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With a new A-list status and franchise roles in *Iron Man* and *Sherlock Holmes*, it would seem that **Robert Downey Jr.** has beaten his personal demons and found a new lease on life. But can a leopard truly change its spots?

continued on page 2

Tantric Tips p6



Easy Feng Shui p7



Monthly Horoscopes p4



Psychic Profile p8



April 2012

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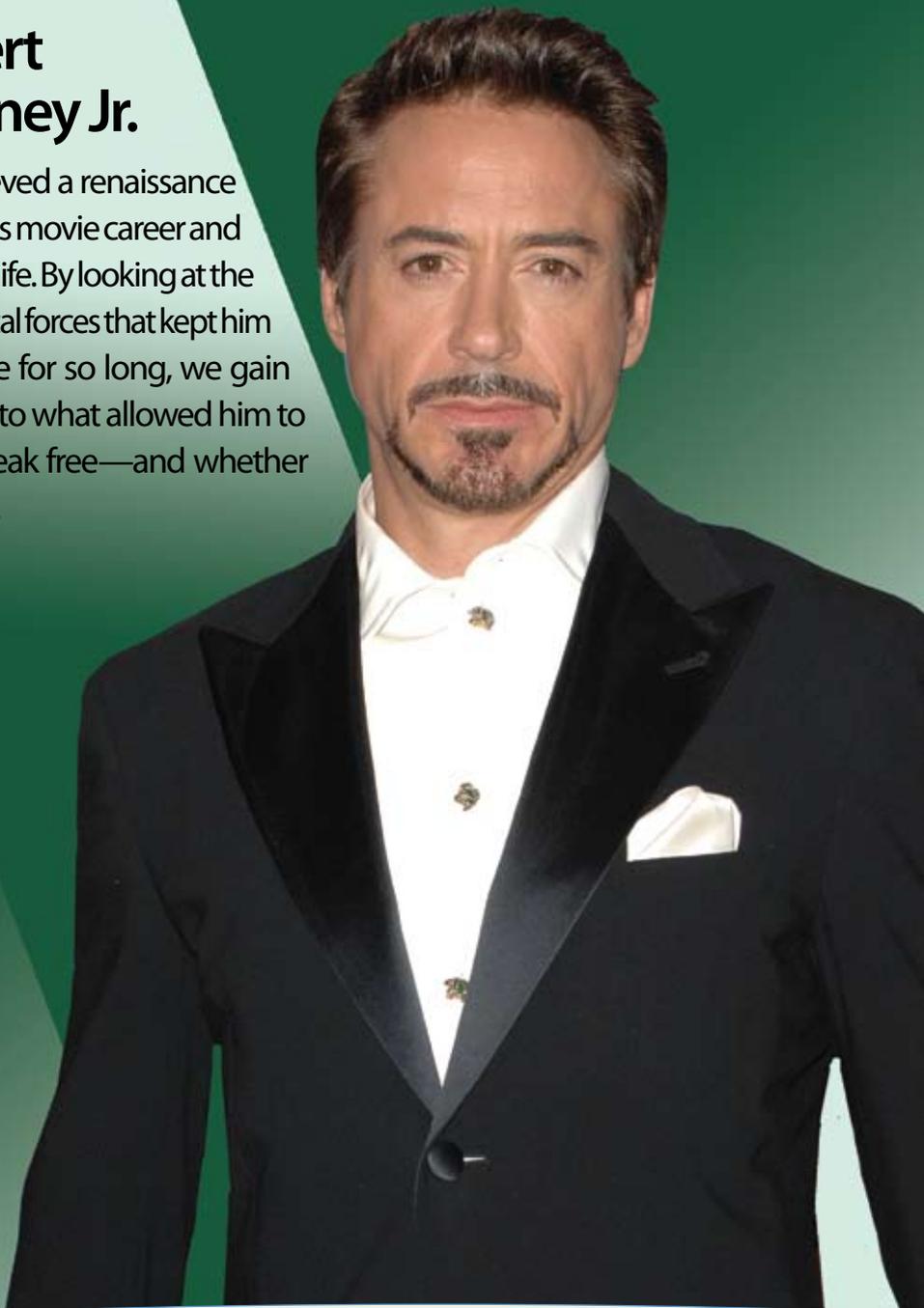
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INSIDE
8 pages packed with
inspiration!

