

A FIELD GUIDE TO:
DRAGONS, SERPENTS, &
WYRMS OF THE WORLD



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SERPENTS,
& WYRMS
OF THE WORLD

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The image shows a full-page background of aged, stained, and torn paper. The paper has a warm, yellowish-tan hue with various brown and reddish stains, particularly along the edges and in the upper right corner. The texture appears rough and weathered. A horizontal white band runs across the middle of the page, containing the text.

For my hatchling, Cali.

Introduction

Dragons, in a sense, are everywhere. Cultures in every corner of the world have their own versions of the dragon legend. It's hard to cover a whole lot of ground on Earth without passing someplace with a local dragon tale. If all of them were real, there'd be nowhere to hide. Not that you'd always want to hide from them. In some places they're actually rather decent sorts.

Of course, not all of these dragons look like the four-legged, winged, horn-headed reptile that comes to many of our minds when we think of them (see Western Dragon). Outside of Eurasia, many local dragons appear much like giant snakes (see Quetzalcoatl and others). This may seem far afield of the dragons of the West, but in fact it's how even they started out; the dragons of the ancient Greeks – who gave us the word, as “drakon” – were in fact giant serpents (see Cadmus' Dragon). The legs and wings and polite conversation and such gained in popularity later. Even the fiery breath may have serpentine origins; early dragons were venomous, like a snake, and then later so venomous that their very breath was poison, and then later this poisonous breath became so dangerous that it might as well be actual fire. And then it was!

Dragons have evolved, is the point. In fact, if two different people tell the story of the same dragon, it is likely that the dragon will be described in two different ways, at least. With all this changeability, then, what is a dragon? What stays the same?

For our purposes, let's call it this: A dragon is a legendary reptile that is large and has powers beyond those of an ordinary animal. One of these last two traits can be deficient, especially if the other one rises to take up the slack; it can be small but loaded with powers to the point of the bizarre (see Cockatrice), or huge but with not a lot special about it apart from its hugeness (see Jormungandr), which is of course enough.

Beyond this, though, all bets are off. There are dragons that are the Devil (see Dragon of Revelations) and dragons that are the benevolent Creator (see Galeru). There are dragons of little power (see Book Wyrms) and dragons that threaten to extinguish the very Sun itself (see Apep). And dragons that are anything in between. A Serbian folktale features a hero who must beat his dragon enemy by obtaining a horse that is better than the horse the dragon rides. Because the dragon, you see, apparently rides a horse? 13th-century scholar Roger Bacon was concerned that Ethiopians were going to Europe and stealing their dragons so as to use the dragons' body parts in medicine. Dragons can fill a bewildering variety of roles.

But though even specific dragon legends contain a great deal of variance, there are things that are consistent, and that define each individual dragon or dragon type. And it is by looking at these that we are able to tell one dragon from another, and hence, produce a field guide to assist the on-the-go modern professional with their dragon identification needs.

We present each of our dragons by its definitive traits, and also sometimes by its weirdest, most interesting traits, that might appear in relatively few of its stories. This is a book on dragons, after all, and so perhaps we may be forgiven for erring on the side of the imaginative.

We have also selected an effectively random cross-section of the world's boundless store of dragons. Boy oh boy are there more of them.

Why is that, do you suppose? Why is this idea a global phenomenon, when other perfectly amazing mythical creatures, like gryphons or Seminole owl-vampires, are confined to just a culture or two? There are a lot of theories.

Some believe that dragons are the result of the accidental discovery of dinosaur bones worldwide, explained as supernatural creatures in the dark, sad days before people knew about dinosaurs. (Interestingly, in many dragon myths the creatures are ancient, and had to be defeated before civilization could flourish, much as the huge, saurian dinosaurs had to go extinct for us to evolve, though they obligingly did so 65 million years early.) Some believe that dragons come from our ancestral memories of the dinosaurs, as the predators of our shrewlike Mesozoic forebears – though as it becomes increasingly apparent that the mammal-eating dinosaurs were luxuriously feathered, this seems less likely. Some believe that they are the exaggerated echo of some ancient, worldwide serpent cult; there really isn't a whole lot of independent evidence for such an implausibly global organization but that doesn't stop some people. Some believe that humans are just so afraid of snakes that this was inevitable. And some believe that it is an ineffable mystery, a question with no solution.

Regardless of why they are so prevalent, humanity loves its dragons, and that is because dragons are awesome.

*Matt Kessen
January 2017*

Guide to the Guide

Other Names: Other names for the same creature, or major alternate spellings; sometimes, closely related creatures.

Culture: The people who first described the dragon.

Range: Where the dragon is said to reside.

Frequency: Unique means there's just one of these; other frequencies are self-explanatory, and perhaps a little arbitrary.

Size: "Small" is smaller than a grown human, and "People-Sized" is about the same size as one. "Big" is between People-Sized and the size of a horse or thereabouts. "Huge" is anywhere between horse-sized and the size of, let's say, Brooklyn. (Most dragons, whose size is not made specific, fall into this broad category.) And "Gargantuan" is bigger still – the world-serpents and the dragons whose wings cover the sky.

Identification: The specific means by which a dragon may be distinguished from other dragons, just by looking at them.

Role: Dragons occupied several roles in their stories; often, a single dragon would fill more than one role, especially if it appeared in several stories, but we're assigning one to each for simplicity:

Many dragons are Primordial Enemies – ancient serpents that must be overcome for civilization itself to thrive, globally or locally. They're the main villains of their stories; the "final bosses," as the kids might say.

Wandering Monsters are similar but less important – usually just one among many monsters in a story, or the main monsters in stories of less epic scope. Guardians are like this also, but more expressly stationary, and watch over a treasure of some kind.

Apocalypse Beasts are monsters that will rise to destroy when the world comes to an end.

Deities are actual gods, good, evil, or otherwise; Semi-Deities are lesser gods.

Heraldic Beasts are monsters designed specifically for heraldry, coats-of-arms, family crests, and the like, though they will also appear in stories as Wandering Monsters or Primordial Enemies. Artistic Motifs are dragons that only appear in art, with no stories attached.

Chthonic Horrors are beasts from the deep parts of the Earth, occupying the hidden depths of reality itself.

Hidden Animals are ordinary animals that remain concealed from the eyes of humanity.

And Comic Relief dragons are jokes.

Facts: Other things you need to know about the creature, not covered by the above.

4. Drey Goch

will the second plague that is in thy domain, behold it
is a danger and a more danger of a foreign race is fighting
with it, and striving to overcome it. and therefore close
make a fearful outcry. and on this wise amongst them
thus After that hast returned home, cause the
be measured in its length, and breadth, and in the
thou dost find the central point, the cause
apart so

the best
that can be made
put in the pit
with a
coway of
face of

And then, as
these own people
do their business
watching, and then
the danger flying
off to other animals
take the fear of
of it, after a warning
flying they will
spare the coward.

Catchain
Mull
to be

Satur
the

fall of
that
the
could be

There
will be
in the form

and at large
anyone in the area
were fence and forest
with the fear of two
they will sink in.
- God and Hefelge
The Mabinogion

Y Ddraig Goch

Other Names: The Welsh Dragon

Culture: Wales

Range: Also Wales

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

Identification: A four-legged, two-winged dragon with a shortish neck; bright red

Role: Heraldic Beast

Enemies: The White Dragon

Facts: The Y Ddraig Goch (meaning "Red Dragon" in whatever language they apparently speak in Wales; it is unpronounceable to any earthly voice) is the Welsh national symbol. Nice job, Wales! England just has a stupid lion.

The Welsh Arthurian tales called the Mabinogion give us the story of this dragon and a white dragon rampaging across the land at war with one another. This was obviously totally awesome, but nevertheless, the locals dug a hole and filled it with mead, from which the dragons drank. Then the dragons fell asleep in the hole. Whereupon the hole was filled with dirt; the end. Clever, practical, and even usable on any creature liable to drink mead out of a hole in the earth that they found, such as everyone I knew in college.



the Dragon of Cadmus

"Hidden in the cave lived the serpent of Mars, a creature with a wonderful golden crest, fire flashed from its eyes, its body was all puffed up with poison, and from its mouth, set with a triple row of teeth, flickered a three-forked tongue. It was as huge as the serpent that swirled between the two bears in the sky, if its full length were seen uncoiled."

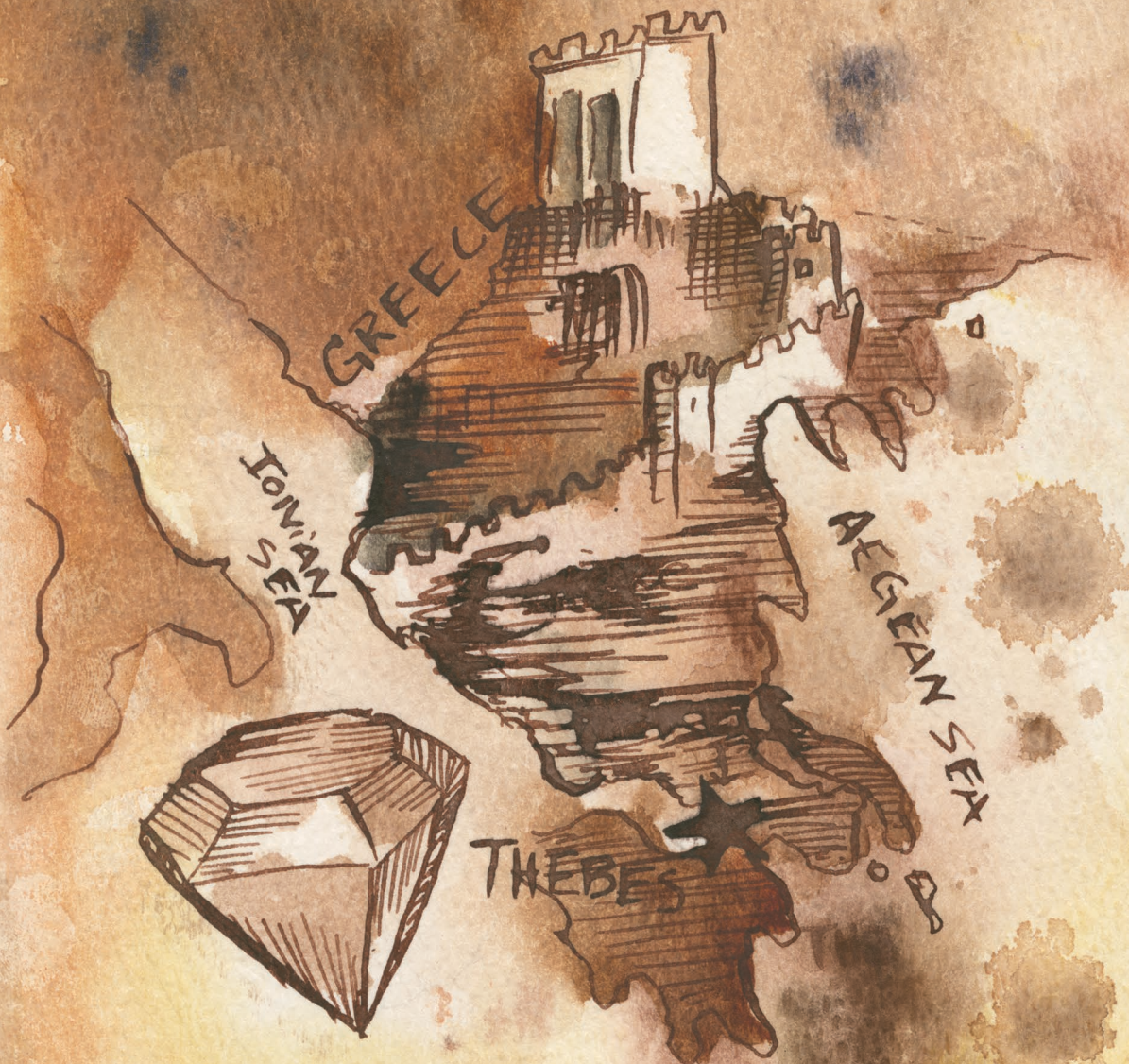
Seen uncoiled.

