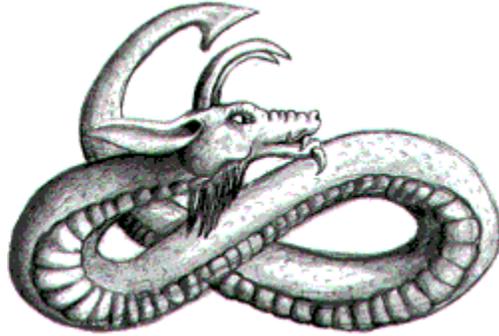


## Whispering Woods Basic Dragon Lore course



**Greetings and welcome to our Basic Dragon Lore course. In this course we will be looking at all aspects of Dragons. Not only their magickal uses but the various histories and beliefs of different cultures as well.**

**For if one is to work with Dragons, and then a full knowledge of these wonderful creatures is a must.**

**Dragons can be difficult to work with, but with a deep understanding of their lore and their ways we can reach a level of fulfillment and cooperation with these magickal creatures.**

### **Nine Dragon Wall**

**A very popular tourist site in Beijing is this Nine-Dragon Wall in BeiHai Park. After hundreds of years, the colors of the ceramic tiles are just as brilliant.**

**The wall was built in 1756. It is 21m long, about 15m high and 2m thick. It is faced with 424 7-color ceramic tiles.**

**At the center of the wall, there is a giant dragon, flanked by four dragons on each side. In addition to these nine large dragons, the wall is covered from edge to edge with many smaller dragons. In all, there are 635 dragons.**



## **Whispering Woods Basic Dragon Lore Course**

### **Lesson One - Facts and Myth**



#### **An intro to Dragons:**

**Dragons are a prominent part of Chinese festivals, including the Chinese New Year. In ancient China, dragons did not breathe fire, instead they were considered to be wise and caring. They were known to guard the wind, the rain, the rivers, precious metals and gems.**

**Many countries include dragons in their art and history; this is especially true of China, Korea and Japan. To tell the difference between Chinese, Korean and Japanese dragons, simply count the dragon's toes.**

**Chinese dragons will have five toes.**

**Japanese dragons will have four toes.**

**Korean dragons will have three toes.**

### **Some Dragon Related Facts:**

**The Black Dragon Pool Chapel, near Peking, was reserved for the Empress and her court.**

**The Japanese Emperor Hirohito traced his ancestry back 125 generations to Princess Fruitful Jewel, daughter of a Dragon King of the Sea.**

**The legendary founder of Chinese civilization, Fu Hsi, was said to be half-man, half-dragon.**

**A thirteenth-century Cambodian king spent his nights in a golden tower, where he was said to have consulted with a nine-headed dragon.**

**The word for "dragon" comes from the Hindu word "darsha" or "darshana" which means "the one with clear vision" or "the one who sees clearly".**

**Other names for dragons include wurm, wurm and fire Drake.**

**The magical rowan tree of Irish legend was guarded by a dragon.**

**Glass was once believed to be solidified dragon breath.**

**Green dragons: Male symbol**

**White dragons: Gold was believed to be formed of their congealed breath**

**Purple dragons: Rock crystal was believed formed of their spittle**

**Sea dragons: Sacred to Hung Sheng, the Holy One, who protects fishing vessels**

**According to Chinese mythology, a dragon has to spend 1000 years under the sea, 1000 years in the mountains and 1000 years among men before turning into a real dragon. Before that he is a small serpent prisoner of a stone, called a "serpent's egg". After 3000 years, the dragon escapes and take his adult form, the stone was known to spill a magic liquid called "inky blood".**

**The word typhoon comes from Typhon, the name of the fire breathing monster that served the Titans of Greek mythology. And the word hurricane comes from Huracan the name of the winged serpent of the Caribbean.**

**The Dragon's Eye symbol stands for the balance of love, power and wisdom. Triple triangles are associated with the Goddess and the nine Muses.**

**The first Hexagram of the I Ching is "The Creative", the ascending dragon.**

**The Hindu Dragon Goddess that sleeps in the lotus at the base of the spine is Kundalini the Coiled. When she is understood, she will climb to the forehead where illusion will fall from the inner eye to reveal the Golden Embryo of Life.**

**The giant red dragon of the Apocalypse (Rev. 12) gave rise to the use of the beast as symbolic of Satan in Christian art and literature.**

**A search for the word "dragon" in the King James Version of the Bible produces 34 separate matches across 10 different books written between approximately 2000 BC and 90 AD. The word "dragon" (Hebrew: tannin) is used throughout the Old Testament, and most directly translates as "sea or land monsters." In the Book of Job, the author describes the great creatures, Behemoth (Job 40) and Leviathan (Job 41).**

**In alchemy a green dragon devouring the Sun means that the gold was dissolved in aqua regia (royal water), a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids.**

**Philosophic Mercury is sometimes represented by a serpent, or winged dragon.**

**Uroboros is a dragon whose end is his beginning... he endlessly eats his own tail. He keeps the cosmic waters under control, and is symbolic of the cyclical nature of alchemical work. He is the basilisk, the alchemical serpent. He is also called Ouroboros.**

**Dragons are born with their colors based upon the age and color of their parents. The colors of dragons are: white, red, black, blue, and yellow. Each is born to a different parent.**

**Black dragons are children of a thousand-year-old dragon that is black-gold. They are symbols of the North. They caused storms by battling in the air.**

**Blue dragons are children of blue-gold dragons that are eight hundred years old. They are purest blue colors, and they are the sign of the coming spring. They are they are the symbol of the East.**

**Yellow dragons are born from yellow-gold dragons who are one thousand years or older. They hold no symbol. They are secluded and wander alone. They appear at "the perfect moment" and at all other times remain hidden. Yellows are also the most revered of the dragons.**

**Red dragons descend from a red-gold dragon who is about one thousand years of age. They are the symbol for the West, and are much like black dragons. They can cause storms in the skies when they fight.**

**White dragons come from white-gold dragons of a thousand years of age. They symbolize the South. White is the Chinese color of mourning and these dragons are a sign of death (which the Chinese did NOT deem evil).**

**Quiz:**

- 1. Other names for dragons include wyrm, wurm and \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 2. Green dragons represent a \_\_\_\_\_ symbol.**
- 3. Japanese dragons have \_\_\_\_\_ toes.**
- 4. The first Hexagram of the I Ching is \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 5. The Black Dragon Pool Chapel, near Peking, was reserved for the \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 6. Glass was once believed to be solidified \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 7. In ancient China, dragons did not \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Whispering Woods Dragon Lore course**

**A history of Oriental Dragons**

**Lesson Two**



**The dragon is considered to be a mythological animal of Chinese origin, and a member of the NAGA (Sanskrit) family of serpentine creatures who protected Buddhism. It was by his subtle but powerful charms that the Naga Apalala was able to keep the wicked dragons in check.**

**Japan's dragon lore comes predominantly from China. Images of the reptilian dragon are found throughout Asia, and the pictorial form most widely recognized today was already prevalent in Chinese ink painting in the Tang period (9th century CE).**

**Chinese Dragons are believed to decide where rain fell, to affect river flows and wind conditions. They breathed out heavy mists which create rain, and not fire like their Western counterparts. Chinese Dragons are associated with rivers. Folktales often have them carving out major rivers with their sinuous bodies. They are also associated with other water sources such as wells and springs.**

**According to the Chinese, the reason their Dragon has five toes, the Japanese dragon has four toes and the Korean dragon has three toes is because the further away from China a dragon goes the more toes that it loses. The Japanese believe just the opposite, believing that they grow more toes so that they eventually cannot walk very well.**

**The mortal enemy of the dragon is the Phoenix, as well as the bird-man creature known as Karura. In contrast to Western mythology, Asian dragons are rarely depicted as malevolent. Although fearsome and powerful, dragons are equally considered just, benevolent, as well as the bringers of wealth and good fortune. The dragon is also considered a shape shifter who can assume human form and mate with humans. The Chinese call the dragon 'lung' (long) because it is considered to be deaf.**

**In China, however, dragon lore existed independently for centuries before the introduction of Buddhism. Bronze and jade pieces from the Shang and Zhou dynasties (16th - 9th centuries BCE) depict dragon-like creatures. By at least the 2nd century BCE, images of**

**the dragon are found painted frequently on tomb walls to dispel evil. Buddhism was introduced to China sometime in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE.**

**By the 9th century CE, the Chinese had incorporated the dragon into Buddhist thought and iconography as a protector of the various Buddha and the Buddhist law. These traditions were adopted by the Japanese (Buddhism did not arrive in Japan until the mid-6th century CE).**

