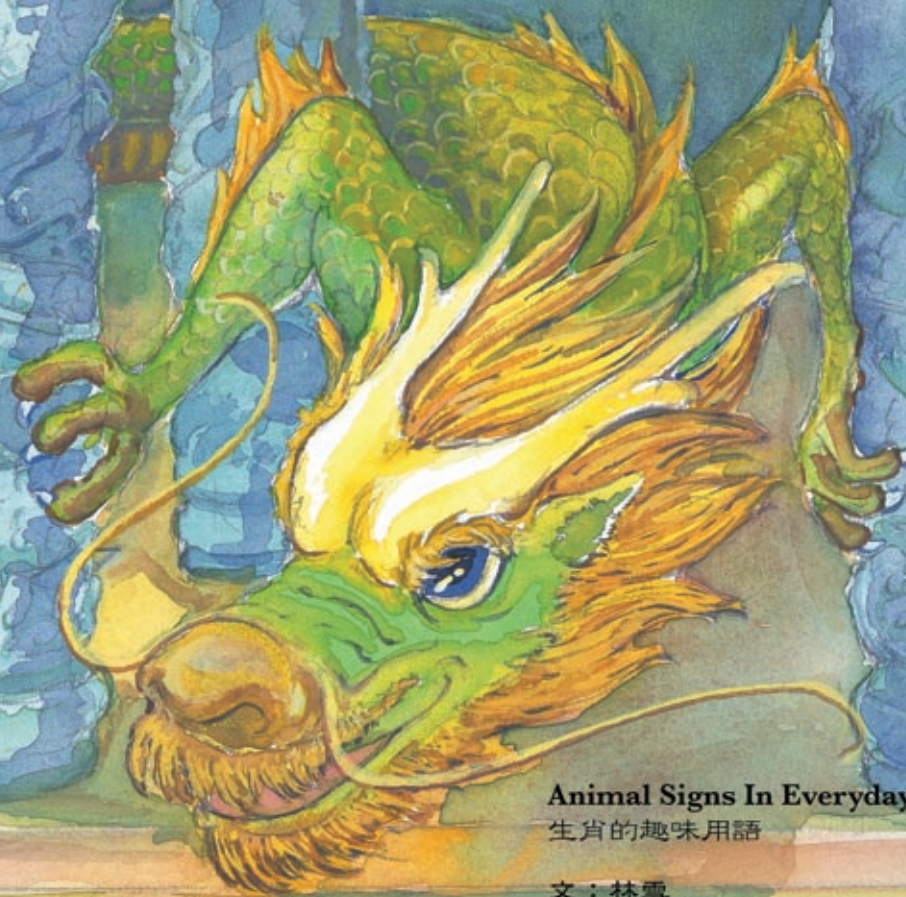


# Dragons In Our Life

## 龍語隨形

Written by Xue Lin and illustrated by Jian Zhi Qiu



**Animal Signs In Everyday Sayings**

生肖的趣味用語

文：林雪

圖：邱建誌

英譯：胡素燕、羅伊·皮爾斯

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### 無所不在的龍

**自**古以來人們日常生活中習慣以龍命名。訂婚時，男方送給女方印有龍鳳花紋的糕餅，叫「龍鳳餅」；結婚證書或喜帖上，多印有「龍鳳呈祥」這四個字，所以結婚證書或喜帖也叫「龍鳳帖」。

在傳統節慶中，元宵節要「舞龍燈」，端午節要「賽龍船」，華人相信這會吸引來真龍並且帶來好運。



### *Dragons are Everywhere*

**C**hinese people use dragon names for many things in their daily lives. When a Chinese boy and girl decide to get married, the boy may give the girl a box of little cakes which have images of dragons and phoenixes on them. The cakes are called Dragon Phoenix Cakes and are symbols of good luck. Invitation cards for weddings often have the words 'Dragon Phoenix Give Happiness' and these words are put on marriage certificates too.