Gaured a spring sacred to Ares, and was the war-god's son. Slain by Cadmus, who was then advised by Athena to sow teeth in the ground, whereupon they grew into soldiers. The Soldiers created by the sown teeth fought amongst themselves until only five were left, which five played their service to Cadmus, and became the four bones of the noble house of the city of Thebes.

Athena kept some of the teeth, and would later give them to Jason, to harvest his own soldiers."

- Ovid, Metamorphoses book III





Cadmus' Dragon

Other Names: Ismenian Dragon **Culture:** Greece

Range: The Ismenian Spring **Frequency:** Unique **Size:** Huge

Identification: A serpentine dragon **Role:** Guardian **Enemies:** Cadmus

Facts: Guarded a spring sacred to Ares, and was the war-god's son. Slain by Cadmus, who was advised by Athena to sow its teeth in the ground, whereupon they grew into soldiers. The soldiers created by the sown teeth fought amongst themselves until only five were left, which pledged their service to Cadmus, and became the forebears of the noble houses of the city of Thebes. Basically it's a story we can all relate to.

According to some versions of the story of Cadmus, he and possibly also his wife, Harmonia, were later turned themselves into serpents by Ares, in vengeance for the slaying of the dragon. Well, in vengeance against Cadmus. It was just bad luck for Harmonia. The gods were like that.

Tasting the blood of
 Fafnir gives you the power
 to understand
 the language
 of Birds

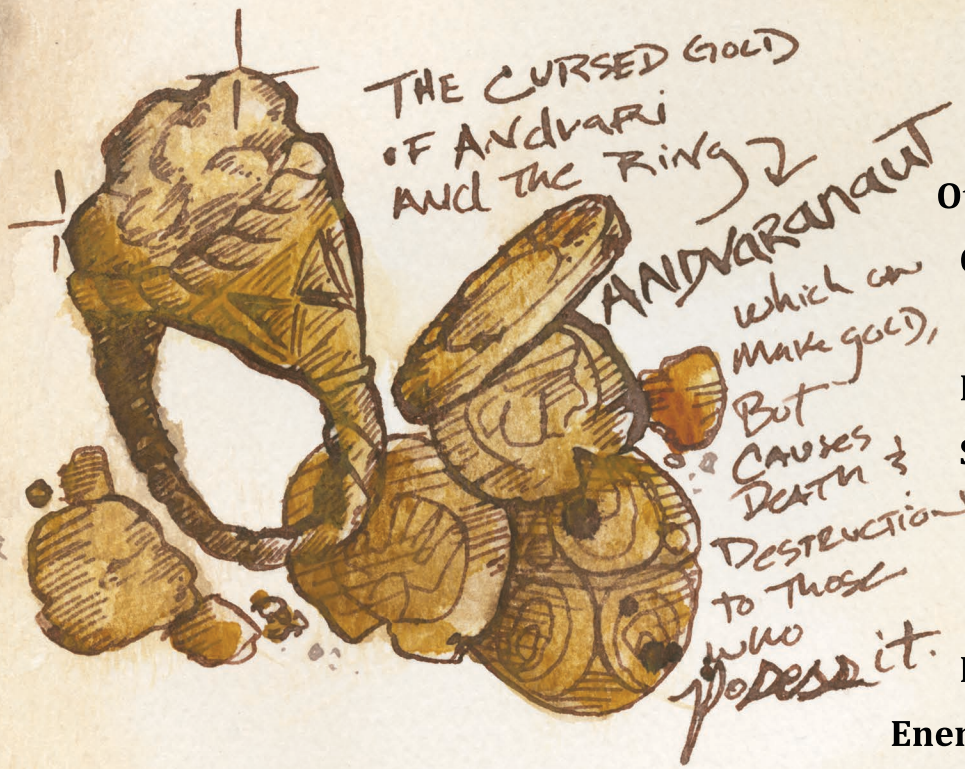
Fafnir

During slay
 fafnir and eat
 a portion of
 his heart, he
 saves the rest
 for his bride

Ota had the likeness of
 an other one day, and
 the god Loki came by and
 killed him. to repay
 Hreidmar for this, Loki
 was to stuff the other
 skin with gold - which
 he did - although it was
 cursed. fafnir was a
 dwarf who coveted
 the gold, who killed
 Hreidmar to keep all the gold
 he turned into a dragon
 because of his greed
 and poison
 the land
 around
 him. so
 No-one would
 steal his
 treasure.



Fafnir



Other Names: Fafner, Fatimir

Culture: Norse

Range: Gnitahead

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

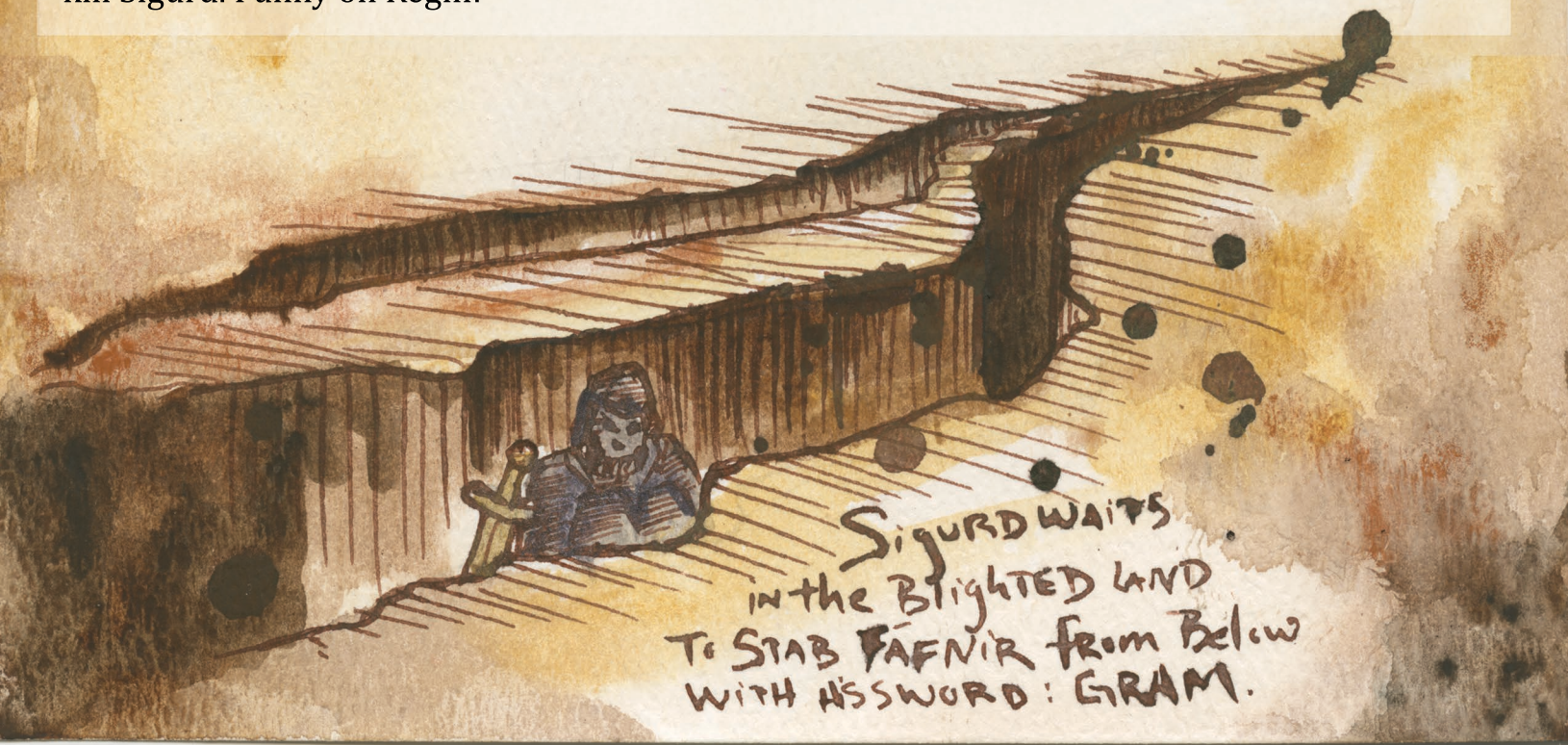
Identification: A serpentine dragon, with or without two legs

Role: Guardian

Enemies: Sigurd (hero)

Facts: Fafnir was a dwarf who became so greedy and miserly that he turned bodily into a dragon, and you have got to admit that that is pretty greedy. When Sigurd killed him, with the aid of Fafnir's dwarf brother Regin (who was also pretty greedy but apparently not greedy enough), he pulled it off by waiting in a hole outside of Fafnir's lair and hoping the dragon didn't look down.

Regin then had Sigurd cook Fafnir's heart for Regin to eat, which seemed pretty weird to Sigurd, but then he'd just killed a dragon and things were generally pretty weird just then. As he did so, he accidentally tasted a bit of the dragon's blood, which gave Sigurd the ability to understand animal languages, by which means he discovered that animals spend a lot of their time just idly gossiping. Luckily, part of what they gossiped about was Regin's plan to kill Sigurd. Funny on Regin!



This deity lends
its name to the
Pterosaur
Quetzalcoatlus the
largest animal
ever to
fly.

Quetzalcoatl

"feathered serpent"
or
"precious twin"
Most Nahuatl
words have two
meanings.



Sometimes
appears as a
green-skinned man-
sometimes
as the
Plumed Venus.

often thought of
as one of the
"good" Aztec
"good" &
deities, though
"evil" as they are
understood in the
Mexican west are very
different concepts from Aztec
Morality.

