

# Easy formulas to construct Four Pillars charts

## Explorations with Heluo

Explorations with Heluo is a series of free lessons and articles on the subject of Time, Space and Destiny

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**Complete 'blind man's formula' for Bazi  
Day Stem formula 1900-2099  
5 Rat chasing the hour and 5 Tiger chasing the month**

This article is a chapter derived from Heluo's 4-day master class workbook  
Four Pillars of Destiny (650 pages) and it is shared freely over [www](http://www).

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## See, no hands

What if you are on your way to somewhere and anyone is telling you their birth date, but you are not carrying a Chinese Solar calendar. Can you still build a complete Four Pillars of Destiny birth chart? Knowing just the sequential numbering for the Ten Heavenly Stems - and with just minimum effort and knowledge required - you would soon be able to get to this complete Bazi, where Stems for year (A), month (B), day (C) and hour (D) reduce to their numberings, here 2,4,6,4.

<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
Hour	Day	Month	Year
4	6	4	2
丁	己	丁	乙
Yin Fire	Yin Earth	Yin Fire	Yin Wood
卯	巳	亥	巳
Rabbit	Snake	Pig	Snake

Pillar Stems	Based on	Derived from
A Year Stem	Digits of the year, e.g. 2008	Subtracting 3, i.e 2008 minus 3
B Month Stem	Based on A	Stem number for the year
C Day Stem	Based on separate formula	Mathematical equation
D Hour Stem	Based on C	Stem number of the day

Let's do it. As we will be showing formula for the day at the end of this article for its rather complex format, we will be here first solving how to locate Heavenly Stem for years, months and hours without carrying a Chinese Solar calendar. To get to the Heavenly Stem for any year is so easy, it couldn't be even captured in a table and so we will be handling this right away, but here first is a sneak preview into what you will be needing in order to establish Heavenly Stems for months and hours for any Bazi birth chart, first a table in Chinese, then same in plain English.

甲	乙	丙	丁	戊
己	庚	辛	壬	癸
甲	丙	戊	庚	壬
丙	戊	庚	壬	甲

If you have been already experienced, you will have transformed this to read:

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
1	3	5	7	9
3	5	7	9	1



甲 is the first of Heavenly Stems in sequence, it is Yang Wood Jia and set aside as 1. Then the other Stems follow in sequential order, i.e. 乙 is Yin Wood Yi, 丙 is Yang Fire Bing and so on. Calculating Heavenly Stems for months (B) to any year or Stems for hours (D) to any day is no big deal and the 'blind man's method' pertaining to this - and way back when still one of best kept secrets - has been laying bare for anyone to learn. You won't be carrying around a Chinese calendar anymore once you know how to get to Stems for years, months, days and hours and you will find all you need in order to perform right here.

You will see how all methods are pretty straightforward, so squarely innocent in fact, that we will have any beginner do it after just a one hour introduction into Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches, so that one could have a hard time understanding why in the past it used to at all be such a big deal. You'll come as far as you need to by just knowing the order of Ten Heavenly Stems and their numbering, the Earthly Branches and their sequence, but we will here first settle Heavenly Stem to any year as this is easiest of all.

## Year Stem formula

Just take away 3 from last digit to any year to get to the Heavenly Stem *number* for that year. If you take away a factor 3 from 1997, you get 1994 and this last '4' then simply represents the fourth Heavenly Stem of Yin Fire 丁 Ding, so you know the Heavenly Stem for 1997 is Yin Fire. If you take away 3 from 2008, you get to 2005, this last 5 representing the fifth Heavenly Stem of Yang Earth 戊 Wu, so you know the Heavenly Stem for 2008 is Yang Earth. Here is the year Stem formula.

1997 - 3 = 1994 : 10 = 199,4 4 is the remainder = Stem number for the year  
2008 - 3 = 2005 : 10 = 200,5 5 is the remainder = Stem number for the year

That's all. Then, obtaining Heavenly Stems to months and hours comes down to:

*Knowing the year is knowing the month, knowing the day is knowing the hour.*

In order to perform, we will be here pulling you through some of the required tools:

- Ten Heavenly Stems sequence
- Earthly Branches for double hours

## Heavenly Stems to months

Since for the formula we can have a smaller bucket fit into a bigger bucket, let us first see what 'big bucket' and 'small bucket' means.

