THE YEAR SPELL: 2021 T. Susan Chang

ARIES I

Streams still flow and clouds still rise; May our mournful hearts grow wise. Even housebound, I command The actions of the heart and hand. By day, live right; by night, sleep well. Gaze deep and fathom Wisdom's well. Here in the kingdom of the Rose A boundless rainbow ocean grows. Seeds once hidden in the ground To their destinies are bound. Immutable, the river's turning; If you must choose, always choose learning. Build the house of what you know On soil patient, deep, and slow. The light you bear into the dark; The will to live; the burning spark. In the pressure and the steam, Capacity to grow and dream. My works take form. In silence, dare— Words twist and fly upon the air.

ARIES II

Above, below, the work of Dreams Distill what Is from that which Seems. Our voices ride the airy wave, Fortune favoring the brave. In the mirror, feast your eyes. All doors are open to the wise. You who chase the rainbow's end, Begin by acting as a friend. Stream that empties into ocean— Living dream and phantom notion. You and I, we walk the Gutter, Hand in hand, like bread and butter. Waxing moonlight, may you bless The hidden fruits of my success! Rulers heed that which they weigh, For to command is to obey. Glorious light, reveal to me The fish that dares to love the sea! Stillness. Yet—the mind divides: The tale is told. The story rides!

ARIES III

Times have changed. We still stand proud -Our silent actions speak aloud. Commerce: brisk, in aid of health. Family: my greatest wealth. Bear the burdens without rancor -Fleeting respite is my anchor. Bringer of light, open my eyes! In praise of knowledge we arise. While breezes of ill will abound. Success resides in steady ground. The mind that travels many roads Bears with aplomb its weighty loads. When Prudence speaks, do not defy it! Understand the rules of quiet. Moon that rides the airy wave! Patient gardener, strong and grave. Mirror of the boundless ocean. Silent witness set in motion. Farflung voices, sharp and sure; Steady efforts shall endure.

TAURUS I

Sweet the light that makes life grow! Amendments based on what I know. True and false tales, ever flowing; Blustery, the winds of knowing. By the fires of spring renewed Steady burns my fortitude! Courage helps me stand and face The stony mysteries of place. Patience, stamina, and tact— Only fools overreact. Great in quantity, the chore, But endless riches lie in store. Trickster moon of many ways— The work, thrice-tried, at long last pays! Water of Fire and Fire of Air! My blood is warm, my mind is clear. Light and shadow come in twos: Wisely judge the words you choose. Bright like arrow, swift like wind, In sated embers, sparks begin.

Taurus II

Work of my hands, the turning leaf Deep run the oceans of belief. The contest I no more need brave: It is the ocean. I the wave. The calm I find within the test. The finished acts I re-invest. Easy to escape, or fight, But in what vessel, our true sight? My thrice-great master's gifts abound: Above, below, and all around. These are the properties of gold: To win, and prize! To earn, and hold. The Furies and the Fates are blind! Protect me, twin gods of the mind. O moment ripe! O fertile ground! That which I sow shall come around! Full moon over changeful ocean: What message do you set in motion? Dancing madly in the dark Many arrows find their mark Westward winds that steady blow: Silent actions ever grow.

TAURUS III

Even as ambition burns, I measure out my own concerns. Dreaming wave on endless ocean Dare to sound profound emotion Crab that scuttles by the shore— Camel walking through the door— Six, the sum of two and four— This I dare, and so much more. Wave by wave, by faith and wish; Step by step, an edifice. For every door I have the key— Light, as far as I can see! Breathe your words into the winds -With every Yes, new life begins. Creature of the moonlit deep Waves that rise and fall in sleep May my soul learn well to reap The dreams that I have dared to keep. The constant fire longs to win; That which burns also begins. The past: a swiftly flowing stream; The current choice, I must redeem. Tasks are many, hours few -How about a change of view?

Gemini I

Final tide, king of the brine In your shell, a Voice Divine Mercy abides and change begins When patience falters, wisdom wins. Cultivate the soil's health. In my hands, its buried wealth. Tattered glory on the field; Liquid balm where all is healed. My cup is brimming, full of fishes Contentment makes all fates delicious. Queen of the moon, your blessings flow— Above reflected here below. All past sorrows shall transform I find great solace in the norm. Gross and subtle, gently mixed; The heavy air; the heart affixed. To persevere takes lots of guts -And very few ifs, ands, or buts. Delivered with a blazing speed: All I dare, and all I need.

