



Chinese Mythology

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神话



What is it?

这这这是什么？

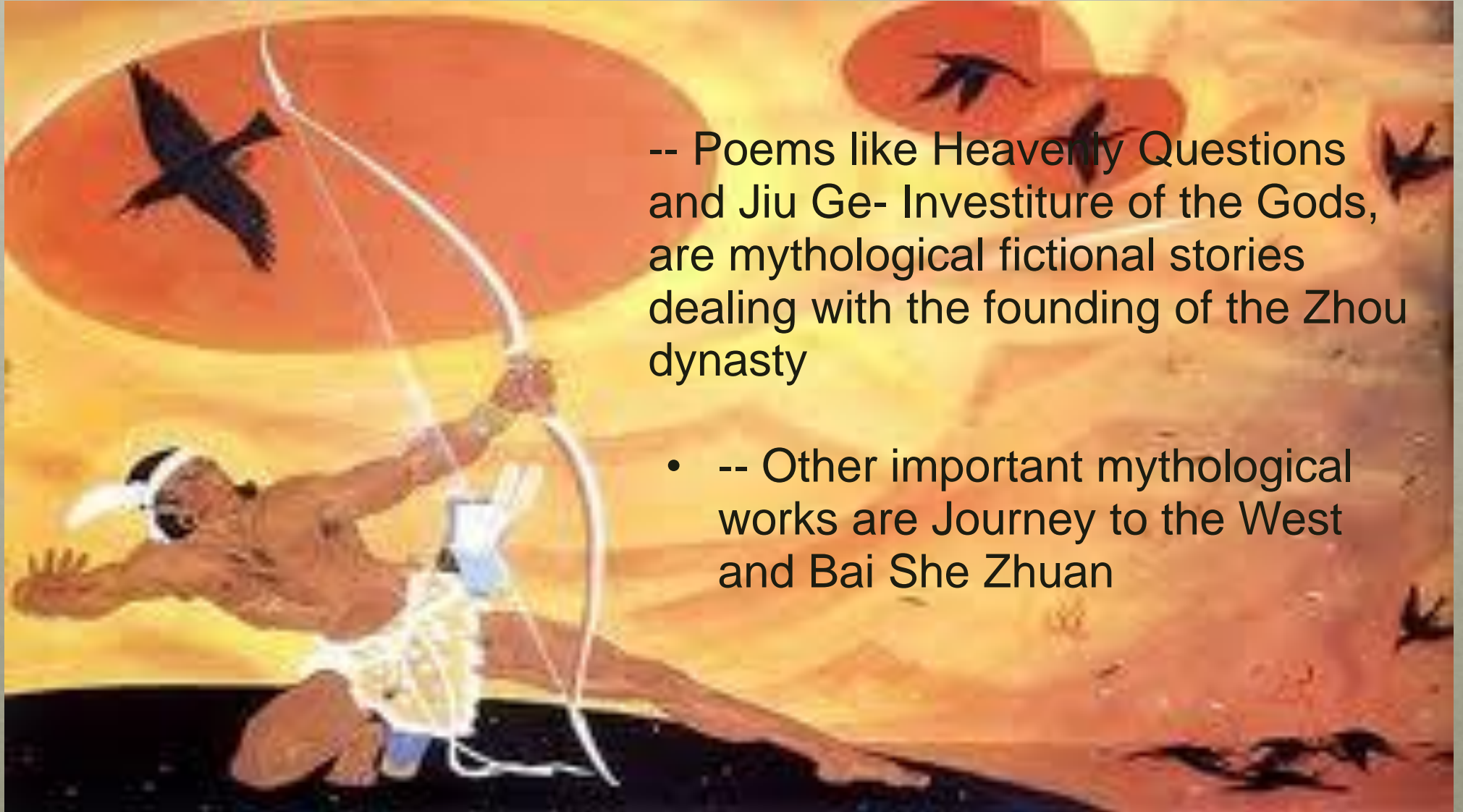
- **Chinese mythology is a collection of cultural history, folktales, and religions that have been passed down through generations.**
- **Chinese mythology is passed down through speech or written words.**
- **Much of Chinese mythology is about creation myths (how the world and people were created) and gods**
- **Many myths concern the creation myths (创世神话) of the Chinese state and culture.**

How they were spread

他们是如何传播的

- Chinese mythology began in the 12th century BCE.
- The myths and legends were passed down orally for thousands of years until they were written in books like the Shan Hai Jing (山海经), which means Classic of the mountain and Seas
- Other myths were passed down in the form of songs and theater.
- Many myths were in the forms of poems(诗)

Examples of Chinese Myths



-- Poems like Heavenly Questions and Jiu Ge- Investiture of the Gods, are mythological fictional stories dealing with the founding of the Zhou dynasty

- -- Other important mythological works are Journey to the West and Bai She Zhuan

Creation Myth of China

http://www.mythicjourneys.org/bigmyth/myths/english/2_chinese_full1.htm

- Recap: The world was created from an egg. Inside the egg was yin and yang and they were constantly fighting. Yin and Yang fought so much the egg cracked and out came a dragon called Pan-gu. The dragon grew 10 feet a day until the sky was 30,000 miles above the ground. When he stopped growing, he created the mountains, river, and flat lands. One day he grew old and died, when he died his blood became the rivers and one eye became the sun and the other became the moon. Then a half-dragon goddess born after the dragon died was lonely and made people out of mud.

