

Ledgends of Animal Signs  
生肖傳說

文：林靈／圖：葉晉傑  
英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

*The Dragon Tales*

## **The Chinese Dragons**

說·東方龍

Written by Xue Lin  
Illustrated by Jin Jie Ye

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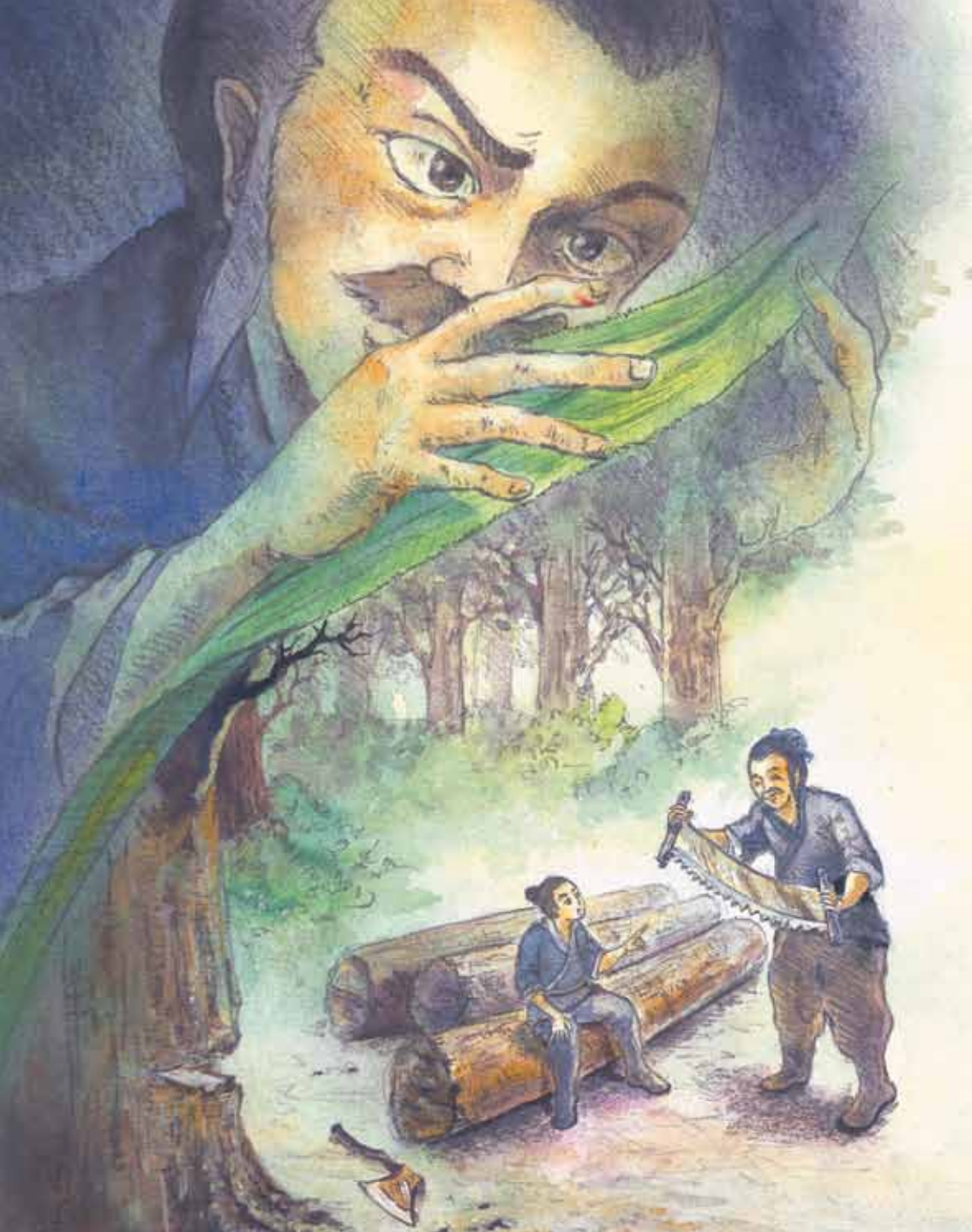


## Lu Ban and the Dragon

In ancient China, during the time known as the Spring and Autumn Period, there was a very clever carpenter called Lu Ban. When he was still a little boy Lu Ban liked to watch things carefully. He saw how the grown-ups did their work, how the cows ate the grass and even how the birds flew. He thought about things carefully too. He often made clever and useful things. When he grew up, Lu Ban became the most famous carpenter.