GEMINI II

All my freight, patiently borne, Flows downstream to be reborn. By healing arts, I mix and mend: The balance is the dividend. Each ordeal I undergo Makes another garden grow. Manifold are my To Do's And yet I know I'm free to choose. The cunning mind of every thief Safeguards a journey of belief. Lion-hearted worker bee! Ride the beast of industry. Ride the fiery golden steed! Each silent action plants a seed. In the chaos, find a There: Release; transform; above all, Dare! Many hands lift heavy boulders Giants lift us on their shoulders. Engine working, upward climb; Lunar shadow, liquid mind. Deep and potent flows the river Blessings fall on gift and giver.

GEMINI III

Within this fate where I am bound:
The rainbow's end, forever found.
By virtue of the fiery sea
I become who I shall be.
Hear and speak! My words are double.
[Planning my way out of trouble.]
By these rites we lay to rest
A life well lived. End of test.
Bear those burdens which you must
While knowing what you may adjust.
The well-schooled heart knows what it knows.
Steady Prydence as she goes

Steady, Prudence, as she goes.
Gates of Matter: by request
I put my airways to the test.
Through the doorway, streaming light,
Rich repast, and appetite.
The works of matter fluctuate Seize the moment to be great.
By what secret alchemy
Shall all my visions come to be?!
Triumph, golden light of reason!
At this turning of the season.

CANCER I

Bright the fire, green the fuse In summer heat, sweet hope renews Double sparks rise through the air— Shape the waveform; make it fair. With these hands, the wealth I make With these hearts, the thirsts we slake. What you ask, I gladly give: Turn and return; live and let live. Always flowing, sometimes spilled; Visions dreamed, to be fulfilled. Pause the arrow in its flight— Pools of thought and still of night. What gains are found when fate is blind? The fertile ground—the trusting mind. Sun, shine bright for all to see: Your light preserves my family. Those hidden battles; secret; fraught— Learn from them—or else, be taught. Beyond the veil, the lunar flow. Twin thoughts determine what I know.

CANCER II

Sharp and clear the road I chose; Where patience falters, nothing grows. In the brilliant light of day, The hardest work is also play. Endless understanding flowing; Heart of your endeavor glowing. The needle's flight, the axe's toil; Works of solvent and of oil. Taut the bowstring of my being; Strong, the knowing; sharp, the seeing. I speak my mind; my head is clear On who I am and why I'm here. The moon's return, the changing tide, The vehicle in which I ride. Fate's instrument, the voice of change -My mind, the skill to re-arrange. The structured mind is evergreen With each bold choice I set the scene. Woven gold, your seams are bound You float away on streams of sound.

CANCER III

Through doors of doubt I still deliver. Strong, the arrows in my quiver! The strength, the speed, the lucky strike -Sealing of deal! Dropping of mic! When arguments arise from drive Invite consensus to arrive! Of every ship, I am the helm; I am the coin of every realm. Threads of air I tease apart: I dare the path set by my heart. O god of language, speed, and stealth! It's by your skills I earn my wealth! The mirrored wave upon the sea: The self that I am meant to be. The knowledge put to every test; The crowning object of my quest! Those outbreaks may my mind forfend In which hot spirits may contend. O moon! Queen hidden in the dark! All matters end, and then embark!

LEO I

With silent prudence, tend the vine; All growing things bear Her design. Waves of air begin and end -Their form is mine to weigh and blend. Window! Door! open to me! I am both hive and honeybee! Empowered words hereby released! Enough is as good as a feast. Yours, the fateful dance of time -Mine, the mortal life sublime. Endless, what I do not know Yet hope lights every place I go. The waves of air, mine to arrange; Resume with me our long exchange! Spectral demons we entail When we insist we must prevail Turn like the air, like changeful fire Imagine works of Art, not ire! The work I love is what I choose To share, to cherish, and to use. Such stories do the people tell Of those who wish upon the well! In the tranquil haze of slumber Points of starlight without number! Apparitions by the torrent! Fear not what first seems abhorrent.

LEO II

On bright days, even, clouds may brew; Yet step by step, we make it through. The astral planner, most acute! The student of both seed and fruit. The chariot runs in its courses: The mind turns towards its own resources. Have patience with the tale you tell. What happens slowly, happens well. That which the mind thinks to propose, The body cultivates and grows. Air and water, shimmering waves Voices joyous, voices grave. The lantern casts its secret shade; Upon the veil the tale is laid. By what virtue I command I follow through that which I've planned. The quiet center of all motion The sky, the shore, the endless ocean. Glimpsed as if within a dream My wishes come to life downstream.