**In both China and Japan, the character for "dragon" is used often in temple names, and dragon carvings adorn many temple structures. Most Japanese Zen temples, have a dragon painted on the ceiling of their assembly halls.**

**In both Chinese and Japanese mythology, the dragon is one of four legendary creatures guarding the four cosmic directions (Red Bird - S, Dragon - E, Tortoise - N, and the Tiger - W). The four, known as the Four Celestial Emblems, appear during China's Warring States period (476 BCE - 221 BCE), and were frequently painted on the walls of early Chinese and Korean tombs to ward off evil spirits.**

**The Dragon is the Guardian of the East, and is identified with the season spring, the color green/blue, the element wood (sometimes also water), the virtue propriety, the Yang male energy; supports and maintains the country (controls rain, symbol of the Emperor's power). The Guardian of the South, the Red Bird (aka Suzaku, Ho-oo, Phoenix), is the enemy of the dragon, as is the bird-man Karura. Actually, the Phoenix is the mythological enemy of all Naga, a Sanskrit term covering all types of serpentine creatures, including snakes and dragons. The Dragon (East) and Phoenix (South) both represent Yang energy, but they are often depicted as enemies, for the Dragon represents the element wood, while the Phoenix signifies the element fire. However, they're also often depicted together in artwork as partners. The Dragon is the male counterpart to the female Phoenix, and together they symbolize both conflict and wedded bliss; the emperor (dragon) and the empress (phoenix).**

**The oriental Dragon has the head of a camel, horns or a deer, eyes of a hare, scales of a carp, paws of a tiger, and claws resembling those of an eagle. In addition it has whiskers, a bright jewel under its chin, and on the top of its head the "poh shan" or foot rule, without which it cannot ascend to heaven. This is merely a general description and does not apply to all dragons, some of which have heads of so extraordinary a kind that they cannot be compared with anything in the animal kingdom.**

**The breath of the Dragon changes into clouds from which is emitted either rain or fire. It is able to expand or contract its body, and in addition it has the power of transformation and invisibility.**

**The ancient Chinese Emperor Yao was said to be the son of a dragon, and many rulers of that country were metaphorically referred to as dragon-faced."**

## **Chinese Dragons:**

### **Heavenly Dragon**

The heavenly or celestial dragon (tian-long) was the celestial guardian who protected the heavens, supporting the mansions of the gods and shielded them from decay. The Tian-long could fly and are depicted with or without wings they are always drawn with five toes while all other dragons are shown with four or three toes.

### **Spiritual Dragon**

The spiritual dragons (shen-long) were the weather makers. These giants floated across the sky and due to their blue color that changed constantly were difficult to see clearly. Shen-long governed the wind, clouds and rain on which all agrarian life depended. Chinese people took great care to avoid offending them for if they grew angry or felt neglected, the result was bad weather, drought or flood.

### **Earth Dragon**

Dragons that ruled the rivers, springs and lakes were called Earth dragons (di-long). They hide in the depths of deep watercourses in grand palaces. Many Chinese fairy tales spin yarns of men and women taken into these submarine castles to be granted special favors or gifts. Some of the di-long even mated with women to produce half-human dragon children.

### **Treasure Dragon**

Believed to live in caves deep in the earth the (fu-can-long) or treasure dragon had charge of all the precious jewels and metals buried in the earth. Each of these dragons had a magical pearl that was reputed to multiply if it was touched. This pearl was as symbol of the most valuable treasure, wisdom.

From Japanese lore we have;

### **The Origin of the Sword of Heaven, one of the Three Sacred Treasures of Japan**

Susano-O-no-Mikoto descends to the mountain Torikamiyama in Izumo, where he comes upon an old couple weeping beside their daughter. The man says that he's a god of the land (kunitsukami) and that each year the eight-headed, eight-tailed serpent, the dragon-prince Yamata no Orochi has devoured one of his daughters (some versions say 12 most say 8 daughters), and that the time has come for him to claim the last.

Susano-o-no-Mikoto transforms the girl, Kushinada Hime, into a comb, which he puts in his hair, and orders that a special wine (The first gift of Saki to mortal men) be brewed and barrels of it placed along a fence with eight apertures or gates.

When the serpent drinks the potion and falls into a drunken sleep, Susano-O-no-Mikoto severs each of the heads with his sword.

As Susano-o-no-Mikoto is dismembering the dragons body to dispel the dragon-prince's

strong magic's in one of the tails he discovers a sword, which he presents to Amaterasu. This is the sword that is later known as Kusanagi (Mower of Grass). It is given to Ninigi no Mikoto by Amaterasu as one of the three symbols of his authority over Ashihara no Nakatsukuni.

And these three symbols become the Three Sacred Treasures of the Imperial Family of Japan, "Kenji (sacred Kusanagi sword called "Grasscutter" and Magatama, comma shaped beads (supposedly a jade and/or splendid jewels) and Yata no Kagami (mirror), thus begins the Story or Legend of Imperial Japans beginnings.

While Japanese Dragons are also weather elementals, they are more associated with the sea (the Tatsu) and wells and lakes rather than with rivers. Perhaps because China has more great rivers and Japan is surrounded by seas. Nevertheless, Japanese Dragons are closely associated with the beginning of life and fertility. Japanese myths also include the Hai Riyo, a dragon-bird with scaly body and clawed feet but gilded feathered wings and tails. The Japanese see their dragons as kings of the land.

### **Japanese Dragons:**

There are the Tatsu, which are Japanese dragons. They are a symbol of the Mikado. They are also looked upon as imperial and spiritual power, and they like to live in lakes and springs.

Sui-Riu is the Japanese Dragon King. The Dragon King was in charge of all the rain, and he was sometimes known as "the rain dragon."

Han-Riu is a multi-striped Japanese Dragon. Though the dragon is around forty feet long, this dragon can never reach heaven.

Ri-Riu, A bit of an unknown dragon, it is said that he has exceptional eye sight. And that he could see more than 100 miles away.

Ka-Riu was one of the smaller dragons, being that he was only seven feet long. It is said, however, that the Ka-Riu was fiery red.

Fuku Riu is a dragon of luck.

Hai-riyo is Japanese "Dragon-Bird". Said to be much like the Chinese Ying-Lung, this was the most "evolved" form of a dragon.

Sui Riu--a rain-dragon, which when in pain causes reddish rain, colored by its blood.

## From Korean Lore:

The Korean dragon was said to have certain specific traits: no wings, for example, in addition to a long beard.

The Korean dragon was said to have three toes. They are generally viewed as benevolent beings related to water and agriculture, often considered as bringers of rain and clouds. Many Korean dragons are said to have resided in rivers, lakes, oceans or even deep ponds up within the mountains.

The Koreans believe that all eastern dragons originated from Korea. When the dragons leave Korea and go toward China, they gain toes. When the dragons leave Korea and go toward Japan, they lose toes.

The Korean dragon is usually described as having a camel's head with rabbit eyes, a serpentine neck, the belly of a frog and tiger feet.

As with Chinese dragons, the number nine is significant with Korean dragons and they are said to have 81 (9x9) scales on their backs.

### Main Korean Dragons:

Yong - The powerful sky dragon

Yo - The hornless ocean dragon

Kyo - The mountain dragon

Korean dragons are said to have long beards and bear no wings. They prefer to spend most of their time in water such as rivers, or deep lakes away in the mountains. Korean dragons are considered to be benevolent and strongly tied to agriculture.

### Quiz:

1. The mortal enemy of the dragon is the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Dragon is the male counterpart to the female \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What type of a dragon is a "di long"?
4. Han-Riu--striped with \_\_\_\_\_ different colors.
5. Chinese and Korean dragons are said to have \_\_\_\_ scales on their back.
6. The dragon is one of \_\_\_\_\_ legendary creatures guarding the four cosmic directions

7. The oriental dragon has the paws of a \_\_\_\_\_ .

## **Whispering Woods Dragon Lore course**

### **The Chinese Dragon Calendar**

#### **Lesson Three**



According to the Chinese calendar, every 12 years is the year of the Dragon. For example the years 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 are years of the Dragon.

Dragon people are honest, full of energy, stubborn, loyal, strong, and protective. Dragon people are incredibly lucky. They love flattery, and can be attracted to bad behavior. That is their weakness. Children born during Dragon Years enjoy health, wealth, and long life.