THE END

Feng Shen Bang *The creation of the gods*



- Yu Di (玉皇 or 玉帝 or Jade Emperor), appears in literature after the establishment of Taoism in China.
- Tian (天, or Heaven) appears in Chinese mythology in 700 BCE. Heaven is very important in some Chinese myths
- Shang Di (上帝) appears in mythology early as the Shang dynasty. Is one of the first gods or heroes in Chinese Mythology.

Important People and Things

An important message in Chinese mythology is the moral issues which remind people of their cultural identities.

Importance of the Dragon in Mythology

- The dragon(龙) is a very important animal in Chinese Mythology
- Believed to be the most powerful and divine creature.
- Chinese people believe that dragons are the controller of all water.
- The dragon symbolizes great power and is supportive of gods and heroes in Chinese mythology.



Myth of How Dragons are Created

龙是如何创建的神话

There is an ancient Chinese myth that there is a Dragon's Gate located at the top of a waterfall cascading from a legendary mountain, and if a carp successfully makes the jump through the Dragon Gate, it is transformed into a powerful dragon. Many carp swim upstream against the river's strong current, but few are capable or brave enough for the final leap over the waterfall. A Chinese dragon's large, conspicuous scales indicate its origin from a carp. The Chinese dragon has long been an auspicious symbol of great and benevolent, magical power.

Dragons were mythical creatures.

lóng shì shénhuà shēngwù 。

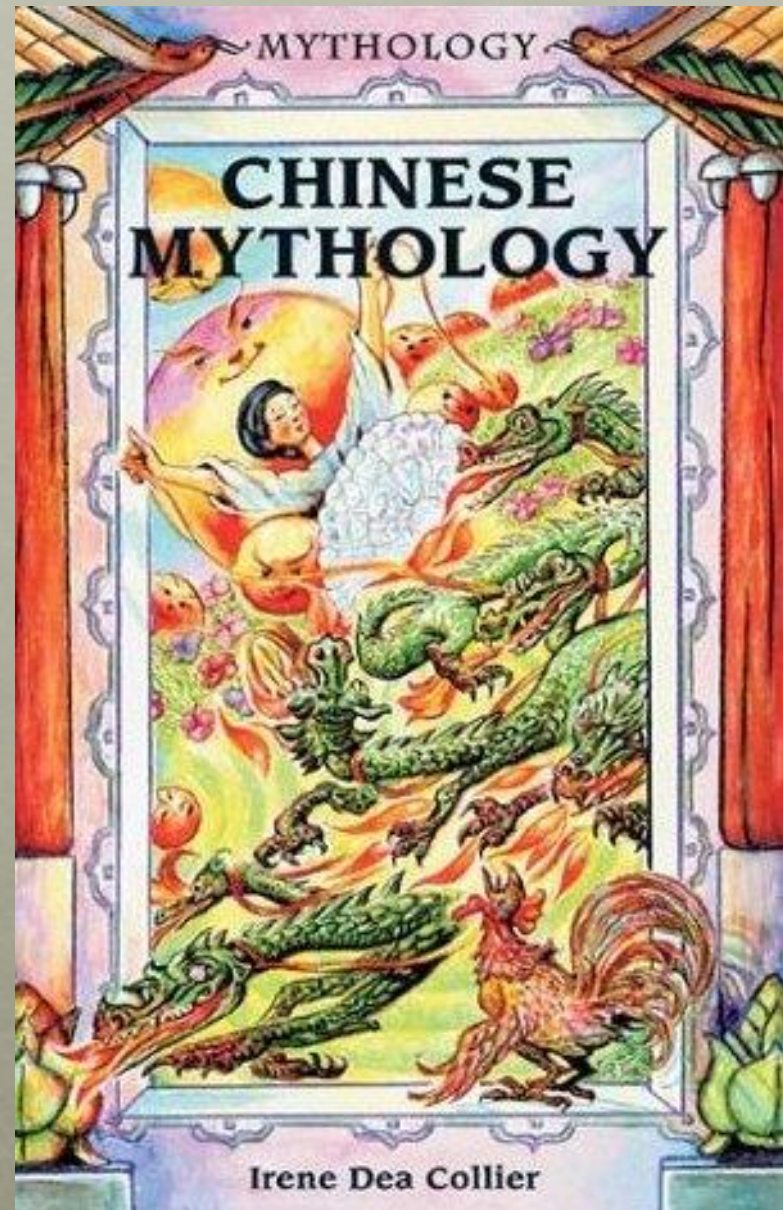
Importance of Religion in Mythology

在神话宗教的重要性

- Religions and belief has changed the myths of China.
- Fear of outsiders have changed many of the myths and changed the myths so that they do not include outsiders. Happened during the medieval times.
- Some myths demonstrate fights between the different beliefs in China.
- An example would be the Monkey King, which reflects the conflicts between the Taoists and the Buddhists.