If you wish to obtain the Heavenly Stem for a month, it is just a matter of 'getting' how progression of years and months be defined by the **earth orbit around the sun**. You will appreciate how by this connection the smaller bucket of month cycles must be then swirling tightly within the bigger bucket year cycles, such that each time *Heavenly Stem for February* relies on the *Heavenly Stem for the year* in question.

By the '5 Tiger chasing the month' method discussed below, you obtain Heavenly Stem for all Februaries to any Solar year. Once you then located Heavenly Stem for such February, you can of course count forward through consecutive months to establish Heavenly Stem to any other month same Solar year.

## Heavenly Stems to hours

Progression of days and hours be defined by the **rotation of our planet** along its own (tilted) axis, are Longitude based, and hour cycles then neatly fit into the day cycle, so that the *Heavenly Stem for any hour of birth* relies on the *Stem for the day*. Using the 5 Rat method, you can obtain Heavenly Stem for all hours to any Solar date. Once you then located Heavenly Stem for the Rat hour, you can of course count forward to establish Heavenly Stem to any other hour later same Solar day.

## Hourly Branches

Considering Chinese double hours, we would be first concerned with the more conventional table giving 12 Chinese hours and returning time of Zi Rat as 23:00-01:00, then another such table, which we will be then using for Bazi, but then splitting the double hour of Zi Rat into a one hour part *before* midnight and a one hour part *after* midnight. You will see how Bazi, Chinese Feng Shui and Nine Star Ki define a Solar day as to start exactly at midnight, i.e. when the sun 'appears' directly under your feet. We will be using the 00:00-23:59 format.

## Body and application

If we just swiftly side-step into the subject of calculations done for the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere\*, do calculations vary or are they identical. Since both Northern and Southern Hemisphere hitchhike on the back of the same planet, the Southern Hemisphere will be freezed at the same position as the Northern Hemisphere, relative to the sun at any time during a Solar year. Since calculations for years and months be calibrated around the earth orbit around the sun, all formal equations (Body) are the same. If then we say Application should be adapted to locale, geography, topography, the apparent season, the weather and other magnitudes, this would be just true for any locale, the Southern Hemisphere being no different here just for reason that it keeps to different Latitude. Bazi, Feng Shui and 9 Ki on account of day and hour formulas are Longitude based.

\* Due to construction of our new webiste still in process, we have at this point not been able to upload our article on the subject, but if you contact Heluo, you may receive extensive article 'Southern Hemisphere and Universal Qi' in pdf.

## The tools

### Earthly Branches

#### Conventional 12 hour table

I	23:00 - 01:00	子	Zǐ Rat
II	01:00 - 03:00	丑	Chǒu Ox
III	03:00 - 05:00	寅	Yín Tiger
IV	05:00 - 07:00	卯	Mǎo Rabbit
V	07:00 - 09:00	辰	Chén Dragon
VI	09:00 - 11:00	巳	Sì Snake
VII	11:00 - 13:00	午	Wǔ Horse
VIII	13:00 - 15:00	未	Wèi Sheep
IX	15:00 - 17:00	申	Shēn Monkey
X	17:00 - 19:00	酉	Yǒu Rooster
XI	19:00 - 21:00	戌	Xū Dog
XII	21:00 - 23:00	亥	Hài Pig