**T**he Chinese have many festivals each year when everyone has a holiday and enjoys the fun. At the Lantern Festival beautiful Dragon Lamps are lit up at night to bring good luck. Another festival is the Dragon Boat Festival in the spring when long boats with splendid dragon heads are paddled in races. In old China people thought this would attract the dragons and also bring good luck.





**龍**也常常跟水連結：抽水灌溉的水車叫「龍骨車」，噴水救火的消防車，叫「水龍車」。自來水管出水的控鈕叫「水龍頭」。「龍捲風」古人認為是「神龍下凡」，如果發生在海上，會把海水吸到空中，叫「龍吸水」。

花園中的植物有龍葵、龍舌蘭、龍柏；  
菜市場有龍蝦、龍眼、龍鬚菜。



**D**ragons like water, so things to do with water have dragon names. In Taiwan simple pumps were used to take water from the rivers. These pumps looked like the skeleton of a dragon crawling out of the water so the pumps were called Dragon Bone Waterwheels. Early fire engines were Water Dragon Carts and water taps were Water Dragon Taps. Cyclones may be called Dragon Swirling Winds because the ancient Chinese believed the twisting winds were dragons flying down from the sky.

**I**n a garden you may find Dragon Sunflowers, Dragon Tongue Orchids or Dragon Junipers. In a restaurant, lobster is called Dragon Shrimp, longan is known as Dragon Eye and asparagus as Dragon Whisker Vegetable.



### *Wise Dragon Proverbs*

In the old legends, dragons were very wise so there are also many wise old sayings or proverbs about dragons which are used to give advice in people's lives today.

**T**he dragon's eye sees pearls, the phoenix's eye sees treasure, and the water buffalo's eye sees grass.

**T**his means that some people can see what has true value for everyone, such as art or fine buildings, but other people see only what is useful for themselves and for their own needs. However, for the buffalo the grass is of more value than pearls.

#### 龍的諺語、俗話

因為龍有許多優點與才能，因此許多流傳至今的有趣的諺語或俗話都會提到龍，用來提醒人們如何生活，並了解人與人之間不同的生活模式。以下為節選出來的幾個有趣案例。

**龍** 眼識珠，鳳眼識寶，水牛眼識青草。

**眼** 力不同，有的識貨，有的不識貨，比喻每個人的眼光不同，對事物的認識也有差別。







**E**ven a shrimp can tease a dragon in the shallow water; even a dog can bully a tiger on a plain.

**D**ragons can live freely in the boundless sea, but if a dragon happens to be stuck in shallow water where it cannot swim properly, then even a little shrimp may laugh at it. So too the tiger should stay in his home in the hills where he can hide among the plants in the jungle; once he leaves the forest, even the wild dogs can bully him on open ground. On the other hand, the proverb: 'The dragon returns to the sea, the tiger goes to distant mountains' advises people to look for the best place to use their special strengths and skills.

**龍** 游淺水遭蝦戲，虎落平原被犬欺。

**龍** 住在大海，一到淺水中，蝦也會戲弄牠；虎住在山林，離開森林到平原，狗也會欺負牠，比喻權貴、英雄失勢不得志時，常會受小人的氣；或比喻英雄無用武之地。相反地，「龍歸大海，虎入深山」，形容可在自己的地盤上施展本領。







**M**any dragons send no rain.

**I**n old China the dragon kings were thought to control the rain and a dragon king lived in each river and sea. Every year the farmers checked the calendar to see how many dragon kings were looking after the rain that year. Strangely, if there were a lot of dragon kings in a year, then the farmers expected there would not be much rain; each of those dragon kings thought that one of the others would send the rain so nobody did it. The proverb tells us that if there are too many people to do a job then nothing will be done.

**龍**多不治水。

**傳**說龍王掌管下雨的工作，中國人相信，凡是有水的地方就有龍王。每年人們總要翻開黃曆，看今年幾龍治水？龍愈多，表示雨水愈不好，因為龍太多，你推給我，我推給你，最後事情沒人去做，「龍多不治水」、「龍多就旱」的諺語也是這樣來的。比喻凡事只要負責人一多，就互相推諉、依賴，導致無人負責而無法成事。