LEO III

O sharp-eved warrior, beware Of what may or may not seem fair. Only within yourself compare The shifting currents of the air. In deference to fate's decrees I chase the vector of the breeze. Take one step, as in a trance, To adventure, or to dance. Points A and B: Above, Below -Mind the current and the flow. Finely judged, the words I weigh; Twice I measure what I say. Within the confines of the fences, Pleasures of the earthly senses. Through the art of compromise Ninety distant hopes arise! Queen of fiery pursuits! Safely anchored at the root. I am free as air's own spirit -Dream it, share it, make it, wear it! Calm relieves the past of sorrow For Mercy understands tomorrow.

Virgo I

The work I do, the joy I feel, The wish takes form within the real. Bear me away, bear me toward; From turbulence to smooth reward. Along the roads my arrow flies Visions dance before my eyes! Snake-child, you must re-arrange Your self, to ride the tides of change. Whatever feats I have recorded, It is by life I am transported! Breath of mercy, bear downstream Sufficiencies perceived in dream. Pressure to release, inside -Doors of beauty, open wide. With many irons in the fire Steam rises from my heart's desire. The Lord of Life! who freely grants to all the radiance of the dance. To harvest change, we first conclude -And then we rise again renewed. With acts of will I take command Of prudent purpose wrought by hand.

Virgo II

Stand forth and harvest all your gains: Exposed and spoken, truth remains. Let go of what no longer serves. Proceed with strong and steady nerves! Spirit of beauty! Light immortal! Open the enchanted portal! Hidden realms and secret mendings; Constant effort, happy endings. From all my parts, exchange the sum Who I must be, I shall become. Measured starlight finds a way To turn routine to holiday. The blazing heart, ever renewed -My will contains my fortitude. By moonlight seek the fertile ground; By sunlight seize the shining crown! All past troubles I release In the stillness, find the peace. Changeful earth, earth standing fast In your harvest, gifts that last. The Wheel bears me, come what may -By starlight I shall find my way.

Virgo III

Fluent speech, put to the test. Once committed, take a rest! No advances do I spurn; I choose, and in the choosing learn. Change of form, exchange of grace -Transport me to another place. The rush of blood, a heady wine -From my mouth, the voice divine! To find the truth, crack wide the shell: Enclosed within, the truth you tell. Through the window, what I see, I cast my line and draw to me. I make a cradle from a grave, I am the water—and the wave. Visions rise, called and unbidden: Workings cultivate what's hidden. Exchange of views, increase of land The silent acts of Eye and Hand. In an ocean rife with seeming, I am the fish that does the dreaming. O dirty rose, O earth of earth O bright illusions churned from dearth.

Libra I

Take heart, and stand, and face the heat To conquer serpentine deceit. Breezes freshened, fires stoked My force is natural—and invoked! Saturn's labors, planted deep Guarding life through winter's sleep. Though far afield my mind may roam On this firm ground I make my home! When in doubt, reach first for hope; The love of others helps you cope. Air of water, water of air -The truth to know, the art to dare. By virtue of exalted light Sharpen the words I choose to write. Rise from ashes, shed your skin; The tale ends only to begin. The hidden turning of the ways; The rainbow rising from the haze.

LIBRA II

May we surrender to embrace The karmic shock of sudden grace! Last year's old growth clear away, So new seeds find the light of day. Dancing air that I respire, Arouse in me refining fire! I am both rain and deep blue sea, All risks and exiles known to me. The sharp-tongued moment that you seize! The door to which I hold the keys! The arts of language, here arranged: Words are measured, views exchanged. Spirit, rise in rites I foment: Be renewed, moment to moment. Chthonic spirit of the land, Your riches spill into my hand. I have paid for what I know. Accept these coins, so I may go! Cycles of rebirth and death: Call upon the balanced breath.

LIBRA III

Backstage schemes wrought by my planner— Face them in courageous manner! Out of darkness, out of sleep, A spirit rises from the deep. Some I save and some I spill; I am the fate that I fulfill. Uncertainty can foster grief. In the ritual, find belief. Even as the Wheel spins, I flex my silver scaly fins! Looser of all things that bind, Cut free the shackles of my mind! Impassioned, stubborn, brave, or crude— I burn with my own fortitude! 'Twixt sky and earth, the mountain ridge— I am the builder AND the bridge! I am the thorn upon the rose, What I dare the spirits know. Waves and water, ever churning: I am the fuse forever burning!

