

# Nine Sons of the Dragon

## 龍生九子

Written by Xue Lin and illustrated by Jian Zhi Qiu  
Traditional calligraphy by Muhe Zhao and Wen Feng You

Animal Signs In Everyday Sayings  
生肖的趣味用語

文：林靈

圖：邱建誌

英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

書法：趙慕鶴、游文鋒

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## 1. Nine Sons of the Dragon 龍生九子

Bi Xi : The All-powerful Brother 夔夔

Chi Wen : The Fireman Brother 螭吻

Pu Lao: The Music-lover Brother 蒲牢

Bi An: The Law-keeper Brother 狴犴

Tao Tie: The Food-lover Brother 饕餮

Ba Xia: The Canal-keeper Brother 蚣蝮

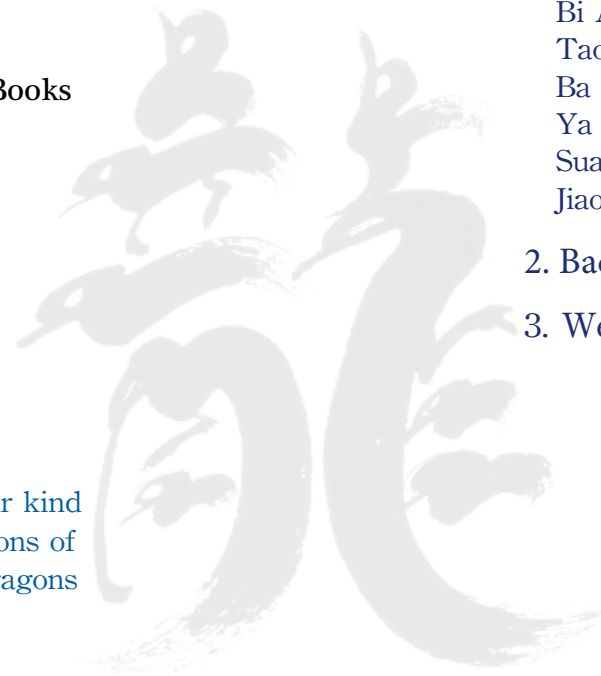
Ya Zi: The Warrior Brother 睚眦

Suan Ni: The Buddhist Brother 狻猊

Jiao Tu : The Temple-guardian Brother 椒圖

## 2. Background to the book 龍的文化

## 3. We all have our own goodness 結語





## 1. Nine Sons of the Dragon


There is an old Chinese legend about a man called Liu Po Wen. Liu Po Wen had once been a god in the Heaven, but when the ruler of the Heaven, Emperor Jade, saw how the Chinese people were suffering under bad rulers, he sent Liu Po Wen down to the human world to help the people.

Liu Po Wen asked the Dragon King for more help, so the King sent his nine sons down to earth to help as well. The Dragon King's nine sons all looked very different from each other and they had different skills. The nine sons helped Liu Po Wen to drive out the bad rulers. Liu Po Wen became the prime minister of Emperor Zhu Yuang Zhang, who was the first Ming emperor, and the nine sons then helped the new emperor to make his empire strong and safe.

### 一、龍生九子

「龍生九子」的傳說由來已久，明朝李東陽的《懷麓堂集》、楊慎的《升庵集》，都有記載。相傳劉伯溫本是一位天神，元朝末年天下大亂，玉皇大帝命令劉伯溫下到凡間，輔佐朱元璋。

劉伯溫請龍王幫忙，龍王就派出九個兒子協助劉伯溫。龍王這九個不同形貌的兒子，各有專長，個個法力無邊神通廣大，跟隨劉伯溫幫朱元璋打下明朝江山。



When the old emperor died, the dragon sons helped his youngest son to become the new emperor. Of course the new emperor wanted the nine sons of the Dragon King to stay and help him too, but they didn't want to stay on earth any longer.

Then the emperor had an idea to trick the dragon sons. He said to the oldest dragon brother, Bi Xi, 'You are enormously strong and can carry thousands of kilos' weight. Before you and your brothers go back to the Heaven, please could you move my father's great stone column of glory.'

朱元璋死後，他們又幫助燕王朱棣（允一、）奪得皇位，成為明成祖。明成祖想永遠把龍王的九個兒子留在身邊幫助他，龍王的九個兒子不肯答應。

於是明成祖就用計對龍頭老大鼉屬說：你力大無窮，能馱千斤萬斤重物，只要你能馱走先祖的神功聖德碑，我就放你們返回天庭。

The oldest brother at once lifted the heavy stone column onto his back; but with all his strength he could not move it a single centimetre! On the column of glory were written all the great deeds of the first Ming emperor and carved on it also were the grand seals of two other emperors, so the stone had its own powerful magic that could even control some gods. It trapped poor Bi Xi as though he was in a prison and he couldn't move freely anymore.

老 大毫不猶豫地把石碑馱在背上，可是用盡法力卻寸步難行，原來神功聖德碑記載真龍天子一世的功德，又有明太祖、明成祖兩代皇帝的玉璽印章，傳說能鎮住四方神鬼，老大被鎮住了，無法自由行動。





其他八個兄弟不忍拋下大哥離去，商量結果，決定留在人間，但永不現身，也不幫助明成祖。劉伯溫知道這件事後，便讓留在人間的九個龍王兒子，各管一個職務，以流傳千古。

不過，龍王的九個兒子究竟叫什麼名字？老大、老二……到老九的順序怎麼排呢？眾說紛紜，一直沒有確定的說法，根據明朝楊慎的《升庵集》，「九子」分別為：

The other eight brothers could not bear to leave their older brother and go back to the Heaven without him, so they loyally decided to stay with him in the human world. However, they refused to help the emperor because of his trick and they disappeared forever from the imperial court. When Liu Po Wen learned what had happened to poor Bi Xi he gave each dragon son a job to do in the human world so that people would remember them forever.

Who were the dragon sons? A famous book written in the Ming Dynasty tells us their stories.





## The All-powerful Brother: Bi Xi

**B**i Xi looks like a huge tortoise with a dragon's head. He is very strong and is happy to carry heavy things, so his statue is often used in buildings to hold up stone pillars. Although Bi Xi looks very like a tortoise, you can see he is really a dragon because he has a row of teeth which a tortoise doesn't have, and his shell is different too.

**I**n ancient legend Bi Xi was very wild, but he was tamed by a legendary emperor, Da Yu. He helped the emperor to control the floods of the Yellow River and he also carried the Emperor's stone of great deeds. Later emperors remembered what Da Yu did and so they wrote their great deeds on big stone plates and made statues of Bi Xi to support these stones. Therefore, Bi Xi is also called 'Stone Tortoise' and you may see his statue in many places today.

### 1. 鼉 鼉 ㄊㄨˊ ㄊㄨˊ ㄊㄨˊ

**形** 狀像烏龜，因力氣大，喜歡背重的東西，常被當作石碑的底座，石碑下方龍頭龜身的動物就是牠。鼉和龜十分相像，不過鼉有一排牙齒，龜卻沒有；背部甲殼的甲片數目和形狀也不同。

傳說鼉在上古時代，常馱著三山五嶽，在江河湖海興風作浪，後來被大禹收服，幫忙治水有功，大禹怕牠又到處亂跑撒野，所以搬來特大號的石碑，上面刻上鼉幫忙治水的功績，叫鼉背負著，因此後世豎立石碑，尤其是皇帝或王公大臣所書刻的字或文告的石碑，就用石雕的鼉當基座，所以也稱為「石龜」。