



· L A F A I C ·

Many years ago, in a swamp on an island, lived a small crocodile called Lafaic, who dreamed of becoming big and powerful. But there was little food, and he became weak and sad.



To fulfill his dream, he left the swamp and went into the ocean, looking for food. But he did not find it, and instead of not getting back to shore, the little crocodile died.

His body arrived on land after a few days, and a boy found him on the beach. Distressed, it took him back to the sea. Thanks to this help, Lafaic revived and, gratefully, promised to return the favor, if he ever needed it.

A few years later the boy called the crocodile and explained his desire: 'I want to see the world!'. So Lafaic climbed him on his back and swam in the direction of the dawn.

The trip lasted for years and they traveled many seas together, until one day, in the middle of the ocean, Lafaic told the boy that his time had come and he should die. But that doing so would give him a gift, because his body would become a large island where he could settle next to his family.

And so, as Lafaic died, his body grew bigger and bigger, and his back turned into mountains, and his scales into hills. Lafaic had become the island of Timor.



Lafaic is a creature originating from **TIMOR**

Current population: 1.831.358
(both East Timor and West Timor)



Currently the island of Timor is divided into two states, East Timor and Indonesia, as a result of colonization and sharing between Portuguese and Dutch since the seventeenth century. The population of the island, nevertheless, shows a motley mixture of ethnicities and languages. In Timor they found home human groups of all the great Asian linguistic families. The majority are Malay-Polynesians, but Melanesian, Papua and even Chinese groups are also very present. The legend of Lafaic seems to relate to the Austronesians

(Malay-Polynesians), the great navigators of antiquity, who crossed oceans to spread their language and culture throughout the world. Today there are Austronesian peoples from Afrique (Madagascar) to the outskirts of America (Easter Island), and of course in Southeast Asia (Philippines) and Oceania (New Zealand), which gives an idea of their courage to cross enormous stretches of unknown sea, aboard ships that today seem precarious.

The inhabitants of Timor, a wooded island rich in natural resources, have lived the last few centuries grappling with the voracity of empires, eager to appropriate them. Before European colonialism and its inhabitants paid tribute to the kingdom of Java, attracted especially by the sandalwood. From the sixteenth to the twentieth century, the Portuguese and the Dutch divided the island, until the Dutch dominions became the state of Indonesia, including West Timor, and the eastern part proclaimed the independence of Portugal in 1975. Indonesia, however, it invaded East Timor and only after a long and bloody struggle did this territory accede to independence, being the first state born in the 21st century.

