Introduction to Dragons

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| [[Manuscript on dragons](http://www.dragnix.net/Basic/HMSflamer.jpg)](http://www.dragnix.net/Basic/HMSflamer.jpg)  Everybody knows what a dragon is: an enormous, fierce, bloodthirsty creature appearing in fairy tales and legends as an accessory whose main function is to set off the bravery of knight challenging him. The dragon is an obscure, mysterious character, described in broad terms, and is little more than foil to enhance the hero's valor.  Dragon is a legendary beast in the folklore of many European and Asian cultures. Legends describe dragons as large, lizardlike creatures that breathe fire and have a long, scaly tail. In Europe, dragons are traditionally portrayed as ferocious beasts that represent the evils fought by human beings. But in Asia, especially in China and Japan, the animals are generally considered friendly creatures that ensure good luck and wealth.  According to some medieval legends, dragons lived in wild, remote regions of the world. The dragons guarded treasures in their dens, and a person who killed one supposedly gained its wealth. The English epic hero Beowulf died in a fight with a treasure-guarding dragon.  In China, the traditional New Year's Day parade includes a group of people who wind through the street wearing a large dragon costume. The dragon's image, according to an ancient Chinese belief, prevents evil spirits from spoiling the new year. Another traditional Chinese belief is that certain dragons have the power to control the rainfall needed for each year's harvest.  However the dragon is something else. He is admirable, intelligent and educated creature, who leads a most interesting life. He has some fascinating characteristics in addition to those occasional glimpses we are given through fairy tail and legends.  In the world of fantastic animals, the dragon is unique. No other creature has appeared in such a rich variety of forms. It is as though there was once a whole family of different dragon species that really existed, before they mysteriously became extinct. Indeed, as recently as the seventeenth century, scholars wrote of dragons as though they were scientific facts, their anatomy and natural history being recorded in painstaking detail.  The naturalist Edward Topsell, for instance, writing in 1608, considered them to be reptilian and closely related to serpents: "There are divers sorts of dragons, distinguished partly by countries, partly by their quantity and magnitude, and partly by the different form of their external parts." Personifications of malevolence of beneficence, paganism or purity, death and devastation, life and fertility, good or evil. All these varied, contradictory concepts are embodied and embedded within that single magical word.  The dragon has always been slandered and misjudged, persecuted and hounded by man, simply because they are different. Like so many other living beings, he has experienced death and persecution in the name of so-called superiority of civilized man.  Perhaps, in the future, man will learn with the death of a single animal or plant species an irreplaceable asset - something more precious than all the wealth in the world - is lost. Only then will the Earth continue to be a brilliant blue jewel in the universe, for in its heart will be locked the priceless treasure of the diversity of the species, and man will have recognized his duty to cherish every single one. |

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| Myths and Legends  Welcome visitors into the world of fantasy of myths and legends where heroes have faced mighty armies armed only with their sword, their shield and their courage. Though, we will focus here on dragons, many legends and myths displayed dragons as evil creatures and some other as a representation of good. |
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| Legend is a type of folk narrative. In some ways, legends resemble myths. But myths typically relate events from a remote time long ago and deal with such religious subjects as gods and goddesses and the origin of the universe. Legends are set in the present or in the historical past. Although legends may have religious implications, most are not religious in nature. Legends distort the truth, but they are based on real people or events. |
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| Every society produces legends. They constitute an unofficial or folk history by reflecting the attitudes and values of the group that creates them. In addition, legend heroes possess exaggerated attributes--positive or negative--of special significance to a society. For exemple, many legends tell about dragons to be a representation of evil while holy Knights (or Paladins) represented pure righteousness. Such legends emphasized the courage and fairness of these legendary heroes and keep people in the path of good. |

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| *To ride abroad redressing human wrongs, To speak no slander, no, nor listen to it, To honor his own word as if his god's, To lead sweet lives in purest chastity, To love one maiden only [...] And worship her by years of noble deeds...* -- credo of the Knights of the Round Table |

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| The majority of societies have both local and national legends. Local legends tell about heroes of a particular ethnic group, occupation, or region. For example, John Henry is a legendary hero of African Americans, and Casey Jones has the same rank among railroad engineers. National legends are shared by an entire people. Many British men, women, and children take pride in the achievements described in the tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Urban legends are an increasingly common form of folk narrative. They reflect the anxieties of modern urban living. |

Who started the myths of dragons?