#### '13' hour table used for Bazi

I	00:00 - 01:00	子	Zǐ Rat (Early Rat)
II	01:00 - 03:00	丑	Chǒu Ox
III	03:00 - 05:00	寅	Yín Tiger
IV	05:00 - 07:00	卯	Mǎo Rabbit
V	07:00 - 09:00	辰	Chén Dragon
VI	09:00 - 11:00	巳	Sì Snake
VII	11:00 - 13:00	午	Wǔ Horse
VIII	13:00 - 15:00	未	Wèi Sheep
IX	15:00 - 17:00	申	Shēn Monkey
X	17:00 - 19:00	酉	Yǒu Rooster
XI	19:00 - 21:00	戌	Xū Dog
XII	21:00 - 23:00	亥	Hài Pig
XIII	23:00 - 00:00	子	Zǐ Rat (Late Rat)

By table on the right and for use of Bazi timing, we split the conventional 23:00-01:00 double hour of Zi Rat into a part right after midnight – or 'Early Rat' from 00:00-01:00 – and later same Solar day 'Late Rat' from 23:00-00:00, both these Rat segments occurring same day but either one then adopting own hour Stem. Note that the Chinese astrology of Zi Wei Dou Shu follows moon phases and defines a day as to start at 23:00, using table on the left.

### Heavenly Stems

1. Jiǎ 甲 Yang Wood
2. Yǐ 乙 Yin Wood
3. Bǐng 丙 Yang Fire
4. Dīng 丁 Yin Fire
5. Wù 戊 Yang Earth
6. Jǐ 己 Yin Earth
7. Gēng 庚 Yang Metal
8. Xīn 辛 Yin Metal
9. Rén 壬 Yang Water
10. Guǐ 癸 Yin Water

## Branch sequence

Earthly Branches can be counted I-XII. You can apply the formula discussed here without any deeper knowledge on what Earthly Branches actually pertain to, just only remembering sequential order. Earthly Branches go into the lower segments of the year, month, day and hour Pillar in a Bazi structure.

For convenience sake, we include a list of months and years according to Branches.

#	Date	Month	Branch	Year
I	7	December	子 Zǐ Rat	1984
II	6	January	丑 Chǒu Ox	1985
III	4	February	寅 Yín Tiger	1986
IV	5	March	卯 Mǎo Rabbit	1987
V	5	April	辰 Chén Dragon	1988
VI	5	May	巳 Sì Snake	1989
VII	6	June	午 Wǔ Horse	1990
VIII	7	July	未 Wèi Sheep	1991
IX	7	August	申 Shēn Monkey	1992
X	7	September	酉 Yǒu Rooster	1993
XI	8	October	戌 Xū Dog	1994
XII	8	November	亥 Hàì Pig	1995

- Dates are just approximates. A Solar year is defined to start at 3,4 or 5 February.
- From your reference year, add or subtract 12 each time until you arrive within year sequence here.

## Stem sequence

Heavenly Stems go into the upper segments of the year, month, day and hour Pillar in a Bazi structure and we can number Heavenly Stems 1-10. Heavenly Stems are simply the Five Transformations of Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water each in a Yin and Yang temperament. Look at how Heavenly Stems are numbered, as that is where lies the clue in performing both the 5 Rat and 5 Tiger methods.

## Month table

To get to the month Stem for February for your year of reference, you use year Stem numbering shown in bold face here. Remember, where a Yang Wood year Stem is given as 1, a Yin Wood year Stem is given as 2 and so on. The bottom row gives the Stem number for February for your year of reference, and this row starts with the third Heavenly Stem of Yang Fire Bing.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
3	5	7	9	1

Now, because you will see how the list for hour Stems will start with number 1 for Yang Wood, you would appreciate a trick to keep tables for month Stem and hour Stem apart. A year starts in February in the third Earthly Branch of Tiger, so this is how you may commit to memory why the month table starts in 3. You will now refer the year Stem number – for example 5 - to the Stem number below it, giving February for that year as the first Stem of Yang Wood.

## Hour table

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
1	3	5	7	9

Bottom row for the hour table starts with 1 for Yang Wood and it gives the Stems for the Early Rat hour. Said differently, on days with Stem 1 for Yang Wood or Stem 6 for Yin Earth, Early Rat receives the first Heavenly Stem of Yang Wood.