Quetzalcoatl

Other Names: None (though the Mayan Kukulcan is related)

Culture: Aztec **Range:** The heavens, and Mexico **Frequency:** Unique

Size: Huge **Identification:** A snake covered in resplendent feathers

Role: Deity **Enemies:** Tezcatlipoca (deity)

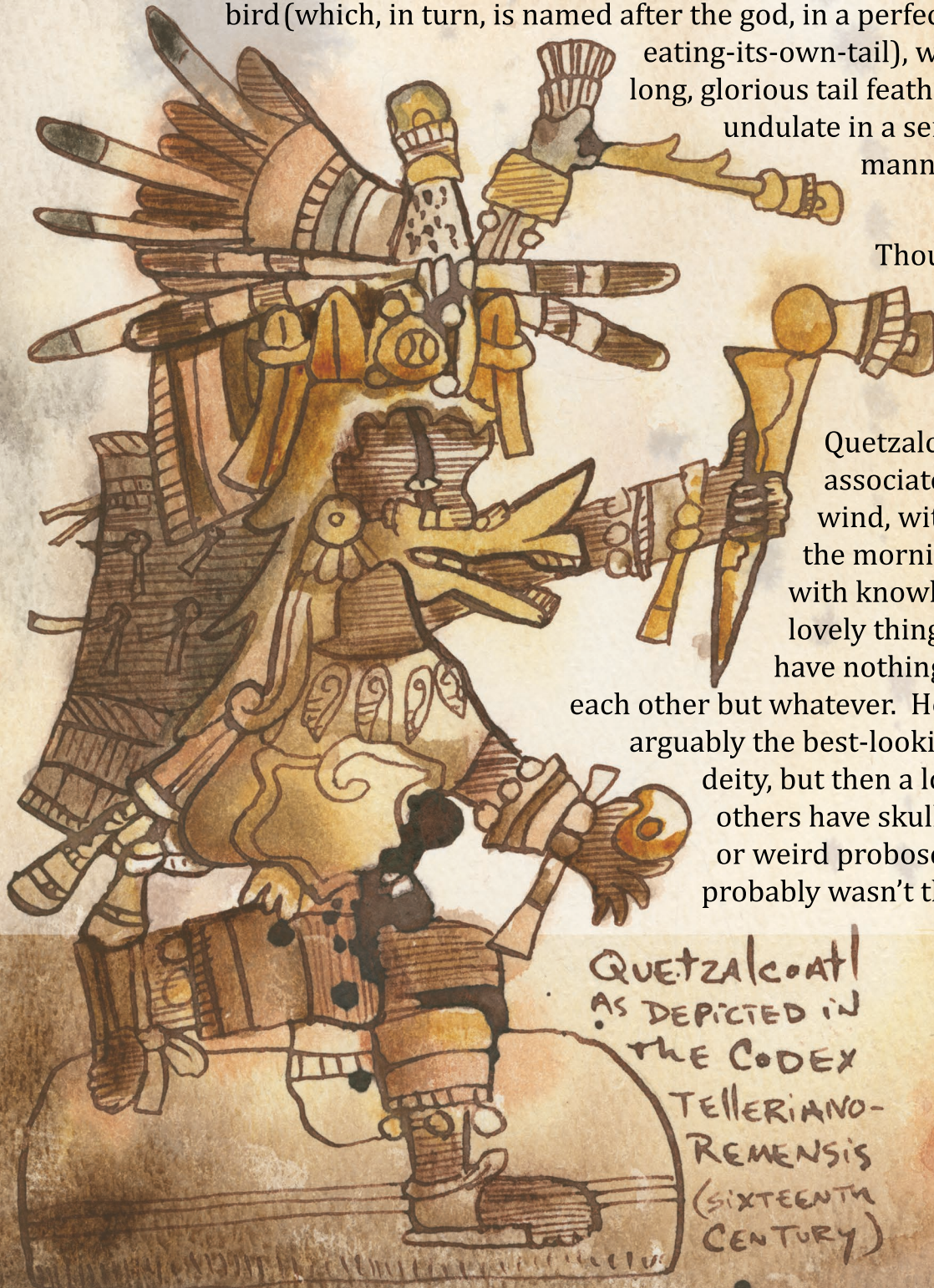
Facts: The Aztec god of something-or-other (non-Mediterranean pantheons often lack the clear-cut cabinet positions of Olympus and such), Quetzalcoatl is relatively benevolent, though Aztec morality is, shall we say, its own thing. Thought to be based on the Quetzal bird (which, in turn, is named after the god, in a perfect snake-

eating-its-own-tail), which has long, glorious tail feathers that undulate in a serpentine manner as it flies.

Though he has no simple, clear-cut sphere of influence,

Quetzalcoatl is associated with the wind, with Venus as the morning star, and with knowledge. All lovely things! Which have nothing to do with

each other but whatever. He is also arguably the best-looking Aztec deity, but then a lot of the others have skulls for heads or weird proboscises and it probably wasn't their fault.



QUETZALCOATL
AS DEPICTED IN
THE CODEX
TELLERIANO-
REMENSIS
(SIXTEENTH
CENTURY)

the *Valerü* Rainbow Serpent

Eggs are white with
a white embryo that fall from the sky.



She slaps in the deep mud
during the day season; the arcs across
the sky in the rainy season.
This generally benevolent - but not those that
disturb her stomper - she can cause floods - or
swallow the
angry
whole.



Quartz
Crystals, Shells,
and Pearls are
Very agreeable to
Galess.



She rose through
the earth and
summoned up
frogs. She
licked the
bubbles until they
released their water
to create lakes
pools and oases.



Galeru

Other Names: By region – Julunggul, Kalseru, Karia, Kun Manggur, Langal, Mindi, Muit, Ngalbjud, Taipan, Thugine, Ungud, Wanambi, Woinunggur, Worombi, Yurlunggur, and others; or just “Rainbow Serpent” in English

Culture: Australian Aboriginal

Range: The skies above Australia

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

Identification: The rainbow! That is also a snake.

Role: Deity **Enemies:** None significant

Facts: The Rainbow Serpent is a common motif among native Australian cultures, and is often a creator-deity, but otherwise varies from culture to culture. In one version, its white eggs, with wormlike embryos inside, occasionally rain from the sky. Which is a heck of a thing to wake up to.

Most are kind and benevolent, but others are dangerous, and that's more interesting so we're going to talk about that. Some evil ones will drag children into the sea, turn them into stone, and then put them back on the beach.

People told these stories to keep children from wandering out into the ocean; one would imagine that simply telling children to stay out of the water or they might drown would have sufficed, but where's the pleasure in that?

OLDEST
ART
IN THE
WORLD?
ARNHEM LAND
HAND STENCILS ART
ARE ESTIMATED
AT 28,000-
45,000
YEARS
OLD

"Then another sign appeared in heaven; an enormous Red Dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. Up by god and he threw the woman into the wilderness to a place where she would be protected from the dragon for a time, but the dragon fled into the sea, and his followers followed him there. Then I heard a loud voice saying, 'Come, follow me,' and I looked and behold a multitude as great as the sand of the seashore standing around the throne, praising God and saying, 'Who can add to these things?'"

The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared by God, where she has a church of one hundred and forty-four thousand, who keep the commandments of God, to worship Him. They do not defile themselves with idols, immoral things, deceitful marriage, or anything like that; they hate what those who do such things do, and they wear white robes because of this. And they stand before the throne of God, and He will dwell with them and be with them and be their God and himself with them and eat with them and drink with them, and they will be his people. And He Himself will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall no longer be death or mourning or sorrow or pain, for all things have been made new."

Where for a 1,260 broke out angels fought but the dragon back

she might days in heaven against and by angels

for me be taken the Michael & the dragon fought for her

care of that his

enough
 hear
 has haled
 down
 that ancient
 and they last
 the great
 was hit
 these places
 in
 dragon
 serpent

Satan, who
 he was hated
 with him. Then I heard a loud voice
 the power and the
 for the rescue
 from God

leads
 to the
 Kingdom of our God and the authority of
 of our brothers and sisters who are

the whole world as
 earth, and (my angels)
 have come the salvation of
 my Messiah
 that we

...but can
been hatched
by the
of the Lamb.
the

day and
down
over him
Blood

Rev 12:3-11

Night

the
Dragon of Revelations

Dragon of Revelations

Other Names: Dragon of the Apocalypse, Satan, Lucifer, etc

Culture: Christendom

Range: Heaven, then cast to Earth

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

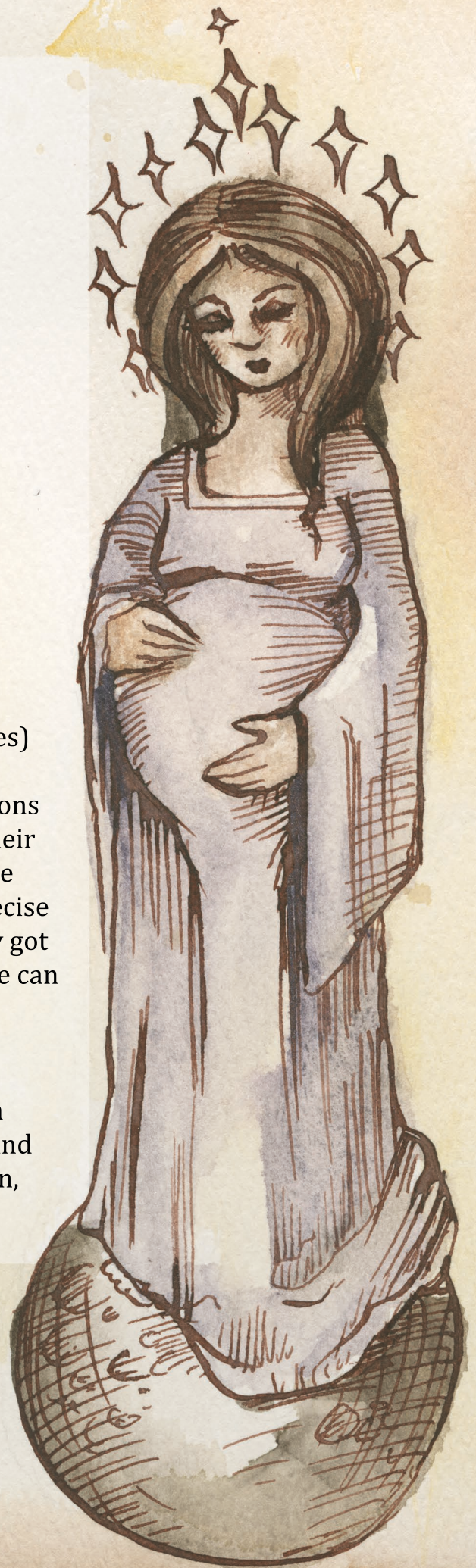
Identification: Seven heads and ten horns

Role: Apocalypse Beast

Enemies: Michael and his angels (Divine emissaries)

Facts: Emblematic of Satan, the dragon of Revelations has seven crowned heads and ten horns, though their distribution among the heads is unrecorded. Maybe they're all on one head? Also unrecorded is the precise symbolic meaning of these numbers; they've really got to mean something. But we don't know what, so we can just debate it for all of time.

The Dragon of Revelations' breath weapon is not fire or poison, but rather water, which gushes from it in a flooding torrent. It may sound uninspiring, and maybe not look as good painted on the side of a van, but it'll kill people just the same.



"he breatheth, argat, a Wivern, his wings displayed,
and Tailer Nowed, Gules by name of Drakes: This
Word Nowed, is as much to say in Latine, as
Nodatus. This tailer is said to be
nowed because it is intricately
knotted with divers infoldings
a fether: Like as a
of a fether will do
aforesaid: Do draw
the Wivern

after the manner of
griffon doth participate
a beast, as
partake
of:

a fether in the wings and of a
and a snake, adder, or other. Such serpents
(as are not of gressible kind, but glide along upon
their belly) and doth resemble a
serpent in the
tailer.

John Guillim
"Display of
Hereditary"
1664

a girl named
Maudie, in
Herefordshire, once found
a baby exposed and
raised it to adulthood.
Once it attained adulthood it
began to despoil the land
and the people who
lived there.

It would
never harm
your
Maudie.
This
devotion did not
save it - a warrior
called
CAREW

slain
the
Priest-
and was startled to see on
innocent child run to the
degen's corpse and cradle it in her arms-weeping.

Wivern

Wyvern

Other Names: None

Culture: Europe

Range: Throughout Europe

Frequency: Common

Size: Huge

Identification: A dragon with two legs and two wings

Role: Heraldic Beast

Enemies:

Various dragonslayers

Facts: A wyvern is a dragon with two legs and two wings. It's quite a common arrangement; the version of Smaug in Peter Jackson's *Hobbit* movies was a wyvern, in spite of the fact that Tolkien drew Smaug as having four legs and two wings. The dragon in the 1981 movie *Dragonslayer* was also a wyvern and it was the best dragon in any movie ever, but I digress.