There is no one universal accepted theory to who started the myth. All we know is that the dragon shows up in almost every culture around the world. So how is it possible that one group created this and spread it when back in those ages, there was no way to globally communicate? It just isn't. However, one of the leading theories is that the dragon was a creation from our ancestors. It is believed to be a combination of the three biggest predators of the time. The talons and wings came from birds of prey, the scales from snakes, and the facial structure and teeth came from several large carnivorous mammals.  
  
Read more: <http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Who_started_the_myths_of_dragons#ixzz1uIGqDdJ6>

How many mythologies are there for the dragon?

There are dragon mythologies that exist in almost every major culture around the world.

Mythological names of dragons.

* The Leviathan
* Typhon
* Lucifer
* Roman mud dragon
* Jormungander
* The Midgar Serpent

Do dragons exist?

There are different opinions on the answer to this question. Some people believe they once existed, but most feel they are works of fantasy. Discovery Channel made a documentary style movie called *Dragon's World: A Fantasy Made Real*. This movie actually caused confusion in some people who thought this was a real documentary presented by Discovery with actual facts. However, this docudrama was made for entertainment purposes only. The scientists were played by actors. It was advertised as an "alternate history".   
  
There has never been a confirmed case of a dragon remains being found. There have been claims, but they have been found as incorrect or fabricated thus far. There are still other ancient reptilian skeletons that have yet to be identified. Many dragon lovers still hold out hopes that these could be them.   
  
Some people feel that the fact that dragons are known in the history of almost every area of the world in much more than a coincidence. There are Asian versions of dragons, which are wise and benevolent creatures. According to some European folklore, dragons were eating maidens and then being slayed by knights in retribution. There were American Indian tribes who had stories of fire breathing reptiles burning fields and flying away with buffalo. Dragons are depicted in ancient art from all over the world. Many of these societies had no contact with each other.   
  
There are some that say there have been many fantastical creatures in this world. Some of these people believe that dragons, unicorns, and other creatures are highly intelligent and sensitive beings who are in hiding from humans and may come back some day. There are others that say there is no definite proof because they do not, and never have, existed.   
  
Dragons have filled stories from the times of King Arthur and Saint George to modern times. They are in popular culture. Some best sellers of our time, *Eragon* and *Harry Potter*, are full of dragons.   
  
So what is the answer? If you are asked on your science exams, no. The official scientific community as a whole has not proven or accepted the existence of dragons. If you are asked as a matter of personal belief, then it is really up to you.

Do dragons exist or are they simply myths?

\Dragons are relative to dinosaurs. Scientists believe some dinosaurs may still be alive, so dragons may be real, but mostly not.

Why Do Chinese Believe In Dragons?

Chinese dragon is a mythical creature in Chinese mythology and folklore, with mythic counterparts among Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Western and Turkic dragons. In Chinese art, dragons are typically portrayed as long, scaled, serpentine creatures with four legs. In yin and yang terminology, a dragon is yang and complements a yin fenghuang ("Chinese phoenix").

In contrast to European dragons, which are considered evil, Chinese dragons traditionally symbolize potent and auspicious powers, particularly control over water, rainfall, hurricane, and floods. The dragon is also a symbol of power, strength, and good luck. With this, the Emperor of China usually used the dragon as a symbol of his imperial power.

In Chinese daily language, excellent and outstanding people are compared to the dragon while incapable people with no achievements are compared with other, disesteemed creatures, such as the worm. A number of Chinese proverbs and idioms feature references to the dragon, for example: "Hoping one's son will become a dragon"