### 魯班與龍

在中國古代春秋時期，有個很厲害的木匠叫做魯班。魯班從小就很喜歡觀察，他不僅觀察大人如何做事，連牛兒吃草、鳥兒飛翔的情形，也都看得很仔細。他不僅認真地看，用心地想，還常常做出精巧有用的東西，因此成為當時最出色的木匠。



One day Lu Ban took his apprentice up to the nearby mountains to log for wood. By accident Lu Ban's hand was cut by the Chinese Silvergrass. He then realised that the edge of the grass was like a sharp blade. Lu Ban used a long piece of metal to make an edge exactly like the Chinese Silvergrass.

Lu Ban and his apprentice each held one end of the metal to slice a big tree from side to side and they found the metal worked very well to cut the tree. This is how the saw was invented.

Lu Ban's creativity and hard work helped him to invent many useful tools and other things and he became one of the most famous craftsmen in ancient China. He has been honoured as 'the Father of Craftsmanship' for over two thousand years.

有一天，魯班帶著學徒上山伐木，一不小心，手被芒草的葉子割傷了。他發現葉緣居然像刀子一樣鋒利，因此，魯班就用長鐵片，做成像芒草葉緣的樣子。

然後，他和學徒分別握住長鐵片的一端，來來回回反覆地拉著，不久就把大樹鋸斷了，「鋸子」就是這樣發明出來的。

魯班這種積極創造的精神，使他創造發明了許多實用的東西，成為中國古代手藝精巧的工匠。兩千多年以來，他一直被土木工匠們尊稱為「祖師爺」，受到後人的崇敬。



An abbot came one day from a temple to look for Lu Ban and asked him to restore the crumbling old building. Without hesitation Lu Ban agreed. The temples were built in a very simple way during that time, but Lu Ban wanted to build the most beautiful building in the world. He started to look for a good example of a perfect building, but without much success.

When Lu Ban had nearly given up, an old man told him that the Dragon King's palace was very grand and beautiful and that it had a roof like a rainbow, pillars made of white jade and grand doors decorated with precious crystals, so the palace was dazzlingly splendid. In order to build such a wonderful building, Lu Ban decided to borrow the palace from the Dragon King of the East Sea.

有個廟裡的住持，跑來找魯班，想將殘破老舊的廟宇重新建造裝修，魯班一口就答應了，當時的廟宇幾乎都是非常簡單的房屋樣式，魯班心裡想著：既然要建造，那就要建一座世上最美的房子，於是他四處打聽，但是怎麼都找不到完美的建築做參考。

正當魯班感到失落的時候，有一位老先生告訴他：龍宮宏偉壯麗，有彩虹的屋簷、白玉的樑柱，以及晶鑽鑲嵌的大門等，非常耀眼輝煌。為了建造一座美輪美奐的房子，魯班決定向東海龍王借龍宮做樣本。



「借你可以，」龍王說：「但只能借你三天，時間一到就要馬上歸還」。「好！沒問題！」於是魯班就請小龍、蟹將、蝦兵、魚卒幫忙把龍宮搬回去。轉眼之間三天期限就快要到了，魯班卻只完成屋子的骨幹，細部都還未裝飾呢。突然，妙計一生，魯班便把龍宮釘牢在地上。

‘Fine, you can borrow my palace,’ the Dragon King agreed, ‘but for three days only, and you must return my palace on time!’ ‘All right! No problem!’ Lu Ban replied. Then he asked for help from the little dragon and crab generals, and from the lobster and fish soldiers to move the Dragon King’s palace to his own place. The three days went by so quickly and Lu Ban had only finished the frame of his new building, and no decorations had been made at all. All of a sudden he had an idea and he nailed the Dragon King’s palace tightly to the ground.



第三天夜裡，風雨交加，龍王派小龍率領蟹將、蝦兵、魚卒前來搬回龍宮，不過，因龍宮已被釘牢，怎麼樣也搬不動，水族們急得團團轉，小龍更急得跳腳，有的緊纏著石柱，有的爬上屋頂求助，忙了整夜，依舊徒勞無功，很快的太陽上升，天都亮了，小龍們都給熾熱的太陽曬乾了。

魯班看到小龍盤在柱子、趴在屋頂的姿態很美，靈感一來，便依樣裝飾房子，所以這座房子的屋頂、屋簷及石柱上，就雕刻著各種不同姿態的龍。

On the third night, a great storm arrived; the Dragon King had sent the little dragons with the crab generals and lobster and fish soldiers to take the palace back. But the palace had been nailed so firmly into the ground that they could not even make it move. The whole army was in such chaos and the little dragons jumped up and down with worry. Some of them curled around the pillars and some of them climbed up on to the roof to find help. After such a busy night, however, still nothing could be done to lift the palace. Very soon the sun rose at break of day and it dried out all those sea animals and little dragons.

Lu Ban saw the beautiful postures of the little dragons on the pillars and on the roof and he was inspired to decorate his building with what he had seen. That's why even now people can see dragons with different postures on the roofs, eaves and pillars of buildings.