## 5 Tiger for February Stem

To obtain the 5 Tiger formula for month Stems, simply draw the appointed table as shown here, year Stem numbers in bold and below this the numbers for the respective month Stems as 3,5,7, 9 and 1 which are code for Heavenly Stems also.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	] Year Stems
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
3	5	7	9	1	February Stem

You now read this as to signify that for years with Heavenly Stem in Yang Wood (**1**) or Yin Earth (**6**), February appears in the third Stem (3), which is Yang Fire Bing. So, if 2008 has a Heavenly Stem of Yang Earth Wu, this is the 5th Heavenly Stem and you look up **5**. Then, beneath 5 you will find 1, which means that February 2008 releases the Heavenly Stem of Yang Wood Jia.

The Five Tiger method to find month Stems is known as Wǔ Hǔ Jiàn Yín [五虎建寅] and it is to establish (Jiàn) the month Stem for February (Yín Tiger) for any year. You can apply this formula once the year Stem is known. Our sample person is born in the month of February 1997, Stem for the year 1997 being Yin Fire Dīng [丁], which is the fourth Stem (**4**). 5 Tiger table then shows that February receives the 9th Stem which is Yang Water Ren (9). If you are born April 1997, simply take the 9th Stem you just established for February and – while staying within the sequence of 10 - add Stems in successive order until you arrived at your month of birth, here February 9, March 10, April 1 (here, counting 9, 10, 11 would not apply as 11 reaches beyond the order of 10 Stems, so rather than counting 9, 10, 11, you will be counting 9, 10, 1, giving Heavenly Stem for April 1997 as Yang Wood).

## 5 Rat for Rat hour Stem

Now we commit to the hour formula, simply replacing the 3,5,7,9,1 sequence we used for the month table by 1,3,5,7,9, to signify Stems for the Early Rat hour.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	] Day Stems
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
1	3	5	7	9	Early Rat hour Stem

You now read this as to signify that for Solar days with Heavenly Stem in Yang Wood (**1**) or Yin Earth (**6**), Early Rat hour (00:00-01:00) appears in the first Stem (1), which is Yang Wood Jia. Yin Water Gui is the 10th Heavenly Stem. So, if a day Stem is Yin Water Gui, look up **10**. Beneath number 10 you see 9, signifying that Early Rat hour that Solar date carries the 9th Heavenly Stem of Yang Water Ren.

We can establish the Stem for the Rat hour for any solar date by applying the Five Rat Method, known as Wǔ Shǔ Jiàn Shí [五鼠建時]. Note however that the Rat hour divides into a part right after midnight (Early Rat) and a part just before midnight (Late Rat) further down same Solar date.

In order to serve the Late Rat hour, we will extend this table and simply transport the 3,5,7,9 and 1 used earlier for the Five Tiger month formula to then get this:

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	] Day Stems
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
1	3	5	7	9	Early Rat hour Stem
3	5	7	9	1	Late Rat hour Stem / February Stem

Which is now not just only a table to distinguish between Early Rat and Late Rat but becomes a merge of the 5 Tiger and 5 Rat formula, so that you won't be at all using separate formulas to locate month Stems or hour Stems, but just using one and the same table to do both. Using this extended table you may then wish to memorize which is which, i.e. which row to use to find Stem for February, which row for the Stem of Early Rat hour. Again, just remember that the first row – 1,3,5,7,9 - includes Early Rat hour, the bottom row Late Rat hour, but since it starts with 3, it is easy to transform this into III and remember that III is Tiger month, so using this as a trick to remember that the bottom row then reads the monthly Stems.

## Day formula

We deliberately handle day Stem-Branch formula last for its complexity. Day formulas given here in two versions, one to cover Solar dates between 1900-1999, the other to cover dates between 2000-2099. You will here apply equation from which resultant we wish to get to a number <60 to obtain day Stem, then once more remove 12 until we get to a number <12 to obtain day Branch. To get to [N], formula for 1900-1999 first lets you subtract the base year 1900 from the year in question, by formula given for 2000-2099 you subtract 2000 from the year to get to N. N will conceal a number of Leap years which will be dismissed by formula's  $N/4$ . Formula then handles Solar dates (+D) between 1 January in the Gregorian calendar and date in question. Finally, you remove as many 60's [Modulus 60] and add or subtract a factor representing sets of Stem-Branch combinations, until finally the correct binomial number within the smallest Jia-Zi cycle emerges.