Eastern Dragons are vain, even though they are wise. They are insulted when a ruler doesn't follow their advice, or when people do not honor their importance. Then, by thrashing about, dragons either stop making rain and cause water shortages, or they breathe black clouds that bring storms and floods. Small dragons do minor mischief, such as making roofs leak, or causing rice to be sticky. People set off firecrackers and carry immense paper dragons in special parades. They also race dragon-shaped boats in water all to please and appease their dragons.

The Dragon is the ultimate representation of the forces of Mother Nature, the greatest divine force on Earth.

The Chinese Dragon is often seen as the symbol of divine protection and vigilance. It is regarded as the Supreme Being amongst all creatures. It has the ability to live in the seas, fly up the heavens and coiled up in the land in the form of mountains. Being the divine mythical animal, the Dragon can ward off wandering evil spirits, protect the innocent and bestow safety to all that hold his emblem. The Chinese Dragon is looked upon as the ultimate symbol of Good Fortune.

#### **Year of the Dragon - Personality Traits:**

The Dragon person is self confident and impulsive and consequently does not always listen to the advice of others. He is also a perfectionist and he sets high standards for himself.

**Although strong and decisive the Dragon is not manipulative or sly. He refuses to deceive or compromise and fails to spot subversive intent. He enjoys being in command and like an emperor holding court he eliminates obstacles until success is his.**

**Wood Dragon: (Feb. 16, 1904 CE to Feb. 3, 1905 CE and Feb. 13 1964 CE to Feb. 1, 1965 CE) The Wood Dragon is creative, imaginative, and inquisitive. He is both a thinker and a doer and is capable of brilliant new concepts. His every move is guided by sound logic. His drive and ambition allow him to put many of his ideas into practice, nevertheless this Dragon is capable of concealing his domination and tries not to offend. He will even compromise if it is advantageous. Although not as self-centered as other Dragons, he is still outspoken and fearless when challenged.**

**Fire Dragon: (Feb. 3, 1916 CE to Jan. 22, 1917 CE, and Jan. 31, 1976 CE to Feb 17, 1977 CE)**

**The Fire Dragon is the most extroverted and competitive Dragon. He tends to push too hard and expects a lot from everyone. His criticisms are objective and he has the ability to arouse massive popular support. His insatiable ambition can make him short-tempered and intolerant. He is an empire builder who needs to master his less favorable traits and learn how to communicate more humbly with people as individuals.**

**Earth Dragon: (Jan. 23, 1928 CE to Feb. 9, 1929 CE and Feb. 9, 1988 CE to Feb. 5, 1989 CE)**

**The Earth Dragon is a quieter, more reflective Dragon, He will be appreciative of other's opinions even if he fails to agree with them. He is reasonable in his approach to problems and his leadership is less dictatorial. He is not given to outbursts of temper, but at the same time demands respect. He knows the value of cooperation and is more diplomatic than the other Dragons. He is ambitious, but his initiatives are less hurried and more carefully thought out.**

**Metal Dragon: (Feb. 8, 1940 CE to Jan. 26, 1941 CE and Feb. 5, 2000 CE to Jan, 23, 2001 CE) The Metal Dragon is the most strong-willed Dragon. He is inflexible, unbending and combative. He gives little regard to the feelings of others. This ruthlessness can result in a rapid rise to a position of authority, but often at the cost of destroying important relationships. It is futile to attempt to convince him that certain things are simply undoable. He will go it alone if he can't gain support. He succeeds because he refuses to accept failure.**

**Water Dragon: (Jan. 27, 1952 CE to Feb.13, 1953 CE, and the next year will be 2012 CE.) The Water Dragon is less selfish and opinionated than the other Dragons. He is more inhibited and less power-hungry. He can accept defeat without recriminations. He makes a good negotiator as he knows when, where, and how to apply pressure. He has a tendency to be over-optimistic and needs to learn how to relinquish what is unfeasible so that he can concentrate his energies on the most rewarding endeavors.**

## **Chinese calendars:**

**Chinese calendar uses the Stem-Branch system to count the day, month and year. There are 10 Stems and 12 Branches in the system. Stems are named by the Yin-Yang and Five Elements (Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth). The Stem sequence order is Yang Wood, Yin Wood, Yang Fire, Yin Fire, Yang Earth, Yin Earth, Yang Metal, Yin Metal, Yang Water and Yin Water. Branches use the animal names. The Branch sequence order is Rat, Cow, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Chicken, Dog and Pig.**

**Stem and Branch are used together to form a cycle of 60 counting systems which begin from Wooden Rat and end with Water Pig.**

**The calendar goes in 12 year cycles with an animal representing each year. Unlike most other calendars, the Chinese calendar does not count years in an infinite sequence. Instead years have names that are repeated every 60 years.**

**Each group of sixty years was given a compound name.**

**The first name was the celestial branch. The second name was the terrestrial branch represented by the twelve animals.**

**Each of the twelve years was assigned an animal, because, as legend has it, only twelve animals came to bid farewell to the Buddha before he departed from the earth. As a reward to these twelve animals, the Buddha named a year after each one in the order that they arrived. During the sixty year cycle each animal is combined with five Chinese elements namely:**

**Wood - ruled by Jupiter**

**Fire - ruled by Mars**

**Earth - ruled by Saturn**

**Metal - ruled by Venus**

**Water - ruled by Mercury**

**These five Chinese elements are in turn divided into the positive and negative magnetic poles of the Ying and Yang. The Chinese lunar calendar starts at 11pm and the twenty four hours of the day are divided into twelve sections of two hours each. An animal sign rules each one of these twelve sections and has an element, direction and a season.**

**A Chinese birth sign is calculated by the elements and their effects on our lives as follows:**

- 1). The element of the year of birth**
- 2). The element of one's animal sign**
- 3). The element of the hour of birth**
- 4). The element of the month of birth**
- 5). The element of the country of birth**

## **Attributes of the Dragon are:**

**The Dragon (LONG)**

**Ruler of the hours 7am to 9am**

**Direction - East/Southeast**

**Season - Spring/April**

**Fixed element - Wood positive**

**Yin/Yang - Yang**

**The Dragon is highly compatible with: Rat, Tiger, Snake, Monkey**

**The Dragon has a harmonious relationship with: Pig**

**The Dragon has no conflict but needs to make an effort with: Horse, Rooster**

**The Dragon has a difficult relationship with: Rabbit, Dragon, Goat**

**The Dragon has a turbulent relationship with: Ox, Dog**

**According to legend, the Chinese calendar was developed during the third millennium BCE. It is said to have been invented by the legendary ruler, "Huang Di" who was also known as the Yellow Emperor.**

### **Quiz:**

- 1. The Chinese Dragon is often seen as the symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 2. The Metal Dragon is the most \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Dragon.**
- 3. The Element of Wood is ruled by \_\_\_\_\_.**
- 4. The energy of the Dragon is Yin. True or False?**
- 5. Dragon people are incredibly \_\_\_\_\_.**

6. The Water Dragon is less \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The Dragon has a harmonious relationship with \_\_\_\_.

## Whispering Woods Dragon Lore course

### Types of Chinese Dragons

#### Lesson Four



#### Types of Dragons:

There are nine major types of Chinese dragons. These include the horned dragon, the winged dragon, the celestial dragon (which supports and protects the mansions of the gods), the spiritual dragon which generates wind and rain for the benefit of mankind), the dragon of hidden treasures (which keeps guard over concealed wealth), the coiling dragon (which lives in water), and the yellow dragon (which once emerged from water and presented the legendary Emperor Fu Shi with the elements of writing)

The last of the nine is the dragon king, which actually consists of four separate dragons, each of which rules over one of the four seas, those of the East, South, West, and North.

The most powerful generalized type of Chinese dragon is the horned dragon, or "lung", which can produce rain and is totally deaf. Additionally, there is a homeless dragon (li) that lives in the ocean and another type (chiao) that is scale-covered and usually inhabits marshes but also keeps dens in the mountains.

