Dragons: From Deities to Evil Serpents

Sophia Lucas

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Dragons: From deities to evil serpents
Sophia Lucas
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St. George and the Dragon

- The story of St. George and the Dragon only reached mass circulation in 1483 when it was printed in a book called *The Golden Legend* by William Caxton.
- The dragon is associated with the devil.

Fafnir

- Fafnir appeared in written form in the 13th century in the *Volsunga Saga*.
- Creatures of evil, greed.
- Untamed beasts.
- Represent the divide of absolute good and evil.
- Poisonous beasts.
- Protecting treasure.

Chinese Dragon

- A symbol of great creative and supernatural power.
  - Always grasping the pearl of wisdom.
  - A deity, royalty.
  - Ancestor.
- Preciousness associated with the dragon.
- Association with water.
- Gifted with superior intelligence.
- Taming of water for livelihood of peasants.

Fafnir was once a man, and turned into a dragon when he started protecting the treasure.

Fafnir is killed.

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Wingless in appearance.

Norse/ Germanic mythology:

- Lives near the water.
- Fafnir was once a man, and turned into a dragon when he started protecting the treasure.
- Fafnir is killed.

Christian mythology:

- The dragon is associated with the devil.
- The dragon/element is tamed, not killed.

St. George and the Dragon

- The dragon in Chinese culture does not originate from a certain myth, but it first appears in the mythological Huang Di or Yellow Emperor’s reign (26th century BCE).
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