

## PATHWAY TO STARDOM

### CHAPTER 1: Christopher's Birth : Born to see

My son's 'ling' horse story stems from his time and date of birth – 9.00am on the 9th of September (9 means ETERNAL in Chinese) – I proclaimed his potential in terms of Chinese mythology, which revolves around an equine phenomenon. Rooted in folklore, the legend goes back to the Han dynasty. The central character is called the 'Ling horse'. 'Ling' 靈 in Chinese represents spirit, intelligence and purity of soul. My first name is Ling, 靈 with the same calligraphy as the 'Ling horse'. '靈馬' which is a one-in-a-million creature of such immense importance as to have spawned the phrase 'He who gets the Ling horse gets the country'.



Christopher Tsui born on the 9th of September at 9am



Born to Sea, 2009 colt, half brother to world champion, Sea the Stars

When I gave birth to a son and heir (as having a son is a sine qua non in Chinese society) it was a joyous moment for the entire family. If I was a queen in all Chinese dynasties, this would entitle me to be in a favourable position as my son might become King. The floral tributes and baskets of fruit arrived in such profusion that they overflowed into adjoining hospital rooms. My husband as a conventional and traditional Chinese male had sent me 999 baccarat roses to mark the event of our son's birth at 9 am on the 9th of September. In addition, 999 roses mean ETERNAL LOVE in Chinese. One foreign female was obnoxious enough to ask what possible difference it made as there were already 1.3 billion Chinese on earth. To this I responded gracefully: "Among one million horses there is but one 'Ling horse' and for me and my family my son is he. \*\* \*" Que l'importance soit dans ton regard et non dans la chose regardée" ( Andre Gide )



999 roses mean ETERNAL LOVE in Chinese



The Little Prince was watering his beloved rose



Chinese Empress who got her title because her son was honoured as King



Ling Tsui looking afar, expecting her heir to grow up

You can perhaps imagine then how the horse – no, the 'ling' horse – could find his way into a little boy's imagination, either waking or sleeping. How fantastic would it be to discover a horse so special that its very possession gave one the power that only the emperors of ancient China enjoyed? ( REF: TO CHINESE EMPERORS' PASSION )



Christopher Tsui, son of Ling Tsui



Emperor Qianlong on his Thousand mile horse

\*\*\* following Andre Gide, the value of an object is not in the object itself but in the eyes of the beholder.