### Formula day Stem-Branch 1900-1999

$(5N + N/4 + D + 10) \text{ Mod } 60$  For leap years:  $(5N + N/4 + D + 11) \text{ Mod } 60$

We wish to get to the day Stem and day Branch for 5 February 1997.

1	N	Subtract 1900 from 1997 to get to N which is 97	
2	5N	$5 \times 97 = 485$	485
3	5/4	$97 : 4 = 24.25$ (ignore .25)	24
4	+D	36 days to get from 1 January to day of birth	36
5	+10	Binomials	<u>10</u>
			555 mod 60 = 15

15 hosts 1 round of 10 Stems, which you take away = 5 Day Stem Yang Earth  
 15 hosts 1 round of 12 Branches, which you take away = 3 Day Branch Tiger

### Formula day Stem-Branch 2000-2099

$(5N + N/4 + D - 5) \text{ Mod } 60$  For leap years:  $(5N + N/4 + D - 6) \text{ Mod } 60$

We wish to get to the day Stem and day Branch for 23 June 2008 (leap year).

1	N	Subtract 2000 from 2008 to get to N which is 8	
2	5N	$5 \times 8 = 40$	40
3	5/4	$8 : 4 = 2$	2
4	+D	175 days to get from 1 January to day of birth	<u>175</u>
			217
5	-6	Binomials	<u>6</u> -
			211 mod 60 = 31

31 hosts 3 rounds of 10 Stems, which you take away = 1 Day Stem Yang Wood  
 Take away 12's from 31 until you get to 7 Day Branch Horse

Let us see what is being established by this formula.

#### 5N

There are 365.2422 days to a Solar year. "5N" is to then first omit - take care of - the 5 days between Lunar 360 days and Solar 365 days a year. Once these 5 days are "out", we are still left with a remainder, i.e. .2422 days to a year.

#### N/4

$N/4$  in the formula is to dismiss Leap years. The average year has  $365 + 1/4 = 365.25$  days. We keep our calendar in sync with the seasons by having most years 365 days long but obtaining just under 1/4 of all years 366-day long, therefore "Leap" years.  $N/4$  therefore handles the .2422 left over days for one year, i.e. each 4 years equals 1 day. This takes care of the leap years occurring each four years, so  $N/4$  is to omit the leap years. We are now still left with .0022 'days'.

#### +D

+D is to count the solar dates up to the date of birth, starting at 1 January.

#### +10 or -5

Stem-Branch binomials to add or subtract to complete a full Jia-Zi cycle of 60 Stem-Branch combinations.

## Work sheet

Establish	Stem-Branch	Apply	Remarks
Year	Stem	A	1997 - 3 = 1994 : 10 = 199,4 4 is year Stem number. Refer to B
	Branch	C	Select a year and add or subtract 12 until arrive within C years
Month	Stem	D	Below year stem #, refer to 3,5,7,9,1 row for February Stem
	Branch	C	Select Earthly Branch for Solar month of birth
Day	Stem	E	Refer to F for <60 binomials. Mind leap years. 2000 is leap year
	Branch	E	
Hour	Stem	D	Below day stem #, refer to 1,3,5,7,9 row for Early Rat hour stem
	Branch	C	Select Earthly Branch for Solar hour of birth

### A: Formula year Stem

1997 - 3 = 1994 : 10 = 199,4 4 is the remainder = year Stem number

### B: Heavenly Stems

#	Stem		
1.	Jiǎ	甲	Yang Wood
2.	Yí	乙	Yin Wood
3.	Bǐng	丙	Yang Fire
4.	Dīng	丁	Yin Fire
5.	Wù	戊	Yang Earth
6.	Jǐ	己	Yin Earth
7.	Gēng	庚	Yang Metal
8.	Xīn	辛	Yin Metal
9.	Rén	壬	Yang Water
10.	Guǐ	癸	Yin Water