Like the amphiptere, the wyvern is a beast described by heraldry; outside of heraldry, a lot of dragons likely conformed to this shape without anyone giving them special names over it. They weren't much for giving creatures specific names in the middle ages; it distracted them from their lives of constant toil.



Lambton Worm

Other Names: None

Culture: England

Range: Near the town of Washington, England

Frequency: Unique

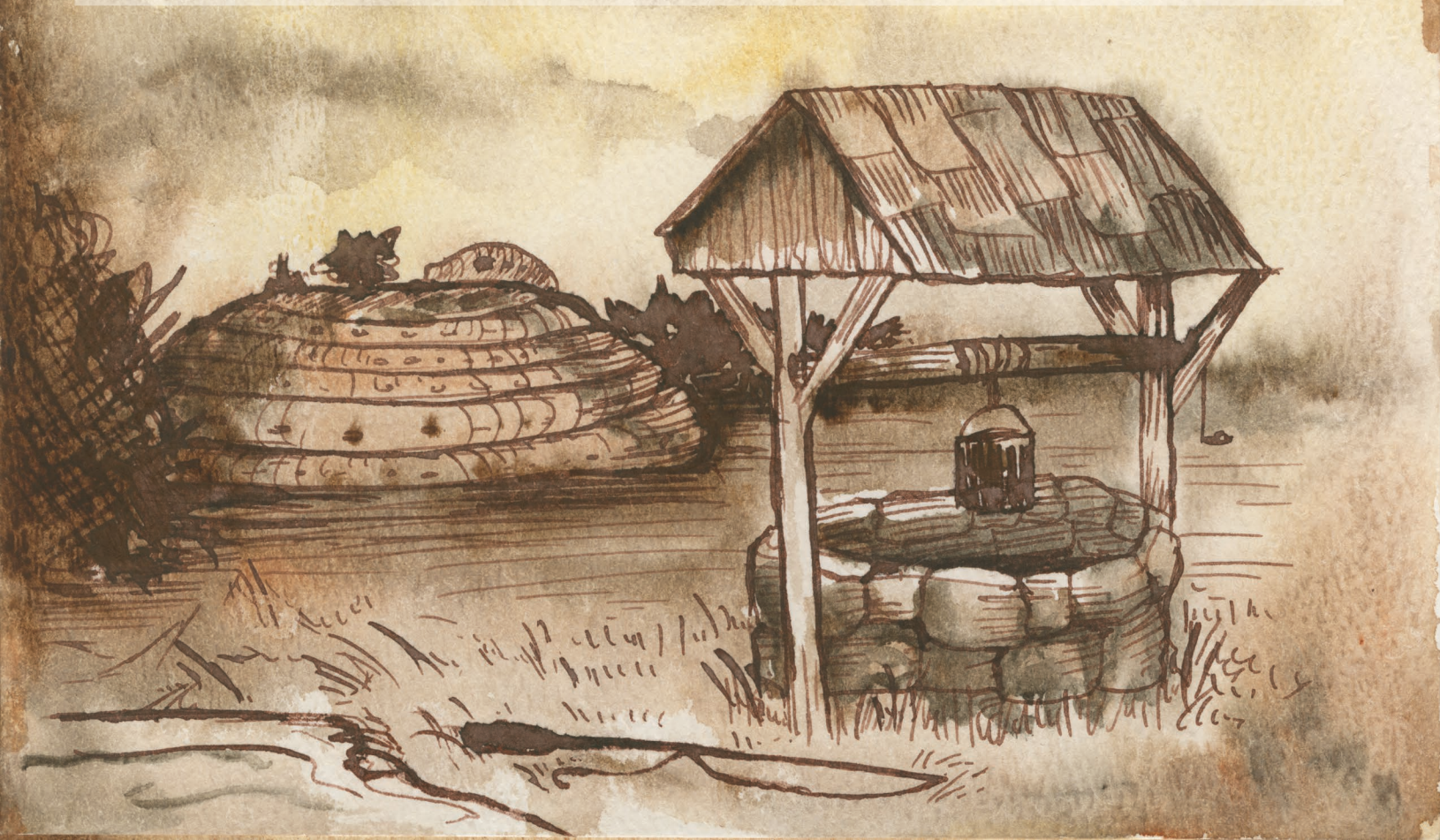
Size: Huge

Identification: Your basic legless, serpentine dragon

Role: Primordial Enemy

Enemies: John Lambton (hero)

Facts: Young John Lambton, while fishing one day, caught a small, hideous, snakelike creature, and threw it in a well, which was a lot more trouble than just throwing it back into the lake but for heaven's sake the thing was aesthetically displeasing. Righteous as this action was, when, some years later, a fully grown John Lambton returned home after years at the Crusades, he found the creature had become a huge, serpentine dragon, despoiling the countryside. So he did what any reasonable person would do: he covered his armor in outward-pointing blades and went out to face the beast. It wound itself around him, tighter and tighter, until it had cut itself to pieces on the man. And so we all learned a valuable lesson about covering our armor in knives.



Apep

Apep

head made of frost
↓

Enemy of Ra,
 "Lord of chaos"
 he nightly assaults
 the Boat of the
 sun, but is
 undone by
 Set



"Back
 Villain! Plunge into
 the depths of the
 Abyss! If you speak
 your foe will be
 overthrown by the
 Gods! your heart
 will be seized by the
 Lynx, your reins bound
 by the Scorpion!"



a Solar Eclipse
 denotes Apep's
 emergence into
 the day, and
 his near
 triumph.

The dead were buried with spells to protect
 them from Apep, detailed instructions of how to
 "Overthrow Apep" a demigod
 guide



16 yards

winds itself in undulations, rather than coils to better strike
 out at its prey: unwary or unprotected souls on the way to the afterlife

Apep

Other Names: Apophis, Apapi **Culture:** Egypt **Range:** The Egyptian Underworld

Frequency: Unique **Size:** Gargantuan

Identification: Basically an unbelievably enormous snake

Role: Primordial Enemy

Enemies: Ra, sometimes Set (gods); Mehen (protector serpent of Ra)

Facts: Every night, as Ra piloted the barge of the Sun through the underworld, the colossal serpent Apep would try to devour it. When an eclipse was happening, this meant that Apep had emerged into the world above. Earthquakes and thunderstorms were maybe Apep's fault, too. Things were scary in ancient Egypt.

Luckily, the Egyptian priests would help Ra out with prayers and effigies, and with a text entitled *The Books of Overthrowing Apep*. It had chapter titles along the lines of "Spitting Upon Apep," "Defiling Apep With the Left Foot," and "Taking a Knife to Smite Apep." Sometimes it's just helpful to have a practical guide to things, you know? You wouldn't want to defile Apep with your left foot incorrectly.



Long



Antlers
of a stag on
Dwarf which
through which
it hears

Neck of a
Snake

Chimera

a chimera
with a
Chimera cannot
ascend to the
sky

Eyes of
a demon

Cow's
ears
that
cannot
hear

Head of a
Camel or a
Crocodile

Belly of
a clam

a Pearl
represents
the moon, wisdom,
& prosperity

Sole
of a
tiger

Scales
of a carp

Claws of an
Eagle or hawk
a five clawed
dragon is the
Emperor's a four
clawed dragon
is of the common
folk

Long

Other Names: Lung, various individual and regional names

Culture: China

Range: China; related forms throughout Southeast Asia

Frequency: Common

Size: Huge

Identification: A long, winding, four-legged, serpentine creature, usually wingless, with a large, impressive head with horns, a beard, and barbels like a carp's

Role: Minor Deity

Enemies: Evildoers; centipedes

Facts: Largely (but not exclusively) benevolent members of the Celestial Bureaucracy, it is perhaps appropriate that the weather-controlling longs are described in exhaustive detail, from the animals their features correspond to to their scales: they have 117 of them, 81 (9 x 9) being yang – a complicated concept, but more or less 'active' and 'good' – and 36 (6 x 6) being yin – more or less 'passive' and 'evil.'

Longs are considered to be good luck, and Chinese people are often considered to be their descendants, individually or en masse. Which is sort of difficult to imagine but which definitely isn't the weirdest thing anyone's ever thought about dragons.

Also, Longs are terrified of centipedes.

There were
as one had discovered
it already; that the
Barren was Averp in
the land and with
the dark valley
were
the

Beowulf's Dragon

Other Names: None

Culture: England

Range: Southern Sweden

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

Identification: Flying and fire-breathing, with exceptionally hard and impenetrable scales

Role: Guardian

Enemies: Beowulf (hero),
Wiglaf (hero's sidekick)

Facts: Thought by some to be the first fire-breathing dragon, Beowulf's bane from that hero's eponymous Old English poem was the template for Smaug from *The Hobbit*, and hence, for the entire modern western concept of the dragon, really. Wings, treasure-hoarding, vindictiveness – it was all there. Without this dragon, western dragons might all just be huge, poisonous snakes, and what fun is that? Well, a pretty good amount of fun, actually, but it's still nice to have the winged fire-breathers.

Beowulf himself was hardly the first dragon-slayer, which is a good thing, because he did it wrong – he went right ahead and got killed by the dragon, leaving his pal Wiglaf to finish it off. But then, Beowulf was about 80 years old at the time. Probably he should have let Wiglaf handle it in the first place.





Amphiptere
often depicted
as a winged
serpent found
in European
heraldry
by Edward Toppell
(1608)

"...hurls itself
from the branches
of a tree, so that
it is not only
dangerous to the
feet, but
flies through
the air like a
missile from
a Catapult."

- pliny the
Elder
1st century CE
"Natural history"

Amphiptere



fig. H.
feathered
bone
bat-like wing
hum



"Upon
branches
trunk a serpent
named Libanus
Libanus Jaculus
rose in coils to
dart his venom
from afar. Though
Pallus brain
it rushed,
nor stayed;
for in the
wound
itself
Was death..."

- Lucan
1st century CE
"pharsalia"

