

# RACE OF THE CHINESE ZODIACS

Chinese Zodiac is decided with a race held by the Jade Emperor.

Reported by Astrid Randall

Yesterday evening, a race was held at the Mekong River between 13 animals to determine the new Chinese Zodiac. This race was set because the Jade Emperor wanted a way to measure time.

The competitors waited at the starting point at around 2pm. They stared at each other intently wondering who would take first place. Their treacherous task was to reach the other side of the Mekong River first. With the currents swirling and the majority of the animals unable to swim, this has proved to be a tough mission.

It is understood that near to the start of the race, Rat and Cat asked Ox for help.

Ox was happy to help them and decided to carry them. It is reported that while crossing the river, clever Rat deceived Cat and pushed him into the river. After that unkind move, Rat jumped off of Ox's back and claimed first, while Ox was tricked into second. Soon after, Tiger tumbled onto the bank taking a reasonable third place.

By hopping along a few stepping stones and a leg, rabbit came fourth. Witnesses claim that Dragon came fifth because he stopped to help others which surprised some. Next in eighth, ninth and tenth came Goat, Monkey and Rooster by building a raft and working in a team. Unfortunately Cat didn't get a place because Pig took twelfth. The Chinese Zodiacs were decided when the race had finished.



Rat claiming first place trophy

After the race, the winner -Rat- celebrated his victory by jumping up and down with joy. "I'm over the moon about coming first and I think my plan was brilliant. Although Cat keeps spoiling my amazing win by saying there should be a re-race and it's not fair (which isn't true in my opinion). Surely he should be over it by now," explained Rat. However, a furious cat steaming at the finish line exclaimed, "I am so mad at Rat and I can't believe he got me soaking wet (how rude). I think a re-match should be held and Rat shouldn't be allowed to take part."

Although cat is unhappy with the results, the Jade Emperor reported that he was joyful about who came where. He also said he was a bit annoyed Rat, even though he hasn't broken any rules.

The Jade Emperor reported that the Chinese zodiacs will repeat every twelve years and the order will stay the same. The race has been recorded as the mile post of the century and celebrations will be held with dragon dances, fire works lanterns and festivals. This tradition will hopefully be in use for years to come. Sadly Cat and Rat haven't spoken in days. Will they be friends again?