

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Gong Xi Fa Cai!

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The Bandera Prophet

Tomorrow marks the beginning of the Year of the Ox. The second animal in the Asian zodiac, the ox represents strength, conscientiousness and hard work.

Based on the lunar calendar, as opposed to the Gregorian calendar, the 2021 Asian New Year begins Feb. 12 - the first new moon of a 12-month cycle. Each year is represented by one of 12 animals based on Chinese folklore. The animals, in order, are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

People born in the Year of the Ox are said to be strong, reliable and fair. They are also calm, patient and trustworthy. Personality challenges they must learn to overcome are stubbornness and opinionated. The previous ox years are 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009.

In Cantonese, the Happy New Year greeting is Gong Xi Fa Cai - pronounced gong-zee-fah-tsai. Translated, the saying means "wishing you great happiness and prosperity."