Brady
2016

Amphiptere

Other Names: None

Culture: Europe

Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

Frequency: Rare

Size: Small to huge

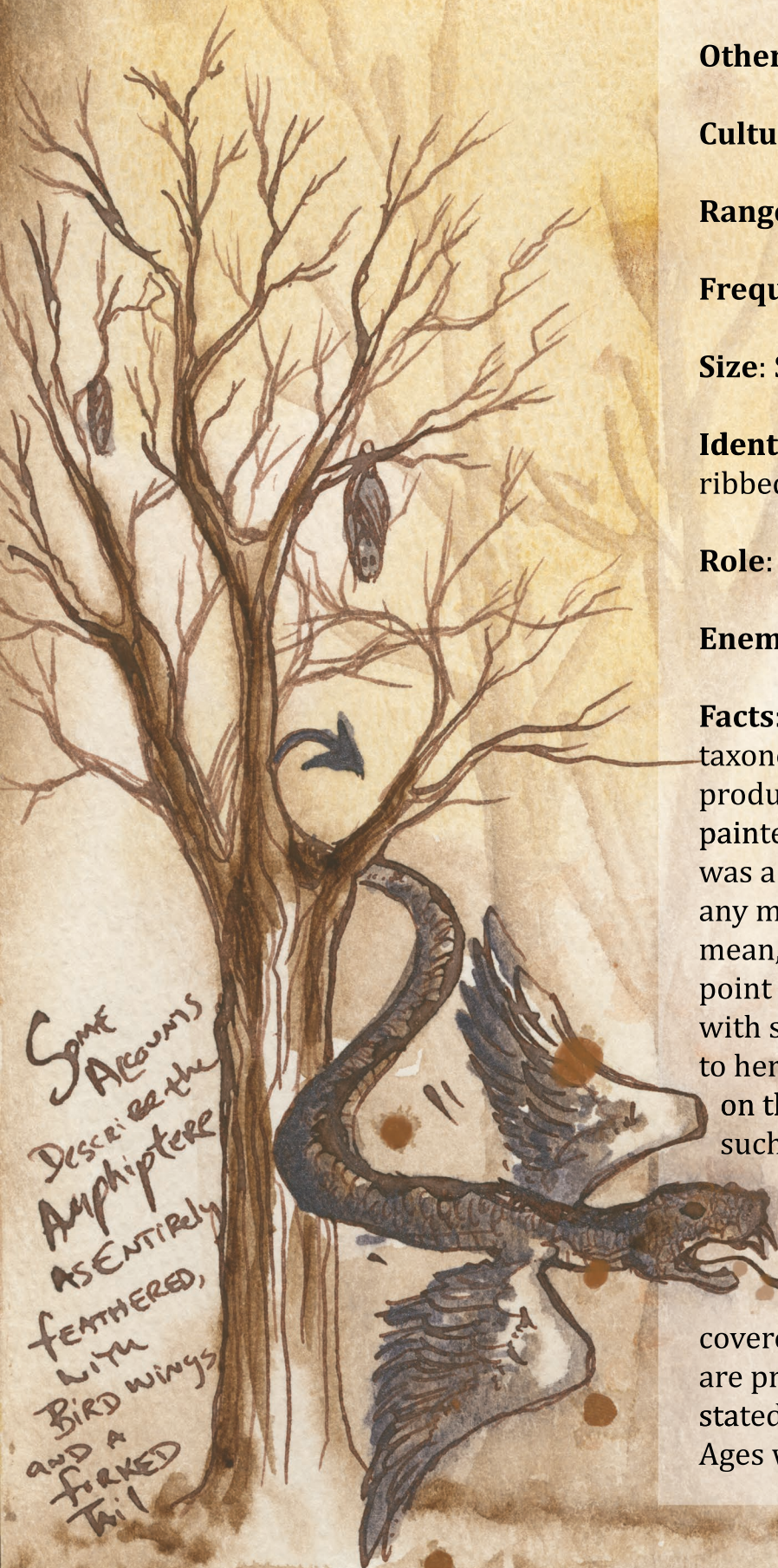
Identification: A serpent with wings; usually ribbed or batlike, but sometimes feathered

Role: Heraldic Beast

Enemies: None specified

Facts: Middle Ages Europeans weren't the taxonomists that we are now; they only produced a few bestiaries, and even those painted things in broad strokes – a dragon was a dragon and there was no point in being any more specific. They did their best; I mean, their Internet access was bad to the point of nonexistent. But they did come up with sub-classifications when it came down to heraldry, which is to say, drawing things on the nobility's flags and armor and suchlike. The amphiptere was such a creature.

There are also descriptions of amphipteres that state that they're covered in feathers and have beaks. These are probably, you know, birds. As we have stated elsewhere, Europeans in the Middle Ages were just the worst at zoology.



to know is a
European Dragon - The
Western Dragon is known
for its six limbs - forelegs,
hind legs, and a pair of
functional wings.

Highly intelligent
but often
greedy

Wonders are
the first
beast

scales in the belly -
there is also a single
vent point near
genitalia

FORELIMBS,
CLAWED

hind limbs
also clawed

Forked
tail

Serpentine
Neck

Wing claw
spur

A group of animals
that fly is called a
flight. A group of
wings is called
a Regimen
of Dragons

Wing Bone
and
webbing

fig 8

Am
the
hair
two
fingers
Piercing
A horse

Dorsal
spines

SCALES

Western Dragon



Western Dragon

Other Names: Firedrake

Culture: Europe

Range: Europe, Africa, western Asia

Frequency: Common

Size: Huge, generally

Identification: Four legs and two wings

Role: Primordial Enemy, Wandering Monster, and others

Enemies: Dragonslayers

Facts: At last the serpents of antiquity gave way to dragons as we understand them now – the predator's body and legs, the bat's wings, the long, winding neck and tail, the horned head, the fiery breath. Other kinds, with other arrangements of limbs, persist, but this is the sort that is primary in the 21st century's popular imagination and on its heavy metal album covers.

As standardized as it is, though, the possible variations on the Western Dragon are endless. There are green ones and black ones and red ones; wise ones and bestial ones; evil ones and a few good ones and ones that are ethically nuanced and complex presumably. The idea of the dragon is far too big to be narrowed down.

Jimeng

"Eight hundred eighty
li further northeast
stands Brilliant Mountain"
on its heights is much
green jade and at
its feet are many
trees.

The god
Jimeng
dwells there.
His form
resembles a
human with a
dragon's head.
He habitually
dwells in the
depths of the
Zhang Gorge.

Winds and
storms occur whenever
he emerges and returns.

"Guideways Through
Mountains and Steeps"
plate XXXVI



Jimeng

Other Names: None

Culture: China

Range: Brilliance Mountain and Zhang Gorge

Frequency: Unique

Size: People-sized

Identification: A human with a long's head

Role: Minor Deity

Enemies: None recorded

Facts: Ancient China had a lot of dudes with dragon heads; Jimeng was the god of Brilliance Mountain. He would roam Zhang Gorge, and thunderstorms would rage when he entered and emerged. And that was about it for Jimeng, though it's more than most of us will accomplish.

Jimeng appeared in a book called the Shan Hai Jing, or "Classic of Mountains and Streams," from the early Han Dynasty, about 2000 years ago. It described a journey through a China that was just alive with bird-people, snakes with human heads, people with their faces on their chests, and all kinds of stuff like that. Which was maybe falsifiable but maybe the Han Chinese (like the Europeans of the time) didn't get out that much.

"and the dragons
gate accepts her efforts
a transformation gate of fire
Revealing the Gist of
a new day"
-Howard Schneider

Yu Ling

Head of
a
dragon

Symbol of
perseverance
and
Determination

"The carp has leaped
through the
dragon's gate"
"Liyu Tiao Long Men"

Body of
a
Koi

The Koi is
Renewed
for its
journey
up a waterfall
by being
transformed
into a
golden
dragon



Yu Lung

Other Names: None

Culture: China

Range: The Yangtze River

Frequency: Uncommon

Size: Huge

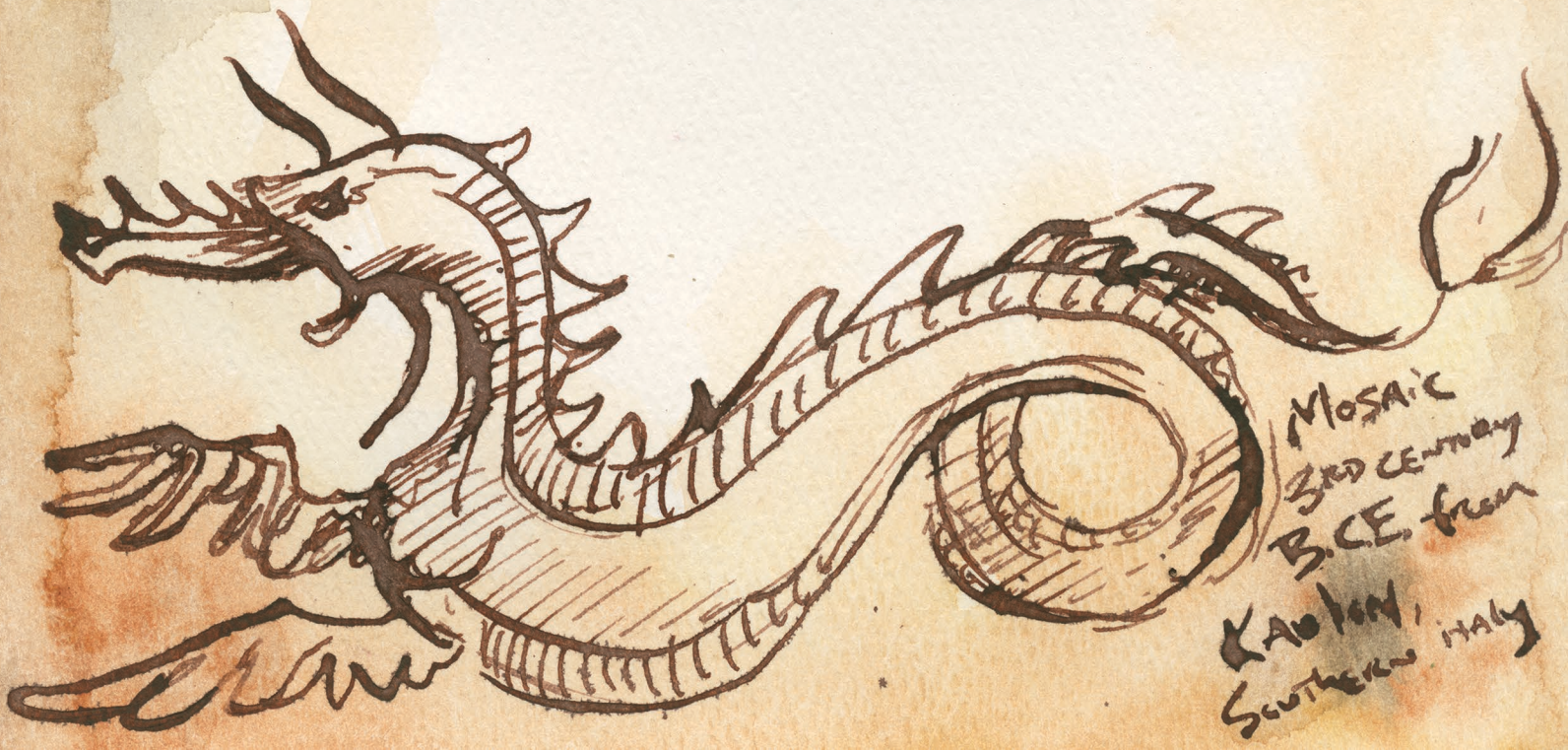
Identification: Dragon-headed carp

Role: Minor Deity

Enemies: None recorded

Facts: When a plain, ordinary, humdrum celestial carp leaps the Dragon's Gate waterfall of the Yangtze, it gains draconic aspects. It is unrecorded if this is what happens to everything that leaps the Dragon's Gate waterfall; further research funding is needed.

The Yu Lung is symbolic of scholastic success, which is an awfully sensible thing to have a symbol for. Basically: If a carp can become a dragon, then surely you can pass at least some of your finals.



Zmey Gorynych

in one telling, Zmey Gorynych is the nephew of the evil sorcerer Nenal Chelovek who abducted the czar's daughter as a bride for the day after.

Though the czar offered great riches for the warrior who would rescue his daughter...

a particular friend of Baba Yaga



only one of the palace guards, Ivan (one of the countless Russian heroes named Ivan) took him up on it. Ivan had heard two courtiers whispering about the location of the princess: he equipped him

SAMOSEK eventually

the czar with a magic sword, and he began his quest. he found Nenal

Chelovek's fortress - unguarded because

the sorcerer thought it too well-hidden - then SAMOSEK flew from Ivan's hands & through the fortress killing everyone there - including the sorcerer and Zmey Gorynych.

abducts women traveling alone.

Zmey Gorynych

Other Names: None

Culture: Russia

Range: Eastern Europe

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

Identification: Three heads, wings, small forelegs, long hind legs

Role: Primordial Enemy

Enemies: Dobrynya Nikitich (hero), Ivan (hero)

Facts: There's this whole big story where Zmey (which means "dragon," by the way) Gorynych's human sorcerer uncle abducts the daughter of the czar to be Gorynych's bride but then one of the countless Russian heroes called Ivan brings his magic sword "Samosek" to the castle and it flies out of his hand and goes around and kills everyone and Russian folktales are *bonkers*. But what's more important than that is that Zmey Gorynych is pals with Baba Yaga.