### C: Earthly Branches

#	Time	Branch	Month	Year
I	00:00 - 01:00	子 Zǐ Rat (Early)	December	1984
II	01:00 - 03:00	丑 Chǒu Ox	January	1985
III	03:00 - 05:00	寅 Yín Tiger	February	1986
IV	05:00 - 07:00	卯 Mǎo Rabbit	March	1987
V	07:00 - 09:00	辰 Chén Dragon	April	1988
VI	09:00 - 11:00	巳 Sì Snake	May	1989
VII	11:00 - 13:00	午 Wǔ Horse	June	1990
VIII	13:00 - 15:00	未 Wèi Sheep	July	1991
IX	15:00 - 17:00	申 Shēn Monkey	August	1992
X	17:00 - 19:00	酉 Yǒu Rooster	September	1993
XI	19:00 - 21:00	戌 Xū Dog	October	1994
XII	21:00 - 23:00	亥 Hàì Pig	November	1995
XIII	23:00 - 00:00	子 Zǐ Rat (Late)		

### D: 5 Tiger and 5 Rat formula year and hour Stem

甲	乙	丙	丁	戊	1	2	3	4	5
己	庚	辛	壬	癸	6	7	8	9	10
甲	丙	戊	庚	壬	1	3	5	7	9
丙	戊	庚	壬	甲	3	5	7	9	1

### E: Formula day Stem and Branch

#### Day formula 1900-1999

(5N + N/4 + D + 10 [leap years + 11]) Mod60

#### Day formula 2000-2099

(5N + N/4 + D - 5 [leap years - 6]) Mod60

F Jiǎ Zǐ cycle										
Jiǎ Zǐ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	甲子	乙丑	丙寅	丁卯	戊辰	己巳	庚午	辛未	壬申	癸酉
Jiǎ Xū	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	甲戌	乙亥	丙子	丁丑	戊寅	己卯	庚辰	辛巳	壬午	癸未
Jiǎ Shēn	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	甲申	乙酉	丙戌	丁亥	戊子	己丑	庚寅	辛卯	壬辰	癸巳
Jiǎ Wǔ	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	甲午	乙未	丙申	丁酉	戊戌	己亥	庚子	辛丑	壬寅	癸卯
Jiǎ Chén	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	甲辰	乙巳	丙午	丁未	戊申	己酉	庚戌	辛亥	壬子	癸丑
Jiǎ Yín	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	甲寅	乙卯	丙辰	丁巳	戊午	己未	庚申	辛酉	壬戌	癸亥

## Links

### **Four Pillars computer program**

<http://www.fourpillars.net/fpfs.php>

We would like to direct you to the magnificent Four Pillars program by Danny van den Berghe. Obtain the "Four Pillars & Feng Shui 4.2" program as a 30 day trial after which you can register. Danny's program is a must have as it – apart from Four Pillars – also includes a Nine Star Ki daily Star calendar as well as Feng Shui, Yi Jing and Wen Wang Gua functions. The program features a city atlas with Latitude/Longitude function for accurate timing on account of True Local Solar Time, as well as it factors in Equation of Time by default.

### **Daily Star calendar**

<http://www.geocities.com/ninestarki> / [www.astro-fengshui.com](http://www.astro-fengshui.com)

We recommend ebook "Nine Star Ki and Nine Stars Calendar" by master Joseph Yu.

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"Explorations with Heluo" is an ongoing series of articles on the subject of time, space and destiny and our attempt to make genuine teachings available to those on a quest to understand Yi. The articles have been published since 1999 and by far most have been derived from actual chapters from the extensive workbooks to our 4-day master classes in our practitioner program "Destiny Consultant".

Teachings find you, because I feel they should have reached us during early childhood, to offer deep gratitude for once having obtained the trust of my teachers and in an attempt to help improve fate and life on this planet.

- Heluo -