



TSUNG TSIN ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, CANADA

加拿大安省崇正總會

3880 Midland Avenue at Passmore, Scarborough, Ontario M1V 5K4 Tel: (416) 321-0886

## A Chinese Zodiac Story

# Order of the Animals

This is a mythological legend related to the Chinese Zodiac. It is said that the Jade Emperor (the Emperor in Heaven in Chinese folklore) ordered that animals would be designated as calendar signs and the twelve that arrived first would be selected. At that time, the cat and the rat were good friends and neighbours. When they heard of this news, the cat said to the rat: 'we should arrive early to sign up, but I usually get up late.' The rat then promised to awaken his friend and go together. However, on the morning when he got up, he was too excited to recall his promise, and went directly to the gathering place. On the way, he encountered the tiger ox horse and other animals that ran much faster. In order not to fall behind them, he thought up a good idea. He made the straightforward ox carry him on condition that he sang for the ox. At last, the ox and him arrived first. The ox was happy thinking that he would be the first sign of the year, but the rat had already slid in front, and became the first lucky animal of the Chinese zodiac. Meanwhile his neighbour the cat was too late so when it finally arrived, the selection was over. That's why other animals appear behind the little rat and why the cat hates the rat so much that every time they meet, cats will chase and kill rats.