Three-headed dragons are popular in central Eurasia; the Persians have Azi Dahaka, and the Hindus have Vritra, for example. Both of these are colossal, blotting out the whole sky; but then they are also opponents of the gods. Things scale down later on, when people start to believe in one god who apparently has better things to do than fight dragons somehow; and when dragonslayers are just dudes with flyin' swords, their dragons need to be a little more reasonable.



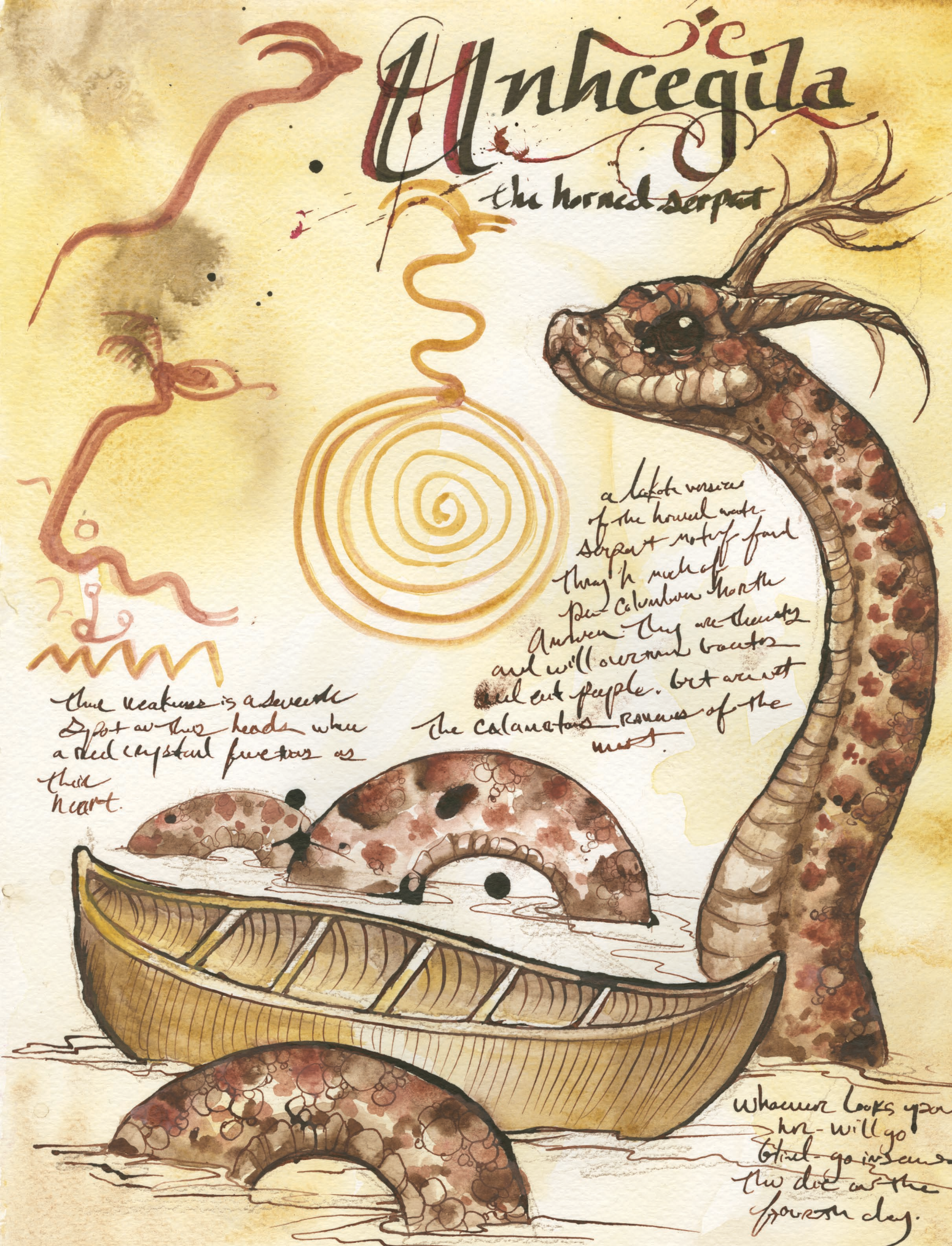
Unhcegila

the horned serpent

a lakota version
of the horned water
serpent not to be feared
though much of
pre-Columbian North
America they are threatening
and will overrun boats
and eat people. but are not
the Calanctas. enemies of the
west.

Unhcegila is a seven
foot wide head when
a red crystal functions as
their heart.

whenever you
see - will go
blind - go in same
the day as the
fourth day.



Unhcegila

Other Names: None

Culture: Lakota

Range: Black Hills area of North America

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

Identification: A water serpent with horns

Role: Primordial Enemy

Enemies: Wakinyan (a Thunderbird), various dragonslayers

Facts: A particularly powerful dragon of the freshwater serpent sort, she can be killed by striking the 'seventh spot on her head,' behind which is a red crystal, which functions as her heart. This will only work if done with a magical arrow. Listen: Nobody said this was going to be easy.

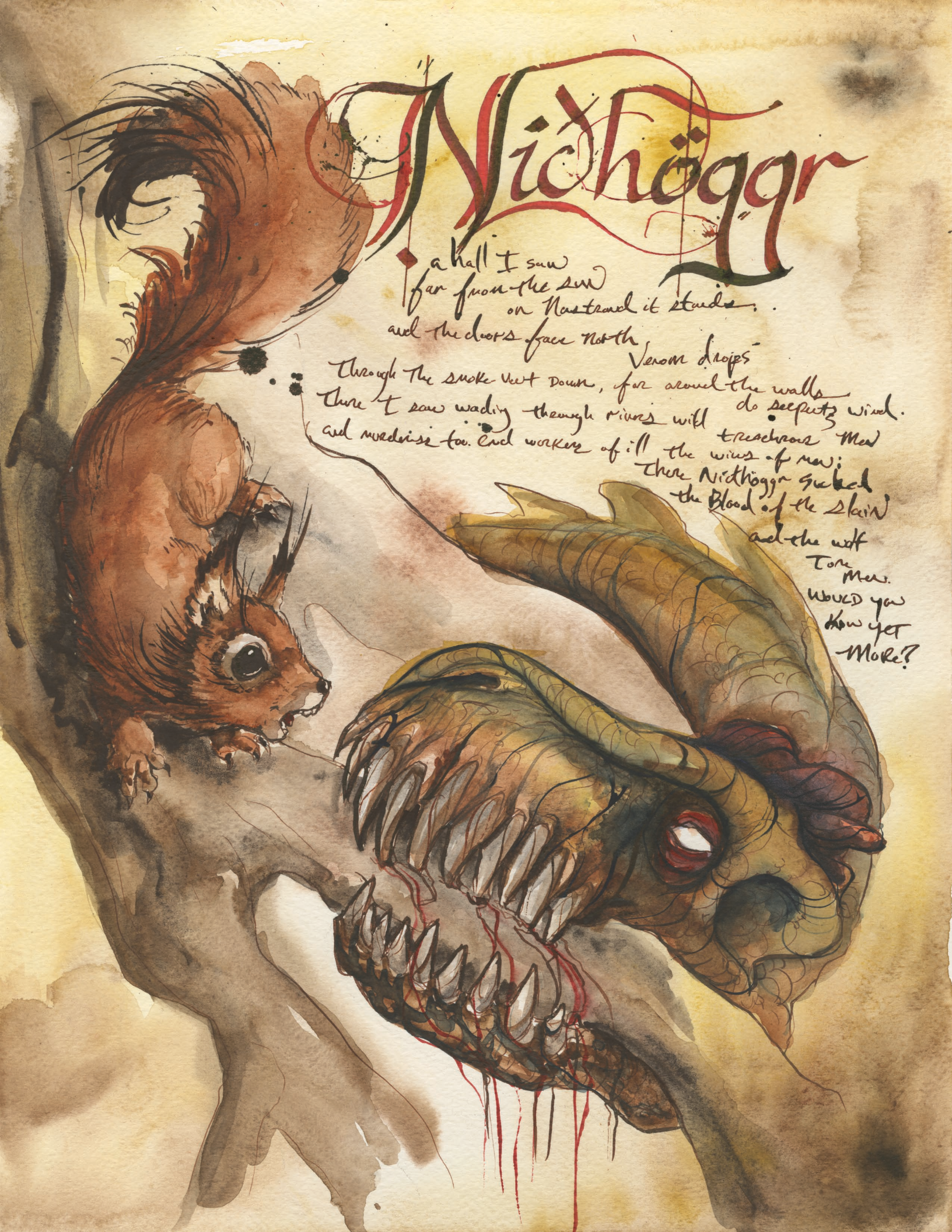
Also important is to somehow do this without looking at her, because anyone who does that will go blind, go insane, and then die four days later. Several western reptilians will poison or petrify you when you look at them, but Unhcegila plays the long game.



Nidhögg

a hall I saw
far from the sun
on Nasterand it stands.
and the doors face north

Through the smoke vent down, for around the walls
there I saw wading through rivers will do serpents wind.
and madderise too. And workers of ill the wiles of men
There Nidhögg sucked the blood of the slain
and the wolf
Tore
Man.
Would you
How yet
More?



Nidhoggr

Other Names: Also spelled Nidhogg, Nidhoggur, Nithhogg, Nidhug, and stuff like that

Culture: Norse

Range: The roots of Yggdrasil

Frequency: Unique

Size: Gargantuan

Identification: A legless, serpentine dragon; best identified by its location and activity

Role: Chthonic Horror

Enemies: The Norns (goddesses who undo his work), Ratatosk (a talking squirrel who brings him insulting messages from the giant eagle at the top of Yggdrasil)

Facts: The vast and serpentine Nidhogg chews at the roots of Yggdrasil, the World Tree – an enormous tree that supports the Nine Realms. He is the worm that gnaws at the base of reality itself! *Daaaaaang!*

He often chews on the root leading to the part of the Norse underworld where those guilty of murder, adultery, and oathbreaking reside. Which are the worst things you can do if you're an old-time Norseman. He chews on those guys, too. He has a job, and he's good at it.

Lindworm

The Lindworm is the default body type for Nordic dragons -
 - Fenrisgadda
 - Nidhogg?
 - Fafnir
 are all described as Lindworms

The shed skin of a Lindworm will greatly increase one's knowledge about Medicine? Nature, and, presumably, Lindworms.

in 1804 Swedish folklorist Gunnar Olof Hyltén-Cavallius set a reward for the body of a lindworm, dead or alive, based on numerous local reports of a huge, maned lindworm. It was never claimed.

its skull is oft mistaken for a prehistoric woolly Rhinoceros.

Princess Pöken Borgarhjör was rescued a baby lindworm from her father. He required the Earl of Gotland. It grows much bigger than its expected size and eventually takes its adopted mother hostage, demanding to be supplied with as much as an entire ox a day. She is eventually freed by Ragnar Lodbrok (hairy pants) when she the wife.

The sighting of a "white worm" was once thought to be a portent of extremely good luck (provided one escaped alive)

in one story about a queen giving birth to a Lindworm this terrifying Scenarios is caused by the woman eating an unsalted onion.



