

# Feng shui and destiny

By PANG HONG YEE

**W**HAT is feng shui? According to Wikipedia, the art of feng shui (pronounced: fung-shway) is an ancient Chinese practice believed to utilise the laws of both heaven (astronomy) and earth (geography) to help one improve life by receiving positive Qi.

The words "feng shui" literally translate as "wind-water" in English – a result of cultural shorthand taken from a passage found in a book called *Zhangshu* (Book of Burial) written by Guo Pu during the Jin Dynasty.

Many modern enthusiasts claim feng shui is a practice of arranging objects (such as furniture or items that represents auspicious elements) to help people achieve their goals. In the heydays of the imperial Chinese dynasties epoch, the practice of feng shui was indispensable in choosing a place to live and in locating a "prosperous" burial site that brings about good fortune to descendants of the deceased, along with agricultural planning.

Proponents claim feng shui yields profound influence on health, wealth and personal relationships.

Cynics, meanwhile, are not convinced. "Well, feng shui is not as simple as just rearranging things here and there with hope that life will turn better. Yes, true, it does work to a certain extent, but there are just too many variables like time, location, yin, yang and many other factors not addressed," said Professor Li Heng-Lih (pic), a respected figure in Tao studies.

"Feng shui can truly make a difference in one's life, but a big portion of the credit goes to how proficient and knowledgeable



the practitioner is," he added.

Many tend to believe feng shui provides a solution for almost all the problems in life. But, guess what, you'd be wrong. Far from the farcical and superficial reality of relying on external object, the "real" feng shui is really within us.

"One's values, beliefs and, most importantly, how you view yourself is where the ultimate strength and power lies.

"Sceptics who think feng shui is but just

superstition should reevaluate their thinking. Before electricity was found, would humans have believed its existence? There are still many things that science has yet to discover.

"One of the central ethos of Tao studies expounds on the belief that Nature is mysterious and profound, it runs its own clock. Besides the yin and the yang, there is no right, and there is no wrong; and neither is there the good, or the bad, in all the events and various phenomena that happen around us – it's just a matter of perception, as we are all different. Change the way you think and life will be much happier.

"Can you say the tiger is cruel as it hunts for meat, while the lamb is kind as it consumes only grass? No, you can't. It's just that way things are. But we, humans, are different as we are granted the gift of thought that allows us the liberty to make decisions, based on freedom of will."

Based on the decisions you make in life, that's how you will turn out to be – well, most probably, that is. "The most important thing is, we need to live according to our conscience and practice good moral values. Feng shui can't give you 100% in life, don't be misled because there's no such thing. You have to help yourself, before help arrives," said the youthful 56-year-old professor who is well-versed with all the ancient sacred scriptures and teachings of Confucius, Lao Tze, Mung Tze, Chuang Tze, i-ching and the Sun Tzu Art of War.

While admitting feng shui gives one the extra edge, the outcome still depends on the individual. He continued by saying that good feng shui advice and instructions sought should fulfil the following

four criteria – it saves time, money (preferably free), resources and trouble.

Li recommends the following three things to change the course of one's life:

**Learn everything** – arm yourself with knowledge, as long as you can, as much as you can. But take the good, not the bad.

**Polish your inner qualities** – develop a kind heart; be more forgiving, humble and rid negative traits.

**Accumulate good merits** – do your part in helping the people around you. Get involved in charity to cultivate a compassionate heart.

"Just remember, there is no perfect human being in this world. And different people would have different values in life, try not to judge so much. You have the power to change your life, based on your affirmative actions, beliefs and determination," ended Li.

Li has been lecturing and promoting the study of Tao skills as part of his effort to inject the teaching of Tao studies and i-Ching into mainstream curriculum. He is the founder and advisor of the Taoist Studies International Fund and the International Institute of Tao Studies in Taiwan, and advisor for the Institute of Tao Studies in Malaysia.

❑ To know more about how Tao studies, drop by the Institute of Tao Studies (Malaysia) at 31-1, Jalan Desa, Taman Desa, Off Jalan Klang Lama, 58200 Kuala Lumpur (next to Taman Desa Hospital). Those who want to further their understanding of Tao studies may call 03-7983 0388 and talk to Dr Geraldine. You may also want to take a look at [gtao.gardenoftao.com.my](http://gtao.gardenoftao.com.my) for further information.