SCORPIO I

Kings fall from grace, kings rise to serve. May each receive what they deserve! With your eyes, behold the fire! The currents of your own desire. All the fishes; many loaves! Hands that wish and feet that rove. Secret apprentice to the mage; Spotlit center of the stage! Adrift on tides of bland opinion, Find your virtue in dominion. I have the skills and ALL the tools. Son, we write our own damn rules! Driver, wield the airy sword! Will and Appetite accord! Uncertainty's no cause to grieve; Allow yourself a brief reprieve! {Allow yourself a moment's grace— Take your hands off of your face!} I dance the rhythm of my part— A beat kept by my lion's heart. Spirits come, and spirits leave -With Virtue's eye I dare perceive.

SCORPIO II

The light you give, the praise you earn The patient ways you wait and learn. Make your wishes, and take heart -May we dare a brand new start! Yes we may, we can, we could! Let what is done, be done for good. Women of the land, unite— Your voice shall set the balance right! Called to account, the matter ends. Behind the scenes, we make amends. Heartfelt are the truths I say: From pain, from darkness, walk away. Double voices speak what's fair -Choices weighed, broadcast on air. On my prospects, sunlight glistens I am she who speaks and listens. On living branch, from shining pool I sip, and perch, and tend the Jewel. The doors I lock, the trust I earn -A mirrored pool where candles burn.

SCORPIO III

I am the fields where you graze; The fitful breezes, and the haze. Every time my mind divides Sevenfold I ride the tides. The shit I fashion into gold! The roads I drive, the grail I hold! Swift the messenger afire! On my screen, the world entire. I am both melody and scales Complete with respite, feast, and tales. Courage: Its elastic power Reaps a day from every hour. In spite of brooding's dark allure, I am determined to endure. Mirrored sea; end and beginning; I'm both the Wheel and the spinning. Like the arrow, I aspire; Open doorways of desire! Thrice the works my skills shall handle; Feed the brightness of my candle.

SAGITTARIUS I

Secrets read within the mist -For all my mills, they are the grist. The moon, the rain, the deep blue sea; The door, the hand, the worker bee. The burdens I depend upon May be both bane and pharmakon. To every mountaintop its breeze, To every climax, sweet release. Fire of water, water of fire -Eat, cook, drink, and dare aspire! Borne aloft by hands of fate, I steer my empire's ship of state. Win some, lose some, burn and flow— Easy come and easy go. All the fishes in the sea -Their stories live inside of me. Each adventure starts with choosing. Don't be scared into refusing. Every thing sown, grown, and greening Glows with its own hidden meaning.

SAGITTARIUS II

Fire purrs within my blood; I write my way across the flood. The wind that races over land -I earn success on routes I've planned. Though in the moment I am blind What I envision, I shall find. Liquid fire, pennies from heaven; Tea at four, and news at seven! I am the rainbow's quivering arc! I write my way out of the dark. Out of the tides are feelings hewn Each a reflection of the moon. Release what does no longer serve -Such acts of grace take all one's nerve. Deep, the current and the foment In the silence, seize the moment. Shifting tactics, unknown weather; What we do, we do together. Air feeds a flame, and two by two What's held in balance starts anew.

SAGITTARIUS III

Safe as houses, solar might Banks the primal firelight. Reach forth your hand; fling wide the door Through which benefic blessings pour! All the burdens that I bear Are shadows burning on the air. What is pleasure? what is pain? Dare to know both sun and rain. Choice: it's more than predilection. I find the truth within the fiction. Consolidating tales I've told— They are the storehouse of my gold. I am the force that drives the seed: I am the answer to the need. The secret seed; the lighted lamp; The reproduction bears my stamp. Troubles fade and blessings rise: She who listens grows more wise.

CAPRICORN I

Thrice we put our Selves to test, Fulfilling promises expressed. Half-moon, the seas reflect your face. We venture forth on borrowed grace. Right the balance; cede the fight; Trim the tree and light the lights, Take the journey; solve the math; Decode the solitary path. Exalted moon, on high you sail; Your riches pour behind the veil. The seed ignited bursts in flower. Lengthen the day and seize the hour! Steady earth and calm blue sea -Between them, what may come to be? I am the Ox who shoots the breeze: The bull whose locks accept the keys. The stories I have lived and told! Also, the facts I have and hold. Having gathered every thought, I polish that which I have wrought.

CAPRICORN II

Moonlight dares at last to pour -J'ai fini! mon travail d'amour. By these contracts do I bind The conflagration in my mind. So many secrets closed within... And such adventures to begin. Many players in the game; Many fires; single flame. The seed I planted, here to stay. For now, I dare to walk away. What you have asked for, Fortune gave— Be wise in how you now behave. Bright the hidden light I bear; Patterns written on the air. Have patience with tzhe local fail; Surrender to the greater tale. The foaming seas, the secret grail, The slow fuse that your arts avail. One way only flows the river— Today my battles shall deliver! Strive for beauty, strive for grace— Give the contest pride of place.