Lindworm

Other Names: Lindorm, Linnorm, various individual names

Culture: Scandinavia and the UK

Range: The UK and Scandinavia

Frequency: Common

Size: People-sized to Huge

Identification: A serpentine dragon with just two legs

Role: Heraldic Beast

Enemies: Various dragonslayers

Facts: Found throughout northern Europe, the lindworm is the default body-type in Scandinavia. The statue of a lindworm in Klagenfurt, Austria, has a head that was modeled on the skull of a prehistoric woolly rhinoceros, which is, of course, just fine. According to some sources, they like to hang out in churchyards, though whether this is out of devoutness, a love for plate glass windows, or just enjoying watching the priests look uncomfortable is unknown.

In one story about a queen giving birth to a lindworm, her serpentine pregnancy was caused by her consumption of an unpeeled onion, so let that be a lesson to you! Luckily, it's a problem easily solved by peeling away the skin layers of the thus-produced lindworm prince, until the handsome young man inside is revealed. Some legends have transparent symbolism. Others are just bizarre.



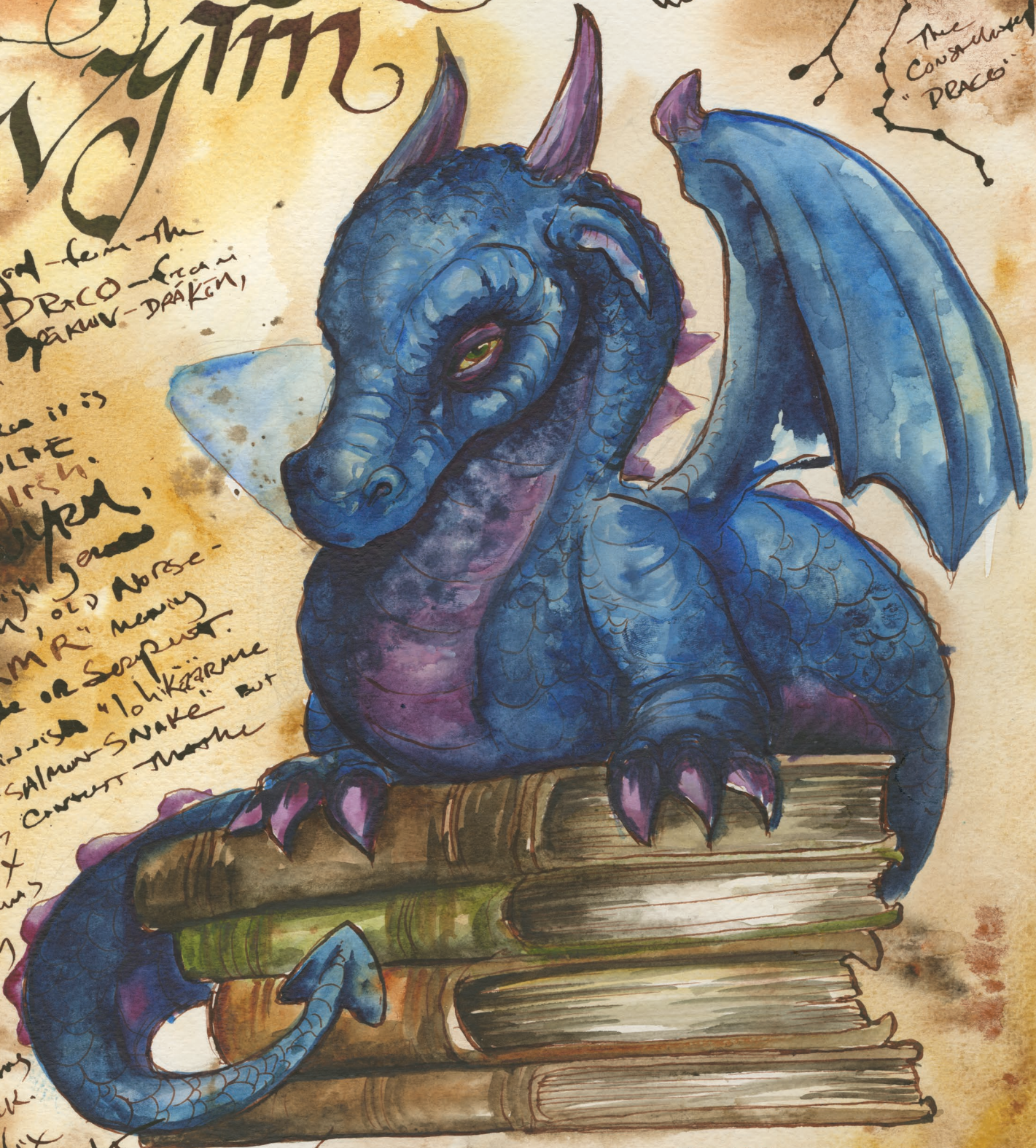
THE
SHED
SKIN OF
A LINDWORM
IS SAID TO GREATLY
INCREASE A PERSON'S
KNOWLEDGE OF
NATURE AND
MEDICINE.

Book Wyrm

The wyrm also appears
in European lore under the
name of Guivre, as
well as the name Wipe

The
Constructed
"DRACO"

Dragon - from the
Latin DRACO - from
Greeks DRAKON - DRAGON,
"gaze"
free it is
The OLDE
English
Wyrn,
old high German
wurm, old Norse -
"ORMR" meaning
Snake or Serpent.
The Finnish "lohi" means
"SALMON SNAKE" but
Scandinavians
prefix
"lohi" was
originally
"lohi"
meaning
"sea serpent"
or "Snake".
The prefix
"lohi" is also
found in
the name
"Lohi" meaning
"file"



Dragon DRACO
WORM WYRM
Most versions of the word
Dragon or wyrm come from its
serpentine shape.

Book Wyrms

Other Names: None as such

Culture: The modern world

Range: Libraries worldwide

Frequency: Rare

Size: Small

Identification: Tiny, serpentine, and generally found among books

Role: Comic Relief

Enemies: None to speak of

Facts: Dragons have always been creatures of imagination, and of course the human imagination persists. Here we have a modern creation – a play on the “bookworm,” a reference to any insect larva that eats books. There aren’t really a lot of these, as is testified by all those uneaten books all over the place. Based on this insect, though, we also have the idea of a bookworm as somebody who likes books. And some books are full of dragons, so those people aren’t wrong.

The Book Wyrms also plays off dragons being referred to as “wyrms” (or “worms,” or “orms,” or the like) in the olden days – a holdover from the days when they were mainly big snakes, and of people thinking snakes and worms were pretty much the same thing because they were terrible at zoology.

Tarāsqe

The Child of the
Leviathan and a
Bonasaci (a horse
creature)

The Tarasque is oft blamed for the flooding
of rivers, for Brutus says it dykes in
the ocean. A city that takes its name from
the dragon and effigy is covered & chert.

"Lagadigadé, La Tarasque,
La Tarasque

Lagadigadé,
La Tarasque
d'un castéu;

Leissas-la
passa
la vie
muse,
Leissas-la
passa que
vui d'auvra

Lion's
head

Method
for Capture

Saint Martin sprinkled
him with holy water,
then bound him with
his girdle.

Scales tail along
in a scorpion's
string

Co-like body
covered in a
turtle shell

Six short bear
legs



Tarasque

Other Names: None

Culture: France

Range: The town of Nerluc (now "Tarascon," after this dragon), on the Rhone, in France

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

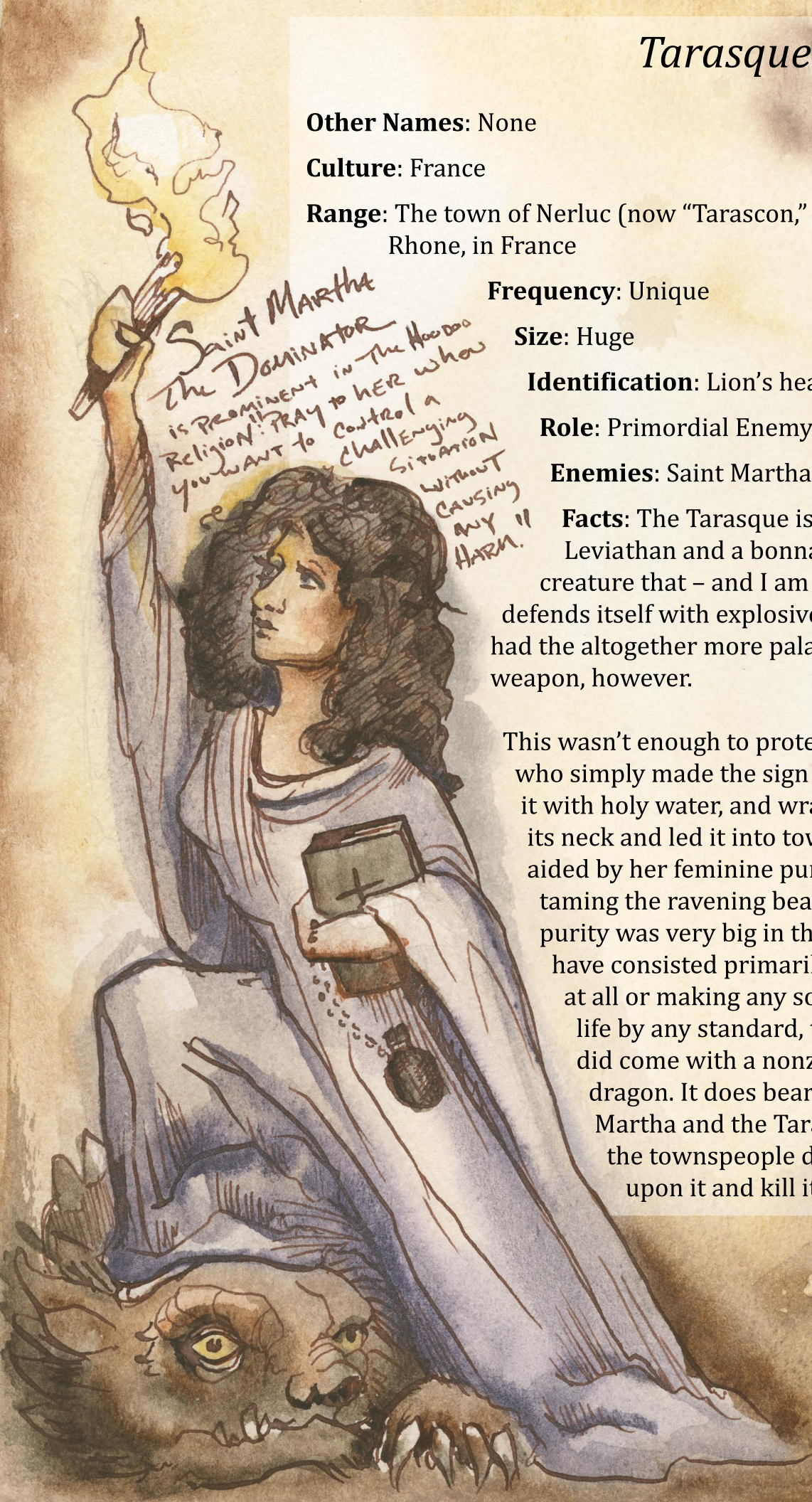
Identification: Lion's head, shell, six legs

Role: Primordial Enemy

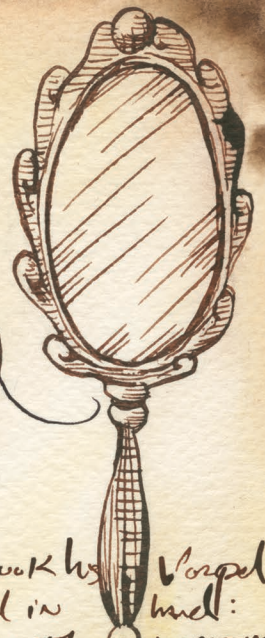
Enemies: Saint Martha (hero)

Facts: The Tarasque is the child of the biblical Leviathan and a bonnacon, a mythical, bovine creature that – and I am not making this up – defends itself with explosive diarrhea. The Tarasque had the altogether more palatable fiery breath for its weapon, however.