Robert Downey Jr.

has achieved a renaissance in both his movie career and personal life. By looking at the astrological forces that kept him in trouble for so long, we gain insight into what allowed him to finally break free—and whether it will last.



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ARIES walks where angels
fear to tread



The **SNAKE** is cold and
calculating

Robert Downey Jr. was born on the 4th April 1965, making him an Aries born in the Chinese Year of the Snake. He made his on-screen debut at the age of five, appearing in one of his father's films. That experience must have made a great impression on young Robert, for he then started to carve out a career as a film actor, appearing in Brat Pack movies such as *Less Than Zero*. Robert's **single-mindedness** is in accordance with both his zodiac signs, which combine to create a powerful dynamic. Both these signs are obsessed with achievement, although they may pursue it different ways. The Ram is famous for butting its way to success, while the Snake prefers to wait for its target to drift into reach – and then strike. However, what they both have in common is that they are **blinded to all else** save the existence of their goal. Robert seems to have attuned to both his signs at a very early age.

However, this combination could also have played a major part in Robert's troubled personal life. Those born under the sign of the Ram are impetuous and highly **combustible**, preferring to walk where angels fear to tread. As a fire sign, they have a natural tendency towards assertion and **recklessness**, constantly striving to define themselves as a leader in any given situation. Where the Ram is impetuous, the Snake is cold and calculating, forever looking for the next challenge. They are very **intuitive** creatures and find it easy to discern what others are thinking – which may account for Robert's chameleon-like ability to inhabit a role. However, with one aspect of his spiritual side charging

headlong into any obstacles and the other laying great plans, Robert must have felt in a state of chaos for much of his life.

Unfortunately, this is where the Snake – the great seducer – comes into its own and looks for a **release from the tension**. For Robert it came in the form of drugs and alcohol. By the age of 15, he already had a drug habit and was drinking more than he should.



Downey Jr. arrested for drugs in California. April, 2001.

Robert's career continued to climb through a dazzling array of critically acclaimed films. Most notable of these was *Chaplin*, which propelled the 27 year-old to **international fame**. However, if his career was achieving unforeseen heights, Robert's personal life was achieving even greater lows. Between 1996 and 2001, Robert was arrested on more than one occasion for drug offences. When rehabilitation centers seemed to fail him, the Law had no other option but to send Robert to jail. When he left the California Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility and State Prison, it looked as though Robert had seen through the reptilian guise of his

Chinese sign. However, within a short space of time, the Snake within had uncoiled and he became **involved with drugs again**. During this time, Robert seems to have lost touch with his Western star sign, although it may have helped him secure a number of television roles when all else seemed lost.

After another spell in rehab, Robert decided to sober up. "You know what?" he said, "I don't think I can continue doing this." It is here that his Ram and Snake may have **aligned their positive attributes** to help him. As we have seen before, this combination work together to achieve any aim and, in this case, it was sobriety. Both Aries and the Snake, if allowed, are very spiritual creatures and can intuit other planes. As if to make this a reality, Robert **embraced aspects of Buddhism**, now describing himself as of Jewish-Buddhist faith. Finding this extra dimension to his life will have given the Ram and the Snake the spiritual succour they needed to stop working at odds with each other and reduce the chaos in Robert's mind.

Robert's romantic life also improved. The Snake is **cursed with a roving eye** and it seemed that Robert would never be able to give himself to just one woman. However, in 2005, two years after completely embracing sobriety, Robert was married to his girlfriend, Susan Levin. Robert's Snake aspect is a very critical one and only the perfect partner will suffice. In attaining his ideal, the Snake will then turn in on itself to create an inner harmony and serenity that has so long been absent from his life.

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)



Psychic perceptions aren't really divided from ordinary reality—it's all part of being human.