**There are also nine ways the Chinese have traditionally represented these dragons, each one revealing a different dragon characteristic.**

**There are dragons carved on the tops of bells and gongs, because of the beast's habit of calling loudly when attacked.**

**A second type is carved on the screws of fiddles, since most dragons are fond of music.**

**A third is carved on the tops of stone tablets, because of dragons' love of literature.**

**A fourth is found at the bottom of stone monuments, as dragons can support heavy weights.**

**A fifth is placed on the eaves of temples, as dragons are ever alert to danger.**

**A sixth occurs on the beams of bridges, since dragons are fond of water.**

**A seventh is carved on Buddha's throne, as dragons like to rest.**

**An eighth is placed on the hilts of swords, since dragons are known to be capable of slaughter.**

**The ninth is carved on prison gates, as these are dragons that are fond of quarreling and trouble making.**

**The colors of Chinese dragons are evidently quite variable, but in the case of the chiao type its back is striped with green, its sides are yellow, and it is crimson underneath.**

**The nine major characteristics of a lung type dragon include a head like a camel's, horns like a deer's, eyes like a hare's, ears like a bull's, a neck like an iguana's, a belly like a frog's, scales like a carp's, paws like a tiger's, and claws like an eagle's. It has a pair of large canine teeth in its upper jaw. The long, tendril-like whiskers extending from either side of its mouth are probably used for feeling its way along the bottom of muddy ponds.**

**In color dragons varies from greenish to golden, with a series of alternating short and long spines extending down the back and along the tail, where they become longer. One specimen had wings at its side, and walked on top of the water. Another tossed its mane back and forth making noises that sounded like a flute.**

**Cow-heads are also common. A ten-footer, found lying on the banks of China's Yangtze River, was different from most because of its long, thick eyebrows. A Yellow River variety, seen on shore in the 1920s by a Chinese teacher, was bright blue, and as big as five cows. Both dragons crawled into the water as soon as it started to rain.**

**A few dragons begin life as fish. Carp, which successfully jump rapids and leap over waterfalls, change into fish-dragons. A popular saying, "The carp has leaped through the dragon's gate," means success, especially for students who have passed their exams.**

**Chinese Dragons are divided into five categories and these are:**

**Celestial Dragons who guard the mansions of the gods**

**Spiritual Dragons who rule wind & rain but can also cause flooding**

**Earth Dragons who cleanse the rivers & deepen the oceans**

**Treasure-Guarding Dragons who protect precious metals & stones**

**Imperial Dragons; dragons with five claws instead of the usual four**

**Male dragons sometimes mate with other kinds of animals. A dragon fathers an elephant when he mates with a pig, and he sires a racehorse, after mating with a mare.**

**Having sinuous serpentine bodies and four legs, eastern dragons do not usually breath fire, nor do they fly. According to Wang Fu (Han 206 BCE-220 CE) dragons are made up of many different types of animals of the Earth: the body of a snake, scales of a carp, head of a camel, horns of a deer, the eyes of a hare, ears like a bull, a neck like an iguana, belly of a frog, paws like a tigers, and claws like an eagle. A lion-type mane decorates its neck, its chin, and each elbow.**

**They also carry two antler-like horns on their wide-mouthed head, and two long whiskers spread out from their snout. They are depicted in many colors like blue, black, white, red, or yellow. Oriental dragons are usually shown with a pearl in their mouth, under their chin, or in their claws.**

**They use the power emendating from the pearl to ascend to heaven. The male dragon holds a war club in its tail while the female dragon holds a sensu or fan in its tail.**

### **Quiz:**

- 1. Chinese Dragons are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ categories.**
- 2. The ninth dragon is carved on \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- 3. The most powerful generalized type of Chinese dragon is the \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- 4. There are \_\_\_\_\_ major types of Chinese dragons.**
- 5. The carp has leaped through the dragon's gate," means \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- 6. Spiritual Dragons rule the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .**
- 7. Eastern dragons do not usually breathe \_\_\_\_\_, nor do they \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **Whispering Woods Dragon Lore Course**

### **Dragon Lore from other parts of the world**

#### **Lesson Five**



#### **Egyptian:**

**Many believe this is the era in history where the dragon originated. In early Egypt the Dragon was chiefly a representation of the snake.**

**In Egyptian myth "Re" (the sun god) traveled through Duat (the underworld) each night. During the journey through the underworld Re reaches two open doors guarded by snakes, some having human heads and four legs, while others having three snake heads and wings. Re passes by these without incident as they are only guards.**

**Later on Re observes the demise of Apophis, the giant serpent representing chaos, whose severed coils are bound by Aker, a Dragon representing the Earth.**

**There are many occurrences of Dragons in Egyptian mythology, another example being Denwen. Denwen was attested in the third millennium B.C.E. and is described as a fiery serpent that would have caused a conflagration destroying all of the gods if it had not been thwarted by the King.**

#### **Amphitptere:**

**This dragon is thought to be one of the oldest varieties of Dragon; the Amphitptere was a winged serpent-type without legs. In ancient history it was recorded in Egypt and in Arabia. Many believed that it guarded the precious Frankincense trees, from which a resin comes that is used in many cultures for religious purposes.**

## **Babylonian:**

The Babylonian Dragon is found in the Epic of Creation from the early second millennium B.C.E.

It details the struggle of "Apsu" (God of the primordial waters under the earth) and "Tiamat" (the sea) against their son "Ea". Accordingly, Apsu is said to be defeated by Ea, who takes over his domain and produces a son, the god-hero "Marduk".

Tiamat created all sorts of Dragons, including the Mushussu Dragon, in order to have her revenge, but she is defeated in single combat by Marduk and her body is split to form the earth and the sky.

The Mushussu is subdued by Marduk and takes its place at his feet. These images were relatively short lived however, as the Chinese Lung types soon came to dominate in later Near Eastern mythology.

## **Lindworm:**

The Lindworm had a serpentine-type body, one pair of legs, and it was wingless, therefore, it could not fly. Lindworms were found in Central Asia.

## **India:**

From the birthplace of Buddhism, around 500 BCE, we find pre-Buddhist snake or serpentine-like creatures known as the NAGA were incorporated early on into Buddhist mythology. Described as "water spirits with human shapes wearing a crown of serpents on their heads" or as "snake-like beings resembling clouds," the NAGA are among the eight classes of deities who worship and protect the Historical Buddha.

Even before the Historical Buddha (Siddhartha, Guatama) attained enlightenment, the Naga King Mucilinda (Sanskrit) is said to have protected Siddhartha from wind and rain for seven days. This motif is found often in Buddhist art from India, represented by images of the Buddha sitting beneath Mucilinda's hood and coils.

In early India, images of the Dragon were in some ways similar to the Egyptian ones in that they resembled the snake. There were those, however, that represented the form of the crocodile, such as the "Makara".

In Hindu myth the Indians identified the Dragon with nature. One of the Indian Dragons, "Vritra", caused drought by withholding water in its body until it is slain by Indra, god of rain, with a bolt of lightning thus starting the monsoon. While there are many similarities with the Egyptian images, we can also see influences from the Chinese Lung type.

The Indians Naga are more snake-like with a human head and a long thin limbless body. But they are also water elementals, controlling rain and thus determining the flooding of the major river deltas.

They live in an underground city (some describe it as a watery underworld) and are also believed to protect springs, wells and rivers. They are also the symbol of fertility. In Hindu mythology, the serpent-dragon Vritra, which adopts a cloud-like form, absorbed the cosmic

waters then coiled upon a mountainside. When it was killed by the thunderbolts thrown by the god Indra, life-giving waters flowed down the mountains.

### **Islamic:**

Dragons in the Islamic world initially started out as astronomical figures, and were linked to the Egyptian myth of Re's voyage through the underworld.

The Dragon "Jawzahr" was thought to be responsible for eclipses and comets. The Dragons "Draco" and "Serpentarius" were emblazoned in the stars.

There are many tales in Persian mythology of Dragons representing evil being slain by heroes, influenced by the Greek legends.

It is from this that the idea of Dragons guarding treasure emerges, the treasure eventually passing to the King who represents good.

This, however, was not to last. (When the Mongols invaded Persia they imposed their own Chinese style images).

### **Mayan and Aztec:**

The Mayan "Kukulcan", later the Aztec "Quetzalcoatl", was both good and evil, and it was thought to rule the four parts of the Earth. The greatest god of the Aztecs was

"Xiuhtecuhtli" who took on many manifestations, one of which being the fire serpent.

There are parallels with the Chinese myths in that Quetzalcoatl is described as being able to take the form of the Sun and is depicted as being swallowed by the Earth serpent thus causing an eclipse.

### **African:**

The "Amphisbaena" was a two-headed dragon (one at the front, and one on the end of its tail). The front head would hold the tail (or neck as the case may be) in its mouth, creating a circle that allowed it to roll.

### **Apocalyptic beast:**

{Biblical - Most likely Middle East} A creature mentioned in the Book of Revelation in the Bible. It has two horns, speaks like a dragon, and bears the mystical number of the devil.

### **Malay mythology:**

Raja Naga, the King of Serpents is dragon-like and lives in the sea. In Indonesian mythology, the dragon-like creatures are more earth than water elements. The Javanese Naga of lore (left) is a mythical serpentine dragon that rules the underworld, hoarding immense treasures.