CAPRICORN III

Worlds old and new to set on fire. What is the nature of desire? In the sunlight, I attend To any message you may send. The world's a market, rich and grave. To hold your place, you must be brave. In my hand, the bird and bloom— The hearth that warms the gracious room. Bright sovereign and βασιλευς, What is the nature of your κλεος? Firestarter, say my name— For in your praise, I find my fame. Beauty. It's a tensile wish. For what is drowning, to a fish? Story-seller, fable-vendor, To what tale shall I surrender? In the market of ideas I choose to buy and sell my wares. O creature of divided mind In the shadows, seek and find.

AQUARIUS I

At last, the day! Inauguration. Light in darkness for a nation. With each fire that I light: Burning arrows, taking flight. Time eternal; time defined; Between two worlds, my human mind. Gilded currents, rapid flow; Riverbank where gardens grow. The mirrored heart sees its own fire: Love, affection, and desire. In the glass, reflections shiver Arrows ready in my quiver At the doorway, find the grace To smile with your public face. Entering the House of Air, I pass freely everywhere. What I speak and what I write Begin to set the world alight. The mind divides; the mind expands; The Wheel spins between my hands. Mind held captive, double breeze, Open doorway, endless seas.

AQUARIUS II

Steady helmsman, narrow path Preserve me from all righteous wrath. Well-measured light can—I discern— Illuminate as well as burn. Eve of desire, eve of stealth Buried secret hidden wealth Sunbeams, focused, can ignite The urge to win, the heart to fight. The mind in torment? No, at play! Seize the hour and the day. Keeper of the secret list Glamor rising up from mist. One coin is buried, one displayed. The work is done, the record made. The seams I sew, the fate you weave, That which I dare now to believe. Appetite constrained by grace; Beauty rises: watch this space.

AQUARIUS III

Despite the silent undertow I do the work; I build; I grow. The wind acts swiftly to decide. The soil shall wait; repair; abide. Who works with others, chances best To ride the Wheel to its crest. Slow as crystal, focus grows From now till then, a river flows. At the threshold, what desires? Success and conquest, double fires. Bank your fires, prune your limbs. Wield your words and speak your hymns. Lovers' words: Think once, think twice. What do you wish to sacrifice? Grant me the wisdom of the sea: The honeyed door that greets the bee. Teacher in the virtual Here. With your voice, shape formless Air. O Light bearer, O Matter's Gate— In your Eye, I conflagrate.

PISCES I

Sharp, the sea breeze on my sail: I am the needle, and the grail. Banking fourfold on this treasure: Love, surrender, longing, pleasure. The distant star for which you yearn; Fuel and matches, set to burn. Sun that guides me on my path Add gain to gain; fulfill my math! In the place rainbows unweave Plant that in which you most believe. Beauty may burn, beauty may drown; Its brilliance, though, always astounds. Out of air, a dance begun, I build my castles in the sun. Here: a butterfly, transfixed. There: Fertile earth and water mix. Doubt, sacrificed within the rite. Purpose, blooming in the light. Tense, the arrow in the bow; Silent roses bloom and grow.

PISCES II

Rivers flowing in their courses Marshaling my own resources Sailing these surrendered seas Beauty brings me to my knees. Invoke the will and find the means: Prepare the ground behind the scenes. I light the way; I travel far, Buscando sueños en el mar. These hours I shall long remember Refine the fire from the ember. The moon, the secret book, the veil; The sun, the golden sea, the grail. Feel the fire on your face O flaming queen of triple grace. To teach, to learn, to light the way; To seek, to join, and to pray. Ocean mirror, door and dove: Give in to past and future love. Prudent souls do what they must Measure; weigh; discern; adjust. Soul-Barterer. memento mori: I ride in service to the story.

PISCES III

Fence and window, house and door: Portals all, through which I pour. Deconstruction: act of grace. What will you conjure in its place? I prune, I edit, and I reap: Mysteries, and truth, and sleep. Words inscribed upon the air; The mirrored heart that dreams to dare. Joy, flood me. Arrow, fly in haste. The flare I light, the wine I taste. In the maze, a gnosis grows. My heart fills up and overflows. Plans to bring forth and protect I am their loving architect. Polar mind, magnetic sword; Desire nature pulls me forward. The sword has struck, the arrow flown; Endure with patience the unknown.