This month it seems like your inner landscapes and daily routines are two different worlds. But remember, letting them sync up and interact is, in effect, following your intuition. The rewards of learning to do this cannot be underestimated, so take advantage of a cosmic learning opportunity. It will pay off in more ways than one. Let your worries go when you get home; that's what it's there for—a safe harbor from the storm. On top of everything the Sun is in your sign and Mars turns direct. With this extra charge in your step, a new admirer is probable.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)



Take a few more days to re-assess your social life. It's been busy enough, most likely—the real

question is whether it's been truly fulfilling or too much fluff. You'll know what changes to make within the first half of the month, and the second half is good for making them. You may fall out of the groove once or twice with respect to daily responsibilities, opting instead for convenient escapes. No harm done—in fact, this is only happening because a new light is beginning to shine through and move you in a new direction. Leverage your friends to help you make a plan.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21)



Things may have been sloppy at work or school lately, but nobody would blame you if they looked

at your chart. Mercury, your ruling planet, has been retrograde in your career area, leading to any number of annoyances, disturbances, and possibly grievances. Surely you didn't just shake your fist at the heavens—you're too smart for that. You must have noticed a valuable insight glimmering through the chaos, and realized right away how it could help you. Gemini knows how to use whatever it's given, in a way that helps it change and grow. One more thing—the love you want is waiting for you to be absolutely certain about wanting it.

Horoscopes April 2012



Chris Odle
Astrologer & Shaman

Mercury and Mars turn direct, signaling a major shift toward direct action. Moving forward with new plans is much easier, but the past is still a strong factor.

Call **0800 422 0422** for more details

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)



Interesting ideas come to you while performing ordinary tasks this month. Watch out for these

lightning strikes and take note of them, as they can be converted into forward movement, at work or in personal business. There's another lesson in this: Look carefully at the intricacies all around you, whether at the office or in the forest. Out of fascination comes all kinds of magic and personal mojo. Also, who were you this time last year? What did you see in the mirror this time two years ago? Tracking the different phases of your appearance may seem superficial or vain, but it leads to deeper insights.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



It's a lucky month for love and relationships in Scorpiville. Mercury turns direct on the 4th in

the most passionate area of your chart, meaning that words can and will turn you on. There are plenty of fast talkers around, but some have real substance. The more serious, relationship-oriented part of your chart is looking good too, with help from Jupiter and Venus. A steady partnership takes a turn for the adventurous. Overall it's not a par-for-the-course kind of month, and that's probably fine with you—you're a Scorpio, after all. Plenty of excitement is the name of the game. Just don't use cheap energy drinks to recover.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



The distance from A to B—from where you are versus where you want to be—can seem so pesky.

But when you give the details a chance this month, and give them your full attention, you will be surprised at how far it takes you. Unrealistic expectations of other people will only slow you down. Excel forward and pick up the slack when necessary, keeping both hands on the wheel. Meanwhile, an existing love relationship becomes deeper and more psychic. Could this be the one? As Venus enters your house of partnerships for the duration of the month, it certainly may seem so. But it's best to keep a bird's eye view for now.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)



Ask yourself if that particular revulsion for someone at school or work is not actually a fascination. Seriously—there must be some reason you're devoting this much mental energy to one person. Try and see him or her in a new light and reassess your motives. In extreme cases you might find that you are actually attracted to this person, but at the very least, you'll forgive them for being only human. Meanwhile, ask yourself what really nourishes your heart. There is room in your world for another passion, another skill or ability that you've been dreaming about. No, you say? You've got a full plate? Start by deciding what you would do if you could.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)



You've made a few slips with people in recent weeks; missed appointments, botched promises. The important realization you've come to is that keeping your word is actually the best thing for you—even when it doesn't seem like it. The lion is inherently loyal, and we love that about you, so stay loyal to yourself by following through on the little things. There's no way you won't feel the results. You'll also provide a noble example for the rest of us, and someone will take notice; someone whose attention you definitely won't mind. In terms of money, your instincts are solid. Just beware of a new player with big ideas.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)



You've been talking in circles with a close friend or significant other, but never fear—Mercury is about to turn direct in the relationships area of your chart, and those communication wrinkles will soon be ironed out. Your self-motivation is off the charts thanks to a well-positioned Mars, and the sky is the limit in terms of what you could achieve—if only you could decide what you want. Old fears of criticism and rejection are bubbling to the surface and clouding the view. Sit with them, be quiet, understand them. A meditative approach allows the past to be what it is, while providing a clear direction for all that personal energy represented by Mars.