Batak lore speaks of Silampane or Naga Padoha who rules the middle-earth and can take the vital essence of the man who faces the wrong direction when fighting.

He also rules the moon and his wife lays eggs. Antaboga is an Indonesian underworld

serpent that controls the production of rice. In Thailand, the Naga often has five heads and is a symbol of Narayana. In Myanmar, the naga are called Nats or serpent-gods.

### **Vietnam:**

Dragons are similar to Chinese Dragons in appearance and behavior but are more sinuous and spit fire. But they also control rain and the weather, and are associated with the major rivers and the sea.

The Vietnamese Dragons are also closely associated with royalty. Like the Chinese and Japanese Dragons, they are believed to be the progenitors of the Vietnamese race.

### **North America:**

The Piasa originated in North America, and was worshipped by the Algonquians. It had the body of a dragon, the head of a person, a lion's mane, and a tail twice as long as a person.

This was a neo-dragon which lived near the Mississippi River. This dragon did not bother humans until it found dead ones and tried the meat. To its surprise, it liked the taste. It now hunted humans and abducted people to bring them back to its lair for dinner.

### **Ethiopia:**

There is another neo-dragon known as "The Ethiopian Dream." This type of dragon had four wings and two feet with claws. They have no breath, but they ate poisonous plants to make their bite and their scratches deadlier. They were large enough to kill elephants. Once four of them were reported to have woven themselves into a raft and sailed over the Red Sea to Arabia, where there was better places to hunt.

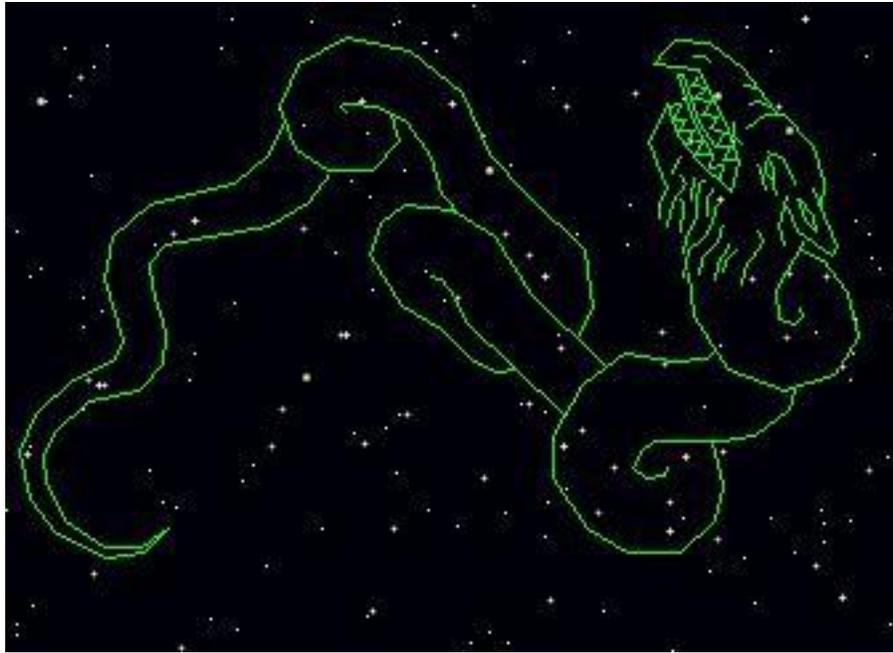
### **Quiz:**

1. One of the oldest varieties of Dragon is thought to be the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Lindworms were found in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Dragon "Jawzahr" was thought to be responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Antaboga is an Indonesian underworld serpent that controls the production of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The "Makara" represented the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Babylonian Deity \_\_\_\_\_, created all kinds of dragons.
7. The "Amphisbaena" was a \_\_\_ - \_\_\_ dragon.

## Woods Coven Dragon Lore Course

### The Dragon Constellation: Draco

#### Lesson Six



Due to its northerly location, in most northern latitudes Draco never sets. Its head is a group of stars lying north of the bright star Vega, its long body winds towards Cepheus, then turns westward between the Big Dipper and Little Dipper (Ursa Major and Ursa Minor).

Draco's tail ends with a star (Giansar) that lies just east of the line between the Pointers of the Big Dipper and Polaris. It is the 8th largest constellation in area. The details of each star are outlined below:

**Thuban** - Also known as Alpha Draconis, which is Arabic for dragon. Thuban is now unremarkable, but it was the polestar several thousand years ago. Egyptian temples were oriented to Thuban, which lies in the middle of the long tail of the dragon, now more than  $25^\circ$  from the celestial North Pole. Spectral type A0 III; magnitude: 3.7; distance 230 ly.

**Rastaban** - Arabic for "head of the dragon". Spectral type: G2 II; magnitude: 2.8; distance: 265 ly. Rastaban is the just barely the third brightest star in the constellation, behind Eltanin and Eta Draconis.

**Eltanin - Eltanin is the brightest star of Draco and is also located in the dragon's head. Ancient Thebes, the "city of the dragon," had a temple dedicated to this star. Spectral type: K5 III; magnitude: 2.2; distance 100 ly.**

**Altair - Arabic for "serpent". Also known as Nodus II. Spectral type: G9III; magnitude: 3.1; distance 115 ly.**

**Nodus - Nodus means "knot" in Arabic. Spectral type: B6III; magnitude: 3.2; distance 315 ly.**

**Edasich – Translates as "male hyena". Spectral type: K2III; magnitude: 3.5; distance 155 ly.**

**Giansar – This comes from the Persian word denoting the node (the point at which a planet or other body crosses the ecliptic of the Moon's orbit. Spectral type: M0III; magnitude: 3.8; distance 210 ly.**

**There are a number of myths behind the constellation Draco, due to its resemblance to a dragon.**

**In the most famous of the myths, Draco represents Ladon, the hundred-headed dragon that guarded the golden apples of the Hesperides.**

**The eleventh of The Twelve Labours of Heracles was to steal the golden apples.**

**Heracles killed Ladon with a poisoned arrow, allowing him to freely take the golden apples. According to the legend, Hera later placed the dragon in the sky as the constellation Draco. Due to its position and nearby constellations in the zodiac sign of Libra (i.e. Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, and Boötes), the group of constellations can be seen to tell the tale of the eleventh labour.**

**In another legend, Draco represents the dragon killed by Cadmus before founding the city of Boeotia. In a third legend, it represents the dragon that guarded the Golden Fleece and was killed by Jason.**

**By astronomical chance, the Dragon's Head and Dragon's Tail mark the positions of the lunar nodes, those points where the paths of the solar and lunar orbits intersect and where solar and lunar eclipses may occur.**

**The Dragon's head (Caput draconis,) refers to the ascending node, the Dragon's tail (Cauda draconis, ) the descending node. In several cultures, an eclipse was attributed to the disappearance of the moon or sun as they were swallowed by a dragon.**

**The fact that the stars of this circumpolar constellation never set plays an important part in its mythologies.**

**The Pharaoh Khufu ruled ancient Egypt around 2550 BCE and was buried in the largest of the Giza pyramids when he died. During his time, Thuban was the pole star, (because of Earth's precession) around which all other stars revolved. Khufu's burial chamber was**

fashioned deep inside the Great Pyramid. Two skinny shafts bore outward from the chamber.

For decades, scholars thought they were airshafts. But in the 1960s, astronomers found that they have an astronomical purpose. It was found that one of the shafts pointed directly towards Thuban. The other was aimed at the belt of Orion, which symbolized Osirus.

The stars close to the pole never set. The Egyptians described these stars as "imperishable" or "undying." Khufu expected that when he died, he would join not only with the Sun, but with Thuban as well, maintaining order in the celestial realm, just as he had on Earth.

## Mythology

During the time that Draco's star Thuban was the pole star, it would have appeared to ancient sky watchers that the Earth revolved around Draco.

Dragons and other similar creatures often played a role in creation myths. In these stories the gods would often battle such creatures for control of the Earth. When defeated, the dragons were flung up into the skies.

Roman myth calls this dragon Ladon and he guarded the golden apples on a tree in a garden tended by the Hesperides, the daughters of Atlas.

Hercules was sent to obtain the apples while under pledge to Eurystheus. He learned from Nereus that he could not pluck the apples himself, but must get help from Atlas.

Hercules shot and killed Ladon with an arrow, making way for Atlas to enter and pluck the golden apples. The goddess Hera was greatly distressed by the death of Ladon and placed the dragon in the heavens.

