

MORE LETTERS ON PAGES 25, 26, 28 & 29

Living life by the numbers

coffee with

ESTHER TEH

MUCH as one might expect her to look like a gypsy, Esther Teh dresses like a modern woman and interprets astrology charts printed off a computer.

As a child, she predicted the death of her grandparents and her hamsters. Such predictions worried adults and shut her up for almost two decades.

Today, with a long list of clients in Singapore, she tells Valerie Law that astrology and numerology aren't just superstitious mumbo-jumbo, but genuine ways to enhance people's lives.

How did you get started with astrology?

When I was little, my dad seemed to be the only one who could manage my moods and draw the best out of me. That gave me the idea that there was something he knew that no one else did, so, at age 10 or so, I began reading the books that he read – astrology and numerology books.

What were the big events in your life that you predicted?

They were not “predictions” but a “knowing” that it was going to happen. It freaked me out when, at the age of six, I predicted my maternal grandmother's death just before my mother picked up the phone. At age 11, I predicted my maternal grandfather's and dad's deaths. At age 13, my brood of nine baby ham-



sters escaped from their living area and jumped 14 floors to their death.

I saw that coming too.

In general, who are your clients?

They come from all walks of life – homemakers, clerks, executives, managing directors, business owners, teachers. Client confidentiality keeps me from giving you names.

Are more highly educated people coming to consult you?

I experienced an increase in the number of such clients in the past year. About 90 per cent of my clients are executives and professionals, but my client list has grown almost 200 per cent over the past two years.

With the dawning of Period 8 (2004–2024) according to *fengshui* studies (in astrology, the Aquarian Age), people are realising that money is not everything. This is a time of “awakening” – issues such as being in better relationships and being in the right job come up. More people will be in touch with their spiritual needs and will seek out people who provide such a service.

How do you use astrology/numerology to gain control of your life?

Every major decision I make will depend on what my astrology chart shows, together with what I want. For example, if I predict I may have a major accident in two years' time, I will buy the maximum amount of insurance I can afford because I

want my family to be well taken care of. This is one way I can enhance my life.

If you said something is going to happen, and your client deliberately does not make the choice that will lead to it coming true – wouldn't that make you look like a fool?

If you want to cut off your nose to spite your face, it is your choice and I will respect that choice. The choices you make affect you and your life, not mine. I am merely the source of information so you can make informed choices.

Sometimes, some things that I see in a chart, I do not speak about, because it would have an adverse impact – for example, if the person is not ready to die, but it shows in their chart, I might just hint to them that they should live life more fully. Some things are best left to the individual to discover on his or her own.

In this day and age, when people believe in science more than “magic”, what do you say to sceptics?

Being in Period 8, I notice that more folk are turning to “magic” for guidance, confirmation and support. But of course, there are still sceptics. It is not my duty to convince them – they are where they are because they are supposed to be there.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

Generating the reports on time. Everyone wants theirs yesterday.