You've begun to realise that keeping your word is actually the best thing for you, even if it doesn't seem like it.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



A big problem, after resurfacing several times, is finally ready to be resolved when Mercury turns direct on the 4th. A final test has revealed your honest intentions, and the path is clear. You'll need the extra energy to meet the next challenge. Do you want to shout your originality over the rooftops, or lose yourself in the group mentality? A delicate choice, and not an easy one to make. Yes, you have a lot of mental energy right now, but you need other people to provide vision and direction for that energy. As new aspirations take shape, remember that everything flows from a single source. No part of life, including the search for love, is truly isolated.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



Why is it that a new problem seems to surface every time an old one is resolved? That's the freed up energy moving to a new area that needs work, and as this happens, the connections become clearer. The way you feel when you give your body the exercise and care it needs, for example, will bring you to an intelligent solution for a financial problem this month. With that solved, you have more energy for your partner, and so on. The point is, you are seeing new blocks, but a brick wall does not have to be smashed against. Turning in a different direction—as you'll see—will eventually lead to you to the other side.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)



You've got the words this month. Don't be afraid to use them, especially if you are in the love game. Expressing yourself honestly will tickle the fancy of more than one prospect, and don't worry about losing your temporary superpowers. Maybe you've been this good all along. If you're committed, your partner wants to see a new side of you. Show them how open and fun you can be—listen to your inner voice and take charge. Now that Mercury has resumed its direct course, (after the 4th), that voice will sound quite a bit clearer, like listening through new headphones. Also after the 4th, the money thing you've been putting off can easily be wrapped up.

10 tantric tips

Tantric lovemaking enables both partners to become more physically and spiritually aware. Here are 10 tips for an intense and fulfilling tantric practice.

1—Create an ambience

Mood and atmosphere are important elements of tantra, and when these are carefully created, it can help you reach new heights of passion and spiritual togetherness. Scented candles provide romantic lighting, and please the senses. The right kind of music can add extra depth to the experience.

2—Connect mind and spirit first

Tantric technique is all about heightened awareness of sensation. Before any touching is involved, the two of you should spend time performing self-massage techniques and discovering each other using just your eyes. The awakening this brings and the inner tension that builds can do wonders when you and your partner draw closer.

3—Take it slow

Like all good things, creating a spiritual vibe in the air between yourself and your partner takes time and dedication. This effort and commitment to a partner's needs will bring satisfaction and fulfilment.

4—Build up momentum

Gradually increasing speed and changing rhythm ensures that things stay interesting and helps to build the spiritual, emotional and physical connection. Try to harmonise your movements. To do so is to align your spirits and bodies.

5—Clear your mind

The experience will be all the more pleasurable if you can clear your mind of all mundane distractions first. Practise quiet meditation with your partner beforehand, so that you can give yourselves more completely. It may help to focus on a candle flame or an image. Bringing the attention upon tranquil music can also help to calm the thoughts and prepare for intimacy.



6—Keep your eyes open

The sight of your partner plays a key part in arousal, so keeping your eyes open will heighten the experience of tantric lovemaking. It has long been said that the eyes are the gateway to the soul, and by maintaining eye contact, you can enhance the psychic connection between you.

7—Do breathing exercises together

Focusing on the breath is a core component of eastern spirituality, and allows you to concentrate on the essence of your being. At the beginning of tantric sessions, set aside some time to concentrate on each other's breathing. Feel not only your own breath entering and exiting your body, but also get to know your partners inhalations and exhalations intimately.

8—Take up yoga

The practice of yoga can help you gain flexibility and get your body used to remaining still in one position for long periods of time. It can also improve your awareness of your physical being and its rhythms. Try to find yoga positions that may be of use in your tantra.