A Greek legend tells the story of Draco as a horrible dragon that guarded a sacred spring and slew the soldiers of Cadmus (first king of Thebes) who had been sent to gather water. Cadmus then fought the dragon and won.

After the dragon died, Athena appeared and told Cadmus to sow the ground with the creature's teeth. The teeth immediately sprang up as a group of armed soldiers who helped Cadmus found Thebes.

A Babylonian creation story tells of Tiamat, who turned herself into a dragon but was later defeated and split into two parts. One part became the heavens and the other, the Earth.

A Chinese tale sees the stars as the dragon who eats the Sun or Moon (possibly represented by the North Star Polaris) in an eclipse.

During a real eclipse, ancient Chinese would make as much noise as possible, banging on pots and pans to try and scare away the dragon which was eating the Sun or Moon.

A Norse creation myth tells of a dragon that gnaws at the roots of Yggdrasil, the tree that covers the world.

Because Thuban was the pole star 5000 years ago the ancient Egyptians keenly observed it. Some of Draco's stars were part of their constellation of Hippopotamus and some were of the Crocodile.

They appear on the planisphere of Denderah and the walls of the Ramesseum at Thebes. The hieroglyph for the Hippopotamus was used for the heavens in general while the constellation is supposed to have been a symbol of Isis Rathor, Athor, or Athyr, the Egyptian Venus.

Draco's stars were also said to represent the falcon headed god Horus.

Around 800 BC, the prehistoric Adena people who lived in the Ohio area of the United States created Serpent Mound which is believed to mirror the constellation Draco.

This huge mound is nearly a quarter mile long.

The Persians have regarded Draco as a man-eating serpent called Azhdeha.

In early Hindu worship, Draco is given the form of an alligator known as Shi-shu-mara.

$\alpha$  Alpha Draconis, Thuban (14h03m +64° 37'0) has a magnitude of 3.64 and is a class A0 star about 215 light years distant. Thuban is a spectroscopic binary. The star is also along the Earth's precessional path and was the pole star 4800 years ago.

$\beta$  Beta Draconis, Rastaban (17h29m.3 +52° 20') means the "head of the snake." Arabian lore calls Rastaban and Eltanin the Dragon's eyes.

Rastaban has a magnitude of 2.78 and is a class G2 white giant, about 400 light years distant. Rastaban is a binary system with the companion being 11.5 magnitudes.

$\gamma$  Gamma Draconis, Eltanin (17h55m.4 +51° 30') is a 2.2 magnitude yellow giant class K5 star about 110 light years away. The surface temperature is 3,800 degrees K and the luminosity is 145 times that of our Sun.

$\eta$  Eta Draconis (16h24m +61° 31') and its neighbor Zeta were sometimes known by the Arabs as the Two Wolves or Ravens. The star has a magnitude of 2.7 and is a yellow giant class G8 star about 65 light years distant. The star has a very faint companion difficult to detect with anything but large telescopes.

$\nu$  Nu Draconis (17h32m +55° 10') is a dim but attractive double star. It is found in the head of the dragon, about 5 degrees from Eltanin and 3 degrees from Rastaban.

The pair has a separation of 62.3 arcseconds. Both stars are blue-white main sequence stars of magnitudes 4.88 and 4.87. The pair is 93 light years distant.

## Quiz:

1. Draco represents the dragon killed by Cadmus before founding the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Khufu expected that when he died, he would join not only with the Sun, but with \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
3. Draco's tail ends with a star called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Ancient Chinese would make as much noise as possible, banging on pots and pans to try and scare away the dragon which was eating the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Eta Draconis and its neighbor Zeta were sometimes known by the Arabs as the two \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Circa 800 BCE, the prehistoric Adena people who lived in the Ohio area of the United States created \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Pharaoh Khufu ruled ancient Egypt around 2550 BCE and was buried in the largest of the Giza pyramids when he died. During his time, \_\_\_\_\_ was the pole star.

## Whispering Woods Dragon Lore Course

### A History of European Dragons

#### Lesson Seven



**In the mythology of the western world, dragons were thought to abduct maidens, wreak havoc on the populace, steal gold and destroy villages.**

**Unlike its counterpart in the East, Western dragons were seen as symbols of destruction and evil. This could be related to the un-due influence that the Christian invasion has had on the Western mind set where everything is seen as good versus evil.**

**Heraldic: The Heraldic is probably the most well known western Dragon. The Heraldic has dangerous fangs, four legs complete with claws, and a ridge of sharp spines that run from its head to its tail tip.**

**Guivre: The Guivre was both legless and wingless, and appeared somewhat serpent-like in appearance. Its head had horns and its jaw was bearded. It favored any location near water.**

**European: These types of dragons are found in the pages of early Greek, Roman, Norse, and medieval legends. They had wings, two or four legs, and depending on the type color can vary. They were believed to breathe fire. Sadly, many Europeans considered the dragon to be evil and malevolent, however, the Greeks held the idea of the Dragon as a Guardian Serpent.**

### **Some examples of these dragons are:**

**Fafnir: A Norse dragon who was guardian of the treasure later known as the Nibelung hoard.**

**Hydra: Some argue that Hyrda was a dragon, others argue not. Hydra had several heads, the center one was said to be immortal. (When one of the hydra's heads was cut off two grew in its place) It was said to haunt the marshes of Lerna near Argos. The destruction of the hydra was one of the twelve labors of Hercules.**

**Wyvern: The Wyvern was a feared Dragon of Britain, for the Europeans believed it to be evil and vicious. It had a coiling trunk that had a pair of birds-type legs which were tucked beneath its wings.**

**Tatzlwyrm: A winged, fire-breathing dragon.**

**Apocalyptic beast - (Biblical, Most likely Middle East). This is a creature mentioned in the Book of Revelation in the Bible. It has two horns, speaks like a dragon, and bears the mystical number of the devil.**

**Cecrops ~ {Greek} the mythical founder of Athens; first king of Attica; represented as half human, half dragon; credited with inventing writing and establishing marriage and burial customs. .**

**Draco (Greek).** Draco is a constellation in the north containing the star of the north pole of the ecliptic. Legend states this constellation was named after the Athenian statesman and lawgiver Draco or Dracon.

**Fafnir (Norse mythology)** a dragon and guardian of the treasure later known as the Nibelung hoard.

**Hydra (Greek mythology)** A gigantic monster resembling a dragon with several heads (usually nine, though the number varies), the center one of which is immortal. It is said to haunt the marshes of Lerna near Argos.

The destruction of the hydra was one of the 12 labors of Hercules. When one of the hydra's heads was cut off two grew in its place.

**Leviathan (Bible, Job ix, 13 and Isa. xxvii, 1)** A Hebrew name for a sea monster. It was also a dragon of turmoil which contested against God.

**Tatzlwurm (Germanic legend)** it was said to be a winged, fire-breathing dragon monster.

**Wyvern (U.K.)** A winged, two-legged dragon with a barbed tail. The wyvern often appears on heraldic shields and symbolizes guardianship.

**Jormungand (Norse Legend)** The world serpent that dwelled at the bottom of the sea, and that encircled the whole world.

It was to rise against the gods at Ragnarok, helping the Fenris Wolf and Surt, and the other enemies of the gods, to destroy both Asgard and Midgard.

### **Dragon Symbols:**

Wales is symbolized by a red dragon. In the Mabinogion the tale of Lludd and Llewelys speaks of the struggle between this red dragon and the white dragon.

It was long ago in the days of the Saxon invasions that this story takes place and it is no wonder that the white dragon is the invader, the Saxons, come to battle the red. As the symbolic struggle comes to a close, the two opposing dragons become drunk with mead. It is in this drunken state that they are both buried in a large stone coffin and placed to rest in the center of the island of Britain.

The story goes that so long as the pair remains buried beneath Oxford the island will be protected from invasion.

**Saint George** is known as a Martyr and the Patron Saint of England.

He was originally a Roman Cavalry officer who was known for his courage in war. He was a mighty site on his white war-horse.

He eventually converted to Christianity, and to show the people that Christians did not have to be meek, he sought out to fight a dragon that was destroying the area around Cappadocia.

The people of the town tried to calm the beast with sacrifices of their best sheep. This

worked for a while, but then the dragon attacked again. The poor people had to give up what they thought would rid the animal of their town: a virgin princess. George killed the dragon with the lance he had in his hand while charging with his huge steed. Because of this heroic deed, other Christian Knights sought out to save damsels in distress from dragons, and this is how dragons eventually got slaughtered into being just a myth.