Chinese Mythology 中国神话

- The ancient Chinese taught their children good behavior by using folk tales to make a point.
- When the Mongols ruled ancient China, they brought their folk tales with them.
- Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism also influenced Chinese myths



Confucianism 儒

- In the fifth century B.C., Confucius (kǒngzǐ) talked about his ideas, which included fulfilling obligations and keeping proper conduct. Although Confucianism is not a religion, its influence is basic in Chinese ideas about people's behavior and how government should work and greatly



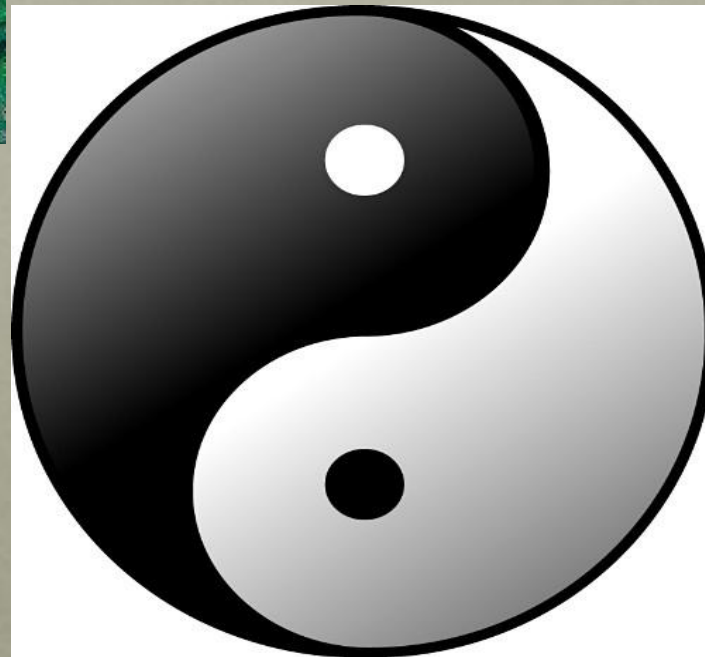
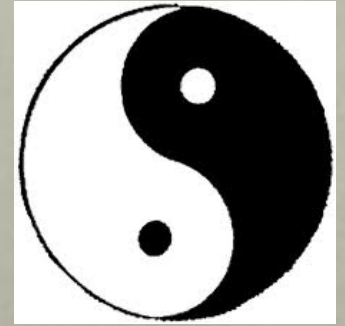
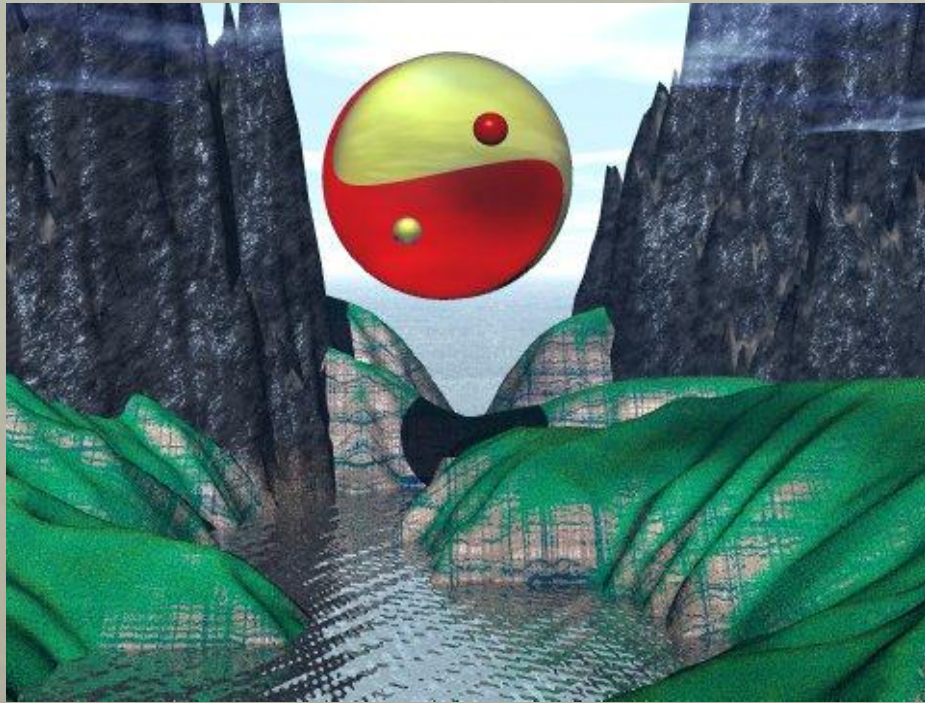
Taoism 道教

A main idea of Taoist practices is the search for immortality.

Taoism searched for balance and believed that change cannot be forced, only experienced.

Between 600–300 B.C. Taoism emerged. At first, it was a philosophy that encouraged people to seek harmony with the Tao, or the Way, a nature force.

Later, it evolved into a religious system involving many gods, goddesses, spirits, ghosts, demons, magical powers, and the quest for immortality.



Many Chinese myths talk about the meeting of rivers and the yin and yang.