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For Your Wedding

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**“5 Chinese  
Wedding *TABOOS*  
that Your Parents  
Never Told You!”  
+ More**



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Jhong Ren runs [My Wedding Blog](#)- an online wedding diary that gives more than just the usual tips and advice on a daily basis. Check out <http://www.Romance-Fire.com> now and by all means leave us your comments, share some of your own wedding experiences and give us some suggestions for new resources we can recommend to our community.

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# A: 5 Chinese Wedding Taboos You Never Know You Have to Know

## Headache 1: Walking Under Pants



According to Chinese wedding customs, it is always ideal for the elder brother to get married first, followed by the younger ones.

However, there will be times when the younger brother gets married first. It is unrealistic for him to forgo his wedding plan just because his elder brother has yet to find his ideal life partner.

In such circumstances, the elder brother has to “**give way**” to the younger siblings and let them tie the knots before him

There is a ritual that the younger brother or sister had to **crawl under the elder brother’s pants** before stepping out of the house.

The significance of it is to show the approval of the marriage by the elder brother and the younger sibling could then be happily married rather than openly resented.

It is an act of apology to the elder siblings that *“Sorry, I don’t mean to spite you because you can’t find a suitable wife. I am getting married before you though you are older than me.”*

Interestingly, this **ridiculous practice** is still being done even in Singapore.

I remembered a friend told me that she jokingly told her mom about this wedding ritual that she had to go through at the groom’s place. Initially, she shared it because she found it to be comical and funny.

However, soon after her mother heard it and she found it to an insult to her daughter. She grew so furious that she severed ties with the in-laws and she is still angry about this issue even 10 years has passed.

So this is only to show that Chinese are in general very particular over such customs and may find wedding customs of other dialect groups weird or even insulting to their dialect group.



## Headache 2: Compatibility of Chinese Horoscopes



According to the Chinese horoscopes, we have 12 animals' signs. And depending on which year each of us is born in, we have a different horoscope sign.

There was a belief that two dragons cannot be staying together as they are both very fierce and domineering and will not give way to others.

There were also other beliefs that a wife with "Tiger" sign as her horoscope will be always bullying her husband who is a "Chicken".

Nowadays, people date not based on their horoscopes, but most probably **love at first sight** or after getting to know each other better.

In ancient China, people used **6 pairings of horoscopes** as guidelines for couples who wish to get married.

The incompatible ones are Rat and Horse, Ox and Ram, Tiger and Monkey, Rabbit and Rooster, Dragon and Dog and lastly Snake and Pig.

The reason is simply because of "clashing" horoscopes and the married couples won't have a "good" married life.

In the past, parents and society at large won't accept such marriages.

For example, the **Snake may devour the Pig** and if the wife is a Pig, she will be dominated by the husband. If it is the other way round, the woman will be oppressed and get hissed at a lot.

To marry someone one of incompatible horoscope is equal to bringing a tiger in to be your spouse. It is equivalent to a doomed fate which may be divorce, infertility, death or estrangement.

According to the horoscopes, a person who has a particular

horoscope is believed to possess a fixed set of characteristics, which is not really true.

For instance, the person with "Sheep" sign is kind and gentle and those with "Pig" sign are considered to be lazy and useless bumps which eat and sleep all day and night.

Those with "Rooster" sign are considered as laborious and very diligent. The sad fact about believing all these traditional wedding taboos is the cause of many break-ups of couples who were truly in love.

But when love is concerned, the only thing that can be done is to restrict a person physically but not mentally and emotionally.

In modern times, some parents are still very particular about the horoscopes of their future son or daughter-in-laws and they will look for great masters who may be feng-shui masters or geomancers.

However, my very own encounter with the geomancer is that such beliefs are incorrect and can't be substantiated. So his only advice is love a person with our heart.

**Headache 3:** Is this your 3rd time being bridesmaid?

Some ladies jump at every opportunity to be bridesmaids. Some need to carefully think about it for some time before they commit to the task.

Here, we are seeing **2 different types of bridesmaids.**

From experience, we were lucky that my wife's bridesmaids were very committed and responsible. Part of the smooth running of our wedding was because the bridesmaids ensured that the wedding day schedule was followed closely.

Even, some male friends were asked to be "bridesmaids" and they were very helpful in being drivers as well as helpers in other aspects.

For the first type of bridesmaids who always self-nominate themselves, it is quite possibly some may want to use such opportunity to flaunt themselves and even over-shadow the brides.

Thus, there is a **taboo being created to restrain wannabe brides:** the bridesmaids must not be more beautiful than the bride.

However, this is not to mean in physical aspect but it actually meant that the bridesmaids must try not to have too heavy make-up or to wear too revealing clothes.

In a way, this is not to divert too much attention off the main star - the bride onto the bridesmaids.

However, I'm sure such people are rare and normally, bridesmaids are the bride's best friends who really, from the bottom of their heart, to help out their best friend in such big life-transition event.

Another taboo for brides is that they **can't be bridesmaids more than twice** as it may affect their marital luck. There could be some ladies out there who may already be in the right age to get married but not hitched yet. They may need to pay more attention to the number of times they are bridesmaids.



However, in this modern era, no one really bother much about this taboo. I have friends who have been **bridesmaids 8 times!!!** And she doesn't really mind because she has a very kind heart and want to help her friends out.