### Quiz:

1. Leviathan is a \_\_\_\_\_ name for winged, fire-breathing dragon monster.
2. Wales is symbolized by a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Fafnir is a \_\_\_\_\_ dragon.
4. Wyvern is a winged, \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ dragon with a barbed tail.
5. Many Europeans considered the dragon to be \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Jormungand is the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Hydra is said to haunt the marshes of \_\_\_\_\_ near Argos.

## Whispering Woods Basic Dragon Lore Course

### Dragon Related Rituals

It is well known that Dragons can be quite deceptive and at times capricious. When connecting with a Dragon it is strongly suggested that you show a great deal of patience and understanding. Always approach Dragons with the most absolute respect. They have been around for many a millennium and are quite wise and they are very aware of this. Dragons have a mind of their own and will often react in unexpected ways. Don't lose hope, learning from such ancient creatures can be very perplexing and yet very rewarding at the same time.

Never express anger or negative feelings towards a Dragon. They can be quite sensitive and quick to react in a vindictive way. Dragons generally have a rather large ego that needs to be dealt with in a very careful way.

In fact the best ritual for connecting with a Dragon is one that you, yourself have written. Dragons are very individual and will more rapidly respond to a personalized ritual with your energy interspersed throughout. But here are a couple of rituals to get you started.

## **Suggested Incense and/or Herbs:**

<b>Earth:</b>	<b>Air:</b>	<b>Fire:</b>	<b>Water:</b>
Aspen	Anise	Allspice	Camphor
Bistort	Acacia	Basil	Catnip
Boneset	Benzoin	Bay Laurel	Henna
Cherry/Wild	Caraway	Betony, Wood	Myrrh
Cinquefoil	Club Moss	Cardamom	Rose
Deer's Tongue	Lavender	Cassia	Violet
Dittany of Crete	Lemon Verbena	Cedar	Yarrow
Jasmine	Mastic	Chamomile	
Licorice	Red Sandalwood	Cinnamon	
Parsley	Sandalwood	Dragons Blood	
Pine	Thyme	Ginger	

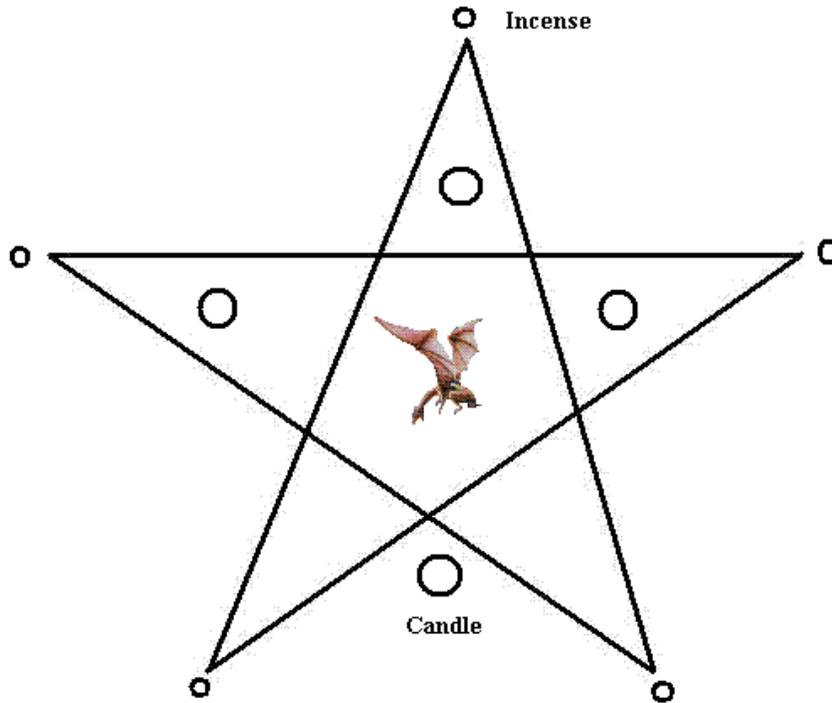
## **Finding a Dragon Teacher**

**Find a quiet place in the woods or a secluded meadow. Meditate on the type of Dragon that you hope to encounter. Send these thoughts outwards so that they can be intercepted by an interested Dragon.**

**After spending some time meditating, draw a pentagram on the ground. In the middle of the pentagram draw a picture of a dragon (it can be a crude drawing).**

**Depending on what type of elemental dragon you are calling, place a stick of incense at each of the five points of the Dragon Pentagram. Light the incense.**

**Place a candle of the same color as that of the type of Dragon that you seek, at each of the Elemental points**



(North, South, East, West). Light the candles and while concentrating on the flames, withdraw back into your Third Eye and clear your mind of any lingering thoughts. Visualize a fog or mist in your mind that is the same color as your desired Dragon. Make it known that you are seeking a teacher and that you would be a devoted student. Send out lots of love and positive energy. Watch this fog/mist and see if a Dragon starts to take shape out of it. If it does (this may take several attempts) then express your joy and love towards the Dragon that is forming from the mist. Once it is fully formed, venture to ask by what name it would like to be known as. Again express your love and desire to learn. Listen closely within your Third eye to see if any messages are forthcoming. Out of respect for the Dragon, keep this session rather short. Then each time that you do this ritual, expand your questions and listening each time. The next time that you connect with your Dragon, visualize the colored fog, but call it forth by name. This will build familiarity with your Dragon mentor and will allow it to respond more quickly. Always project feelings of love and respect when connecting with your Dragon, as they thrive on such feelings. If at first no Dragon comes forth out of the mists then wait for a day or so and try again...

### Basic Dragon Ritual

**Begin the ritual by going to the East, with Athame or sword in your power hand. Draw a Magickal circle on the floor around your ritual area. This is done by pointing the Athame/sword at the floor and visualizing a Blue flame emitting from the tip of your Athame/Sword. Move Deosil (clockwise) around the circle with this flame ending in the East. While drawing the circle, say:**

**"By Dragon Power, This Circle is Sealed"**

**Return to the altar. Point the Athame/Sword at the Dragon Pentacle and say:**

**"Dragons of Spirit, Loftiest and most powerful of Dragons, Bless this altar with your Sacred Fire. Let us be as One in Magick, O Dragons Great and Wise"**

**Set the Water Chalice on the pentacle. With the wand in your power hand, encircle the chalice three times Deosil with the wand and say:**

**"Air, Fire, Earth, Water Bring your Power forth. Water of Land and Sea, Purified Be"**

**Hold the Chalice high and say:**

**"Draconis! Draconis! Draconis!"**

**Going Deosil, sprinkle the water lightly around the Sacred Circle beginning and ending in the East. Set the dish of salt on the Pentacle. Circle it three times deosil with the wand and say:**

**"Water, Air, Fire, Earth, Hear my Inner most Desire. Salt of Earth and Sea, Purified Be"**

**Sprinkle a few grains of salt to each corner of the altar. Circle the incense burner three times with the wand and say:**

**Fire of Dragons, Fire of Earth, You Are Purified. Bring Power Forth.**

**Circle the Incense and Herbs three times deosil with the wand, say:**

**Incense Magickal, Incense Bold, Awake The Dragons, As Of Old. I call you forth Purified.**

**Put a small amount of incense onto the burning coals. Lift the burner by the chains and touch it lightly to the Pentacle. Lift it high over the altar, say:**

**Draconis! Draconis! Draconis!**

**Then carry it deosil around the circle, beginning and ending in the East. Return the burner to the Altar. Take up the Athame/ Sword in both hands and kneel before the Altar. Mentally dedicate yourself to the study of Dragon Magick. Project your interest and love for the Dragons as strongly as possible. Continue doing so for several**

minutes, then rise and point the Athame/Sword at the Dragon Pentacle and say with power and confidence:

**Behold, All Dragons and Rulers of Dragons, I am (magickal name), a student who seeks Dragon Magick. With (name of Athame/Sword) in my hand, I freely enter the Realm of the Dragons. Not for physical Battle, But for Knowledge and Wisdom. I Greet You, O Dragons Ancient and Wise, and await your Blessing and Guidance.**

**Continue holding the Athame/Sword outstretched until you feel the blessing of the Dragons enter your body. It is for this reason that a light Athame/sword is best used in ritual. When the flowing power, of the Dragons Blessing, has begun to lessen, lower the Athame/sword. Still holding the Athame/sword in your Power hand, take up the Dragon Pentacle in the other hand and go to the East. Point the Athame/sword at the Eastern direction and hold the Pentacle facing outward. Draw a Invoking Pentagram with the Athame/Sword, and say:**

