

The tiger have the capability of listening to their conversations, which makes them known as " **ông Thính**" (Mister Listener). It is attributed to the tiger the aptitude of bearing on its shoulder the soul of its victim. This one, wandering and known under the term "**Ma**" (ghost) compels the tiger to return to where the victim lived in search for offerings. It is the way to interpret the return of the tiger around the area where the victim was devoured in order to catch another prey. That is why it is very necessary to find at any costs what belongs to the victim, burn it together with a double made of paper and that of the tiger and bury them carefully in order to return the soul indefinitely into the tomb. It is ceaselessly believed that the tiger's whiskers possess a character harmful to health. That is why in order to avoid the damages that may be caused by these whiskers, they decide to burn them immediately at the capture of this big cat. It is attributed that caterpillars would come from the tiger's foam. It is impossible to find a medicine to heal a wound caused by the unexpected contact with these tiny creatures. For most Vietnamese, the tiger is sometimes feared and revered. For fear of reprisals, they keep not only signs of respect but also temples and altars dedicated in its honor and scattered here and there in the forest. Even before killing it after capturing it, they do not even forget to give it the last homage in holding a preliminary ceremony. They use to compare themselves with the tiger by means of the following maxim:

Hùm chết để da, người chết để tiếng.
Dead tigers leave their hide, deceased people their reputation.

**Xuân mãn càn khôn phúc mãn đường
Thiên tăng tuế nguyệt nhân tăng thọ**

The spring ends to invade the world as happiness finishes filling up your home.
The sky continues to take years and months as the man follows to extend its longevity.

Happy New Year
2010

**Metal
tiger**



Tết Canh Dần

