

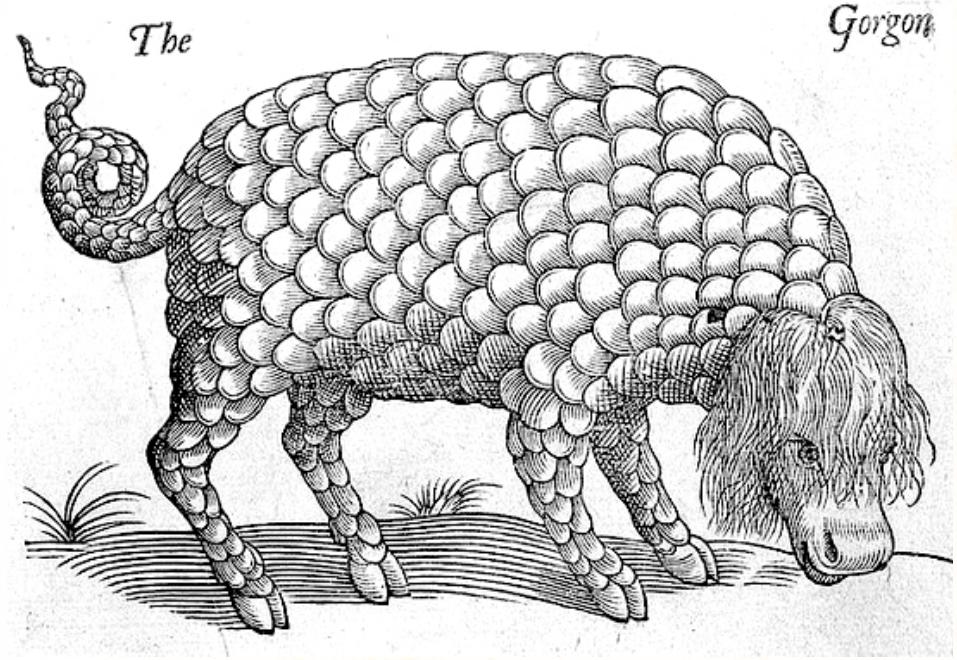


· C A T O B L E P A S ·

The Catoblepas is a mythological animal that grazes in the plains of Ethiopia. It has the body of a black buffalo and the head of a pig. His head is so heavy that he cannot lift it, which explains his name, which in Greek means ‘the one who looks at the earth’. And it is good that he is so heavy, because the main characteristic of this creature is that his eyes are deadly: Whoever looks into them is immediately struck down.

The versions about this creature differ in some details. According to some ancient texts, the Catoblepas is evil, but the weight of its head prevents it from doing too much damage; according to others, it keeps its gaze fixed on the ground out of kindness, because it does not want to exert its deadly power. Other authors point out that it is not his gaze that is deadly, but his breath, since he feeds on poisonous herbs.

The oldest descriptions of Catoblepa come from classical Greece by authors such as Elienus, Athenaeus, and Archelaus, and were later confirmed by Roman observers (Pliny the Elder, Claudius Elianus). The descriptions were renewed by more modern authors, although it is strange that they were always foreigners from Western countries, not knowing native reports about this animal.





Catoblepas is an **ETHIOPIAN** creature  
Current population: 98.665.000



**E**thiopian culture has a history of thousands of years and is considered the starting point of the Paleolithic migrations that populated the entire planet. Ethiopia has an independent history dating back thousands of years and can boast of being the only African country to have preserved its sovereignty during centuries of European colonization.

The earliest records of the nation's history refer to Memnon, a legendary king who is said to have ruled the country around 1250 B.C., although national legend traces the country's founding further back, claiming that the first king was Menelik, son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Much later, after the conquests of Alexander the Great, the country flourished under the Hellenistic Kingdom of Egypt, concentrating Red Sea trade in its ports.

Ethiopia was the second country in the world to adopt Christianity as its official religion in the 4th century, and although it has a large Jewish community and was also the first destination of the Muslim Hegira, today it remains an island of Christianity in the midst of a largely Muslim region.

For two thousand years it has been a stable and influential regional power, experiencing both imperial and more decadent periods, and frequently involved in wars with its neighbors in which it lost or gained territory. Since the 15th century it maintained diplomatic relations with European countries, which considered it a sovereign state and respected its independence while conquering and colonizing the rest of the continent. Only fascist Italy dared to conquer Ethiopia for a short time before World War II.

Ethiopia is composed of a variety of ethnic groups speaking different languages, five of which are considered official languages of the state. The lifestyles of the various ethnic groups are very different, with the nomadic herders and the sedentary farmers being the most distinctive, all of whom have only a very rudimentary level of technology and

are subject to the vagaries of a harsh climate that causes terrible famines every few years due to droughts. Nevertheless, the population has grown exponentially, from about 10 million at the beginning of the 20th century to almost 100 million today, and the country's economy has grown steadily and very rapidly in the 21st century.