In actual fact, the tasks for a bridesmaid are many.

**5 roles a bridesmaid need to commit to:**

1. inform the bride of all the nitty-gritty aspects of her wedding schedule
2. be the bride's personal assistant
3. be the bride's make-up artist
4. help the bride's get water, wipe her sweat off and remind her to relax
5. remember all the customs and rituals that the bride needs to follow

It is really a big responsibility and only ladies who are responsible, people-oriented, helpful and detailed can be bridesmaids.

**Headache 4:** Making noise in the newly-wed room

Have you heard of your friends wanting to party in your room after the wedding dinner?

Some of the more sensitive friends may give excuse not to party till so late as the wedding couples have proper “business” to handle that first married night.

The real reason is everyone is dog tired after one whole year of wedding preparation.

One can only think of having a good rest after the wedding dinner.

There is even no energy for hanky-panky or even sex.

The older Chinese generation thinks otherwise. The honeymoon suite must be filled with liveliness and noise that night. It is a taboo to have a quiet and empty room.

They believe that having a party inside the room can bring in greater wealth and prosperity for the couples.

This kind of party means, not a mass orgy, but with many people around celebrating and partying.

Despite the fact that they have such names like “teasing the bride” or “merry-making in the room”, it only meant for the good of the couples.

Normally, the younger generation will think of naughty games to tease the newly wed by playing naughty games and asking the couples embarrassing questions such as you know what.



This party will most probably last till after midnight.

According to the Chinese legend, there are evil beasts and demons in the room and the noise is meant to scare them away. By having many people around, the “yang” energy will increase dramatically and mishaps can be prevented.

Interestingly, mishap includes poking the wrong hole.

Again, not anyone can be in the party gang. There are some types of people who are banned.

They include widows, paternal aunt, nuns, pregnant ladies, people in the mourning, those who are born in the year of Tiger and anyone with clashing horoscopes.

This is just to prevent negative energy from those who have suffered ill fate from affecting the wedding couples. Again, for the pregnant ladies, they are carrying “little person” which is seen as a malicious spirit that inflicts bad luck upon others.

Those with incompatible horoscopes may affect the luck and bliss of the newly-married couples.

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Usually, putting aside all these beliefs, there is always a fun party after the wedding dinner. This is meant to thank the helpers who have helped in the wedding-planning and everyone has a good reason to celebrate the togetherness of the bride and groom.

Sometimes, things may get uncontrolled and kinky. And this is what it is about.

### **Headache 5: Having Sex at the Wrong Place**

Being very conservative Asian Chinese, our parents still do not share much about sex education with us.

And the children are expected to be taught in schools through science or some sexual education or they can figure out themselves while growing up and doing sexual experiment.

**Parents still avoid talking about sex** and they push the responsibility to each other. Most parents even denied the existence of sex, letting their kids find out themselves.

Until one day it is too late and somebody gets someone pregnant, this is when the dad may scream “*Don’t you know what a condom is?*”

Oh, this is too late and “thanks” dad for the info.

I’m not sure if Chinese find it to be dirty and even disrespectful discussing about such topics. Disrespectful may even mean towards the gods.

I have heard about taboos of **not having sex on the 1st and 15th** of the lunar calendar as well as during eclipses, thunderstorms, typhoons and other extreme weather conditions.

Those who may wish to carry on “may be punished by their gods” for being disrespectful.

Not sure if this sounds weird, but do not have quickies in temples or near coffins. Women who are pregnant, in confinement or menstruating shouldn’t make love either.

Ancient Chinese find that women to have negative energy and if they still do it anyway, bad luck will befall on her and her husband.

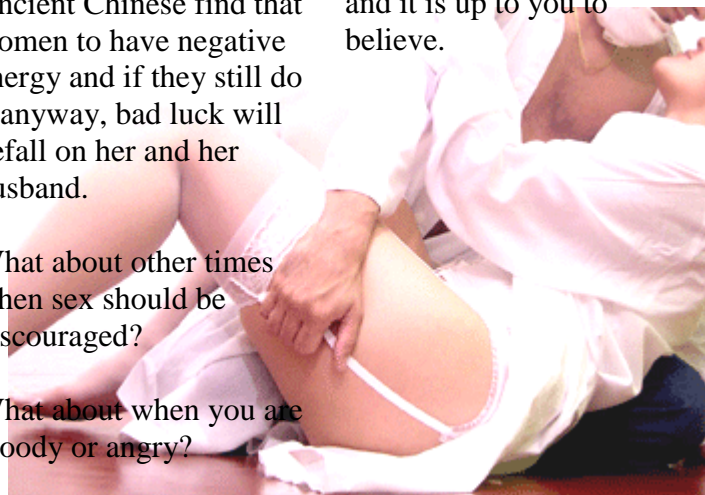
What about other times when sex should be discouraged?

What about when you are moody or angry?

However, some ladies may debate that *sex help them to destress* and even drive their headaches away.

However, if there are times that you may not be in the mood to do it and your partner wants to get intimate anyway, you may want to consider the old excuse “*Not tonight honey. I am tired/ I got a very bad headache.*”

One more interesting note to share with you. For husbands, don’t bathe immediately after making love as there is a belief that eventually the man’s “hot rod” may become a “cold fish” in the long run. I don’t know how true it is and it is up to you to believe.





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