend very much on your date of birth. In addition, a practical and rational person will also be clear that he needs to work hard, and put in consistent effort to succeed in life. Being born on a highly auspicious day does not mean you can expect success to come to you without you having to lift a finger.

Q21

Will putting a God of Prosperity figurine in my house attract financial prosperity?

No.