**"From Sairys (sair'-iss), Ruler of the Eastern Dragons Fair, comes now the wondrous Power of Air**

#### **Invoking Pentagram**

**Feel the power of Air entering body with athame/sword outstretched. When the flow stops, go to the South. Hold up the Dragon Pentacle again; draw an invoking Pentagram with the Athame/Sword, and say:**

**"From Fafnir (faf'-near), Ruler of Dragons of the South, comes Cleansing Fire from Dragon Mouth"**

**Feel the power of Fire entering your body and when it stops go to the next direction. Repeat the process of Holding up the Dragon Pentacle and drawing a invoking pentagram for each of the directions. Go to the West, say:**

**"From Naelyan (nail'-yon) Ruler of Dragons of the West, comes the Power of Water"**

**Draw into the body the power of Water. Go to the North and say:**

**"From Grael (grail), Ruler of Dragons of the North, the Power of Earth does now come forth"**

**Draw into oneself the power of Earth. When it stops return to the Altar, lay aside the Athame/Sword and Dragon Pentacle. Add the appropriate herbal incense to the incense burner according to the ritual you are performing. At this point insert the appropriate chants and workings for the particular spell working or meditation to be performed. If there is a problem that is unsolvable by physical means or by magic then now is also the time to ask the Dragons for advice on how to solve it. The Dragons are able to give new insight into ways of solving it. Continue to feel their power and direction as their directions**

are written down. When finished with the spell working, tap your staff three times and chant:

**"I thank you, Dragons Old and Wise, of Earth and Fire, Water, and Skies, for sharing Wisdom here with Me. As I Will, So Shall It Be"**

Always approach the Dragons as Equals not as a force to be ordered or conquered. Set the Wine Chalice on the Pentacle. Circle it three times with the wand, and say:

**Cup of Power, Cup of Might, Dragon Magick, Be here this Night**

Drink the Wine (apple cider or grape juice may be substituted), saving back some to be poured outside on the ground later as an offering to the Dragons. If it is not possible to pour the offering outside then leave it on the Altar for about an hour, after closing your ritual.

Now is the excellent time to chant and use free-form dancing and invite the Dragons to share in the raised energy and joy of being a Student. Talk to them about hopes and dreams, listen to see if they have suggestions or words of encouragement. This is an opportunity for close friendships to be forged.

#### **Closing the Ritual**

To close the ritual, take the Athame/sword and go to each of the directions draw a banishing pentagram and say the appropriate words for that direction

#### **Banishing Pentagram**

To the East, say:

**"Go In Peace, Dragons of the East, And return again in the Ritual Hour**

To the South, say:

**"Go in peace, Dragons of the South, And return again in the Ritual Hour"**

To the West, say:

**"Go in Peace, Dragons of the West, And return again in the Ritual Hour"**

To the North, say

**"Go in peace, Dragons of the North, And return again in the Ritual Hour"**

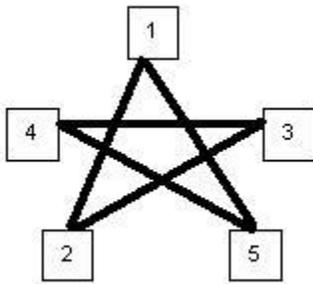
Return to the Altar. Raise both arms, say:

"Farewell to you, O Dragons Fair, Fire, Water, Earth, and Air. Together we make Magick well by power Deep and Dragon Spell. In peace, go now. Return once more to teach me Magick and Ancient Lore.

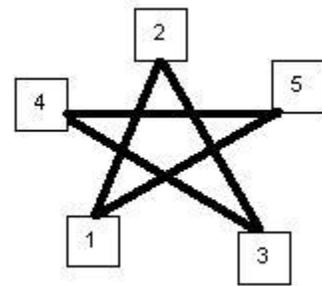
**Draconis! Draconis! Draconis!"**

Cut the circle with a backward sweep of the Athame/Sword across the boundary line. Extinguish the candles. Clear the Altar of all tools except any offerings to the Dragons if unable to pour outside.

### Invoking Pentagram



### Banishing Pentagram



### Zodiac Stones:

Aries - Diamond  
Taurus - Emerald  
Gemini - Agate  
Cancer - Pearl  
Leo - Ruby  
Virgo - Sapphire

Libra - Opal  
Scorpio - Topaz  
Sagittarius - Turquoise  
Capricorn - Garnet  
Aquarius - Amethyst  
Pisces - Aquamarine

### Quiz:

1. Dragon rituals begin in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Fafnir is ruler of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the middle of the pentagram draw a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Ginger belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ sign.

5. When calling a dragon send out lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and positive energy.
6. Draw your magickal circle using a Athame or \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The stone for Taurus is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Dragon Lore Final Exam**

1. It is believed that Dragon Lore originated during the \_\_\_\_\_ era.
2. Cecrops was half \_\_\_\_\_ and half dragon.
3. The Fire Dragon is the most extroverted and \_\_\_\_\_ Dragon.
4. Sea dragons are \_\_\_\_\_ to Hung Sheng, the Holy One.
5. There are \_\_\_\_\_ major types of Chinese dragons.
6. Licorice herb/incense represents the Element of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Japan's dragon lore comes predominantly from \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is Arabic for dragon.
9. The Babylonian Dragon is found in the Epic of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. the Chinese calendar uses the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ system to count the day, month and year.
11. In Germanic legend, Tatzlwurm was a winged, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ dragon monster.
12. The Hindu Dragon Goddess that sleeps in the lotus at the base of the spine is \_\_\_\_\_ the Coiled.
13. A ten-foot dragon found lying on the banks of China's Yangtze River, was different from most because of its long, thick \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The Japanese dragon has \_\_\_\_\_ toes.

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ is probably the most well known western Dragon.
16. In early \_\_\_\_\_, images of the Dragon were in some ways similar to the Egyptian ones.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ represents Ladon, the hundred-headed dragon that guarded the golden apples of the Hesperides.
18. In the basic dragon ritual, Hold the Chalice high and say: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The Dragon has a harmonious relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Wales is symbolized by a \_\_\_\_\_ dragon.
21. Philosophic Mercury is sometimes represented by a serpent or \_\_\_\_\_.
22. The mortal enemy of the dragon is the \_\_\_\_\_.
23. During the time that Draco's star \_\_\_\_\_ was the pole star, it would have appeared to ancient sky watchers that the Earth revolved around Draco.
24. A few dragons begin life as \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Naga Padoha is a Malayan dragon who rules the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
26. The Banishing Pentagram begins at the top point of the pentagram; True or False.
27. The Green dragon is a \_\_\_\_\_ symbol.
28. Glass was once believed to be \_\_\_\_\_ dragon breath.
29. Tiamat created all sorts of Dragons, including the \_\_\_\_\_ Dragon.
30. By the 9th century CE, the Chinese had incorporated the dragon into \_\_\_\_\_ thought.
31. According to the Chinese elements, Earth is ruled by \_\_\_\_\_.
32. Guivre was both legless and \_\_\_\_\_.
33. White dragons symbolize the \_\_\_\_\_.
34. Imperial Dragons have \_\_\_\_\_ claws.
35. In both Chinese and Japanese mythology, the dragon is one of \_\_\_\_\_ legendary creatures guarding the cosmic directions.
36. \_\_\_\_\_ is Ruler of the Dragons of the South.

37. The Ethiopian dragon ate \_\_\_\_\_ plants to make their bite and their scratches deadlier.
38. The Wood Dragon is not as \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ as other Dragons.
39. A Babylonian creation story tells of \_\_\_\_\_, who turned herself into a dragon but was later defeated and split into two parts.
40. There are dragons carved on the tops of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, because of the beast's habit of calling loudly when attacked.
41. The Chinese Dragon is often seen as the symbol of divine \_\_\_\_\_ and vigilance.
42. The spiritual dragons (shen-long) were the \_\_\_\_\_ makers.
43. The Dragon's Eye symbol stands for the balance of love, power and \_\_\_\_\_.
44. Never express anger or \_\_\_\_\_ feelings towards a dragon.
45. Children born during Dragon Years, enjoy health, wealth, and \_\_\_\_\_.
46. In early Hindu worship, Draco is given the form of an \_\_\_\_\_ known as Shi-shu-mara.
47. Grael is the Ruler of the Dragons of the \_\_\_\_\_.
48. Japanese Dragons are closely associated with the beginning of life and \_\_\_\_\_.
49. Yellow Dragons are the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the dragons.
50. The Greeks held the idea of the Dragon as a \_\_\_\_\_ Serpent.