China: the mythical past

* 盘古

1. separated heaven and earth, resembling an enormous stone, in half
2. eyes-sun and moon; blood-rivers and oceans; muscles-mountains; hair-grasses and trees
3. Humans and animals derived from his body lice

* 伏羲， 女娲

1. semi-human "adam and eve" figures.
2. both figures were serpentine from the waist down
3. Fu Xi: inventor of animal husbandry, marriage, the calendar, musical instruments, as well as the trigrams of the *Yijing* 易經(Book of Changes).

* 神农

1. saint of chinese medicine.
2. agrarian images and metaphors have remained importan throughout chinese history

* 黄帝

1. legendary common ancestor of the Han chinese people.
2. "invented" government

* **YAO** (堯)**(ALLEGEDLY 2357-2255 BCE)** & **SHUN (**舜**) (ALLEGEDLY 2255-2205 BCE)**

1. Two"sage kings" of the legendary chinese past.
2. Yao was morally perfect
3. yao seleced shun as his successor rather than his own son.

* 周公

1. regent serving the son of young King Wu, founder of the Zhou dynasty