



· I N K A N Y A M B A ·

This creature lives in South African lakes, especially in the forests of Pietermaritzburg and under the Howick waterfall. With the body of a snake and the head of a horse, the Inkanyamba is well known by the Xhosa and the Zulus, although it only allows the 'sangoma' (traditional healers) to approach its lake without the danger of being attacked.

Inkanyamba is especially active during the summer months. He flies to the sky to seek companionship, and when he looks at the ground, he deceives himself by confusing houses with creatures of his species. It is then when he gets terribly angry, causing storms that tear the roofs off the houses and tear up trees.

Though angry and powerful, human beings can address him with petitions. If they do so with respect and reverence, they are usually listened.



Inkanyamba is a **ZULU** creature

Current population: 12.159.000



The Zulus are a branch of the Nguni peoples, migrated from the Great Lakes region southwards and subsequently disintegrated into today's major South African ethnicities. Among the Nguni populations of the Southeast, the Zulus managed to build up a centralized state at the beginning of the 19th century, where they occupied a dominant position. It was the Zulu Kingdom, headed by Shaka, that immediately initiated a military expansionist policy, which provoked war in the region. The period 1818-1840 is known as Mfecane, 'crushing', and involved the reorganization of the area, with massive migrations, depopulations and foundation of new territorial identities.

Strongly reinforced by their victories, the Zulus rejected the British pretensions to turn them into a colony, confronting them in a war where, after many battles, they lost their sovereignty.

The struggles between the colonial powers, especially between Britain and the Dutch settlers, ended with the creation of the South African Union in 1910, whose territory included the lands of the Zulus but who were denied citizenship and the right to vote, under the so-called 'apartheid' system.

After decades of struggle, the black population achieved the end of apartheid in 1990, governing the country ever since.

The Zulus are traditionally cattle ranchers, although they also practice agriculture and handicrafts. They mixed to some extent with the native South African population, the Bushmen, hunter-gatherers who still have differentiated communities. The Zulus live in traditional villages, with a strong power structure in which the chief and the war play a very important role.

Although today the majority are Christians from various churches, they retain traditional beliefs that people have three parts: the physical body (umzimba), the vital force (umoya) and the shadow (isithunzi). Generous and respectful behaviour towards others, i.e. 'ubuntu', improves the shadow, and on the contrary, bad behaviour can diminish it and even extinguish it.

The relationship with the spiritual world, which consists essentially of the spirits of the ancestors, is practiced thanks to the sangoma, shamans who can communicate with the dead and obtain their intervention in favor of the living.