9—Use natural aphrodisiacs

Aphrodisiacs have been used in every culture throughout the globe. Traditionally made from herbs and plant or animal extracts, they heighten the senses and increase production of arousal hormones. These natural medicines can be used to heighten your tantric experience.

10—Eliminate Routine

Tantric lovemaking is all about making the intimate time you spend with your partner special and a departure from the mundane and the everyday. Avoid following set paths or tried and tested techniques. Be spontaneous and natural.



EASY

FENG

SHUI

It might be a study in which we can't concentrate, or living room that is always empty and cold but we don't know why.

This is where Feng Shui comes in. Using its techniques, one can see whether the energy is flowing freely and correctly, and whether the rooms are energetically matched to the purpose we gave them. We often have an intuitive feel with a building or room, but without the right Feng Shui tools or methods, we don't understand how to change it.

My first real experience of Feng Shui was in China: the subtle energy in some of the buildings and gardens was tangible and incredible. Whilst Feng Shui is not a miracle worker, it can allow blocks and negativity in our life to be shifted via our living and working space.

FENG SHUI PRIMER

Different schools of Feng Shui arose from different parts of China, from a variety of lifestyles and climates. The Form School is one of the earliest, started in the North where the climate and natural terrain are harsher than other parts of the country. People needed protection from extreme elements; they faced their houses to catch the warmth of the South. The Form School was concerned with the form of the land, the four directions, the four cardinal points, and power animals: North was the energy of the Black Tortoise, East was the Green Dragon, South was the Red Phoenix and West was the White Tiger. These directions and their corresponding animals are still in use. For example, in planning an office space, the desk is placed in a powerful position in order to be guarded and energised by these auspicious creatures.

As the terrain and weather changed and the population increased, Feng Shui evolved. The Compass School method uses the compass to harmonise the environment according to the 8 compass directions. The directions are related to the Pa kua or Bagua - this is an octagonal pattern in which symbols from the I Ching (ancient book of wisdom) are situated. Another, more recent school is the Black Sect School, a spiritualistic method with ties to the ancient Bon religion of Tibet. The Flying Star school uses the astrological birth chart of the building itself - when it was built - to determine how its surroundings can be used to benefit the inhabitants and their future. Practitioners of Intuitive Feng Shui rely on their feelings and instincts alone to follow a flow of energy.

A FEW EASY TECHNIQUES

If you want a relationship but don't have one, consider whether your living space is too sparse, with lonely or bleak images on the walls - or no images at all. Your outer surroundings are a reflection of your inner landscape. Place images around your home of happy, colourful, inspirational scenes, and place things in pairs.

Try walking into your home as though you are coming into it for the first time and register your impressions of each room. Does your space really serve your aspirations in life? Once you answer that question, choose a Feng Shui method that feels right to you, and get to work. An experienced practitioner is an excellent way to get quick results and increase your own understanding of how Feng Shui works, so that you naturally and constantly improve the energy in your home or office.



Looking for clarity? Our Psychics can help. 0800 422 0422

reader profile

Star Temple Psychics



Mae

PIN 7702

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PSYCHIC READING?

For me the answer to this question is flow; when the images, feelings and information just keep pouring into my mind. I know that I am linked in beautifully and that the customer really needs the reading if the information flows like this. It is usually very uplifting for both of us. I also believe that it is really important for a psychic to know whether they are getting the information psychically or mediumistically. Psychic readings are great for clarity, they can help us to make clear decisions when we are faced with a dilemma. If I am working mediumistically, you need to know whether I am working with Great Aunt Maud or whether I am working with a spirit guide. Both are really useful but you need to know that it might be Great Aunt Maud's opinion about your life and not that what she says is written in the stars.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALISE YOU WERE PSYCHIC?

I was a very sensitive child and was aware of presences in the big old house that we used to live in, when I was around five. I knew that I had a spirit family in the Otherworld and spent many hours trying to communicate with them. It was not until my early twenties that I realised this was just my childish imaginings but had real substance and value. From that time forward I set out to develop my psychic sight to the best of my ability. I also had a very close affinity with animals and have developed my ability so that I can have a 'thought conversation' with them. The results have been amazing!

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