

Feng Shui - A Modern View

Feng Shui should shed its mysterious veil and go under scientific scrutiny. The origin of Feng Shui (more correctly named "Kan Yue") is a combination of town-planning, environmental improvement, architecture and interior decoration. Ancient Chinese lived alongside the Yellow River. Their primary concern was to shield against ill winds and untamed waters. As society grew in size and complexity, Feng Shui had to deal with fertility, fame and fortune as well. The philosophies of the Confucianist and Taoist dominated China for thousands of years. Feng Shui theory had sprung from these ideas without the slightest doubt. It is unfortunate that ancient Feng Shui masters were taught to be selfish and they were not to teach all they knew to their disciples. In this way, the knowledge of Feng Shui deteriorated quickly and pseudo-Feng Shui sprouted like weeds in spring.

The Confucianists consider man as part of the Universe he lives in. Man should respect what Mother Nature bestows on him and not to act against Heaven. This in fact is what man should do to protect environment. Furthermore, a man's path of life is influenced by Heaven luck, Earth luck and Man luck. A modern way of saying this is that a man's path of life is described by three elements: time, space, and action. The time element is the luck function of a man in terms of time with his birth moment as initial condition. The space element is the place of birth of a man and the place where he lives. The element of action is what a man does. If a man does the right thing at the right time and right place, he will be fortunate. Otherwise, he will encounter hardship. To pursue Earth luck is simply to find a place in harmony with Nature to live in and to work. Can you say this is superstition?

What Feng Shui talks about is "qi". Since mass and energy are interchangeable, qi can be in the form of matter or energy or a combination of the interchangeable duo. Therefore, qi can be visible, invisible, or partially visible and partially invisible. Ancient Chinese classified all things in Nature into five types: metal, water, wood, fire, and earth. In fact, all things are a combination of these primary bases. Different combinations have different influences, some are fortunate and some are undesirable. Feng Shui is in fact the study of the distribution of "qi" in a location. Such a distribution also varies with time. It has, in fact, a solid scientific foundation laid upon the concrete stone of Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy and Geography. The only thing I must add is that qi can carry characters and personalities that also change with time and influenced by physical and non-physical existences. This is a part that cannot be tested by our known scientific discipline.

Feng Shui is well received by folks in the west. It has developed quickly in the past several decades. Unfortunately, the kind of Feng Shui practiced does not talk about wind and water at all. Therefore it is only "Feng Shui without wind and water".

The distribution of qi is affected by the "form" and the "formula". Since the form of the surroundings of a location is visible and can be felt, it is easy to understand the Feng Shui implications. The formula, on the other hand, is difficult for the average man on the street to understand. A real Feng Shui Master must take into consideration both the form and the formula. It is a logical deduction that the so called "Form School" and the so called "Formula School" are both half-filled bottles only.

To study the Feng Shui of a residence or a business location, four steps are taken.

- Study the surroundings, see that the mountains and rivers are suitably located. In cities, buildings and roads are considered virtual mountains and rivers.
- Measure how the house is sitting and facing. Use formula to locate stars on the floor plan and survey.
- Plan the color scheme and decorations so as to enhance the fortunate qi and suppress the undesirable qi.
- Calculate the Life-Gua of each member of the family and make sure the bedrooms and living areas are in harmony with everyone.

The above are only guidelines that a knowledgeable Feng Shui master follows. It cannot be explained in a few words how each step is to be taken.

In general the motive of a Feng Shui audit is for the ease of mind. The use of an aquarium is to employ the water element to promote fortune. It is a wrong concept that the fish can sacrifice for the master of the house when evil qi attacks. If a fish tank is placed suitably, it can help people in the house to create wealth easily. If it is placed in the wrong corner, it can also bring misfortune. The use of a chime is to employ the metal element to dissolve and absorb the evil qi which causes sickness and other undesirable things. Placed inappropriately, the chime can also be harmful. The Ba Gua mirror is the most useless Feng Shui utensil. If such a mirror is hung on the door, it simply tells people that the house owner is ignorant and superstitious.

Feng Shui, when used correctly, can bring harmony to a site. Sometimes it is abused to create a Feng Shui War between neighbors. Since harmony is disturbed, no one will be a winner.

To conclude this little introduction, we say that Feng Shui is a department of knowledge that can help people live a better life in harmony with Nature.



This article was published in Master Joseph's Yu website:

<https://www.astro-fengshui.com>

Check other articles and find valuable knowledge in the courses and seminars in our Feng Shui Research Center! Welcome and enjoy!

Joseph Yu B.Sc. 余若愚 was born during the second world war in a small village in South China. He spent his childhood as a country boy and did not receive any formal education until he came to Hong Kong at the age of eleven. A lot of people suggest to him that he should create a story of learning Astrology and Feng Shui in early childhood from a monk as do many a famous Feng Shui Master. He prefers to tell the truth.

Yu studied Mathematics and Physics in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1960's. He abhorred all kinds of superstition and vowed to destroy such absurd beliefs of ignorant people. He then frequented libraries, trying to find fault with Astrology and Feng Shui from ancient books. The deeper he went into the subject, the more excited he became about the rich legacy of ancient Chinese culture.

Whether or not to become a professional astrologer and geomancer or continue in the fields of mathematics and physics, became a constant dilemma. Astrology and Feng Shui have been viewed as superstition by their skeptics. Astrologers and Feng Shui masters have been linked with fraud for centuries.

Someone wrote in his book, "If more knowledgeable men provide true Astrology and Feng Shui services, the ignorant and fake 'professionals' will vanish." Sharing the same view, Yu decided to provide useful services and correspondence courses at an affordable price.

While Joseph Yu was a mathematics teacher after his graduation, he was lucky to have as his neighbor one old Feng Shui master. This old master was very kind to disclose a lot of secrets of the five arts to him even though he was not one of the old master's apprentices.

In one Chinese New Year party at the old master's home, the master said to his disciples, "This young man, though not officially under my care, has learned more than most of you because he has a logical mind and dares to argue with me on various issues."

The old master passed away a few months later. Joseph Yu did not feel comfortable in the company of the disciples of this good master. He is grateful, but circumstances make it impossible to express his gratitude towards the master who passed on to him a lot of invaluable knowledge.