



· S H E N - L O N G ·



**C**hinese dragons are benevolent creatures that are highly respected by people because they bring wealth, prosperity and good luck. There are different types of dragons that populate the entire Chinese territory, both in the water, on the land and in the air, and each of them has a special appearance and characteristics, although they are always distinguished by their di-

vinity, goodness and power. On the other hand, they are intelligent and proud, and people try to show them respect in order to gain their favor and not to anger them by hurting their pride, because they can get irritated and punish this contempt with droughts or floods.

Their traditional appearance is composed of various animals: Camel head, deer horns, hare eyes, bull ears, iguana neck, frog belly, carp scales, tiger paws and eagle claws. He has whiskers on each side of his mouth, under his chin is a shiny pearl, and on his head is a 'poh shan' or foot ruler, without which he cannot fly. Its breath gives off clouds





that can turn into rain or fire. As weaknesses, it is afraid of iron, centipedes and five-colored silk.

The Shen-long is a type of spirit dragon that is believed to have dominion over the weather. These dragons fly through the sky, with which they are confused because their scales are sky blue, and determine the wind, clouds and rain.



Shen-Long is a creature originating from **CHINA**

Current population: 1.403.500.365



**C**hinese culture is the sole survivor of the great civilizations of antiquity, and there is archaeological evidence of the earliest



Chinese kingdoms around 2000 B.C. Scattered along the banks of the Yellow River, various clans flourished and founded kingdoms whose history is unknown, but which have left behind remains in which the characteristic ideographic script can already be seen. Taoism and Confucianism, forms of spirituality peculiar to Han culture and guiding millions of people to this day, are also millennia old.

After centuries of division and struggle among various kingdoms, a centralized empire was established around 221 B.C. Under the rule of various dynasties, the history of this nation was determined for more than two thousand years, until the proclamation of the Republic in 1912. The centralization of political power made China an economic and intellectual center, considered for centuries the most advanced in the world, and expanded its territory to become the largest country in the world, protected by a monumental wall.

By the 19th century, Europe had overtaken China thanks to the Industrial Revolution and extended its colonial tentacles into this ancient civilization, subjugating its emperor. In response, a period of political turmoil ensued, leading first to the proclamation of the Republic in 1912 and then to the Communist Revolution in 1949. Although the 20th century was a cruel one for the Chinese, with millions perishing in wars and famine, the country has impressively regained its economic and political power at the beginning of the 21st century and is now the world's leading economic powerhouse and a political power that has shaken American hegemony.

Throughout these centuries, the Chinese people have managed to



admirably preserve their culture and traditions amidst foreign invasions and strong cultural and religious influences. The philosophies of Lao Tse and Confucius, as well as traditional religion and forms of folk wisdom, such as Chinese medicine, live on to the present day. It is a people whose soul has remained alive for four thousand years, a rarity in the world.