This wasn't enough to protect it from Saint Martha, who simply made the sign of the cross, sprinkled it with holy water, and wrapped her girdle around its neck and led it into town. This all was also aided by her feminine purity, chaste beauty taming the ravaging beast once again; feminine purity was very big in those days, and seems to have consisted primarily of not really moving at all or making any sounds. Not much of a life by any standard, though apparently it did come with a nonzero chance of free pet dragon. It does bear noting that upon Martha and the Tarasque's arrival in town, the townspeople did immediately set upon it and kill it with sticks.



The Jabberwock



Twas brillig, & the slithy toves
did gyre & gimble in the wabe:
all mimsy were the borogroves,
and the mome raths outgrabe.

The Jabberwock,
The jaws that
the claws must
Beware the
bied &

He took his Vorpel
Sword in hand:
Longtime the ormanxome
for he sought. So heard
he by the Tumtum Tree
and stood awhile in thought.

And as if in a flash-thought
he stood, the Jabberwock,
with eyes of flame, came
whiffing through the tulgey
wood & BURBLED as it came!

and hee then
slain the
Jabberwock!
Come to my aid,
my brave
Banish Day!
oh Frabjous
day!
Callaboh!
Callah!
he chortled in his
joy.

Twas
Brillig, and the slithy toves
did gyre and gimble in the
wabe; all mimsy were
the borogroves & the mome
raths outgrabe.

"JABBERWOCKY"
Lewis
Carroll



Beware
my son!
bide
catch!
Tubjub
shun the
Frumsious
Bandersnatch!

One, two, one two!
and through and through
The Vorpel Blake went
Swicker-SNACK!
he left it
dead and
with its
head
he went
gallumphing
BACK.





Jabberwock

Other Names: None

Culture: The modern world

Range: The tulgey wood

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge

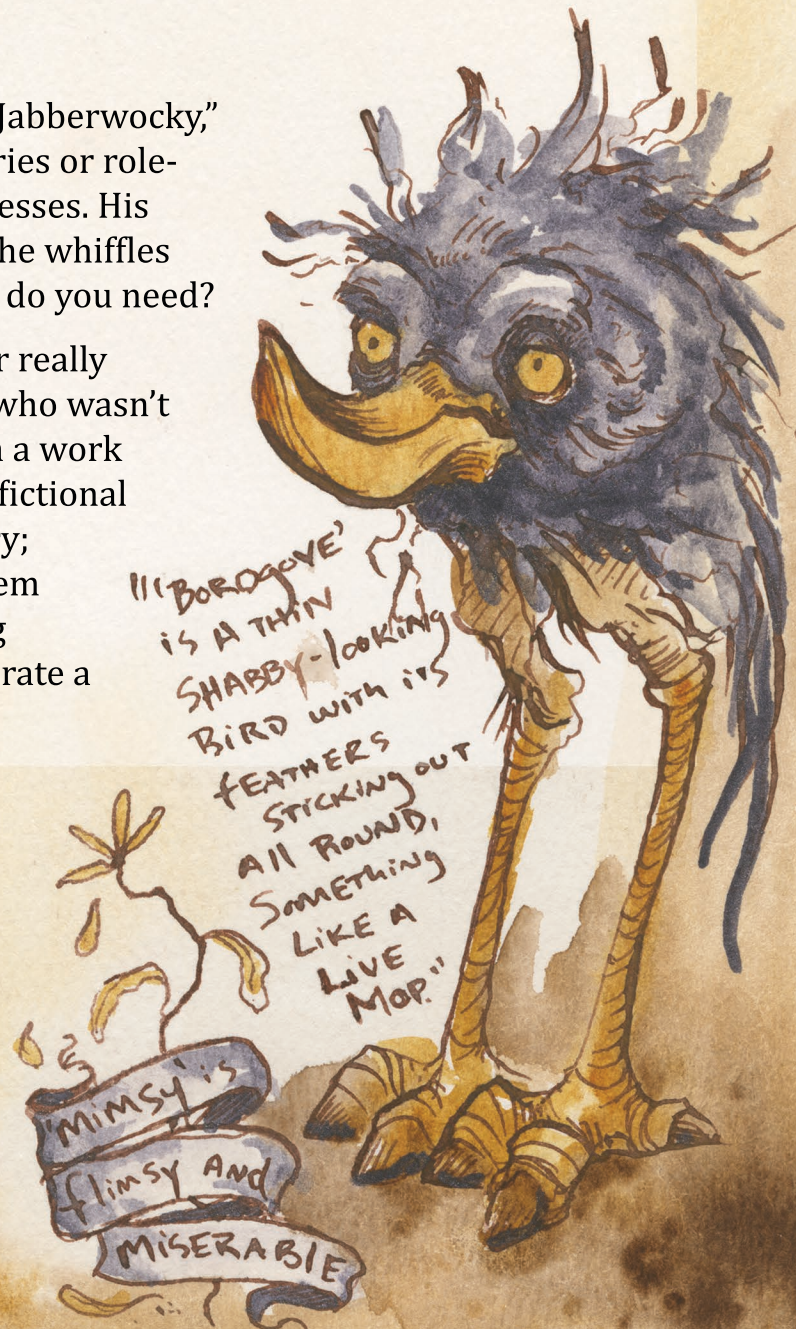
Identification: An extremely lanky four-limbed, two-winged creature with a round, bucktoothed head; burbles at it comes

Role: Primordial Enemy

Enemies: A beamish boy

Facts: The antagonist in Lewis Carroll's poem "Jabberwocky," efforts to convert the Jabberwock to film or stories or role-playing games have not generally been big successes. His jaws bite, his claws catch, his eyes are of flame, he whiffles through the woods, he is manxome. What more do you need?

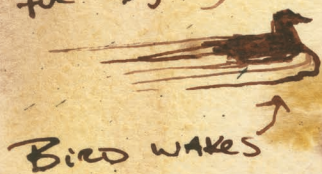
Unlike many of the dragons herein, nobody ever really believed in the Jabberwock, or at least nobody who wasn't demonstrably insane. Not only did it come from a work of fiction, it was in a poem that was most likely fictional within the work of fiction. A poem within a story; maybe someone could paint a picture of the poem in the story, and someone else could sing a song about the picture, and someone else could decorate a cake about the song, and on and on forever.



Messie

Many things have been suggested
for sightings of the

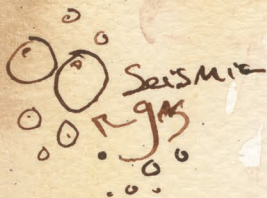
Lodt
Ness
Monster



Bird wakes



Submerged
Trees



Seismic
gas



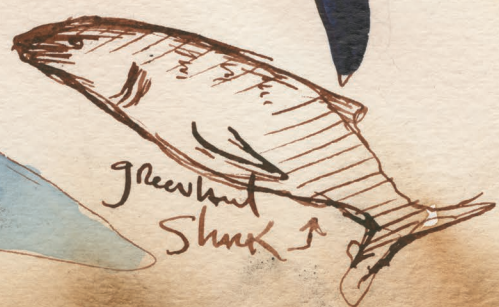
Giant eels



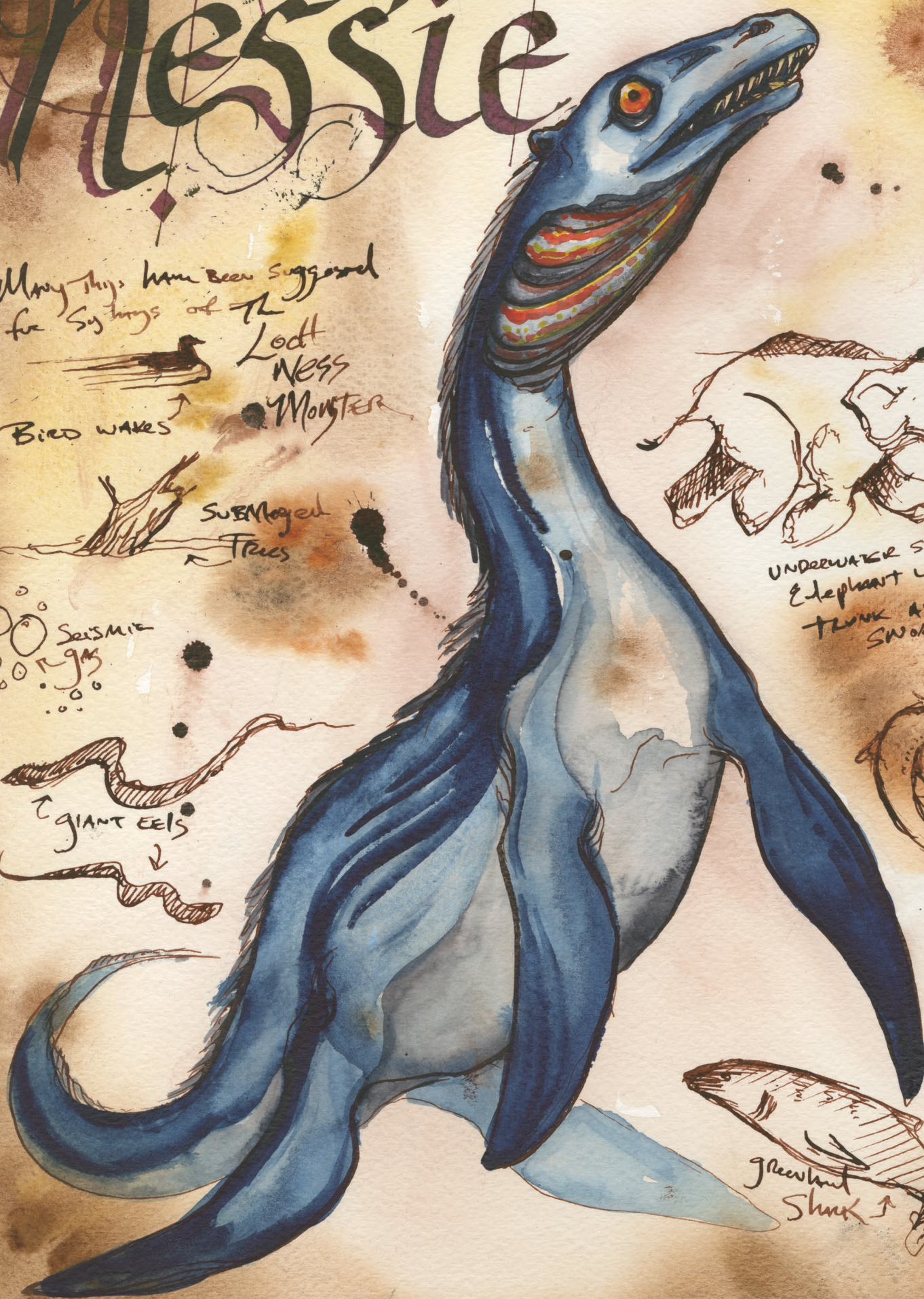
Underwater swimming
elephant use its
trunk as a
snorkel.



Web
Catfish



Greenland
Shark



Nessie

Other Names: The Loch Ness Monster

Culture: The modern world

Range: Loch Ness, Scotland

Frequency: Rare or unique

Size: Huge

Identification: A large, dark-colored hump in the loch, with or without a long neck and small head attached

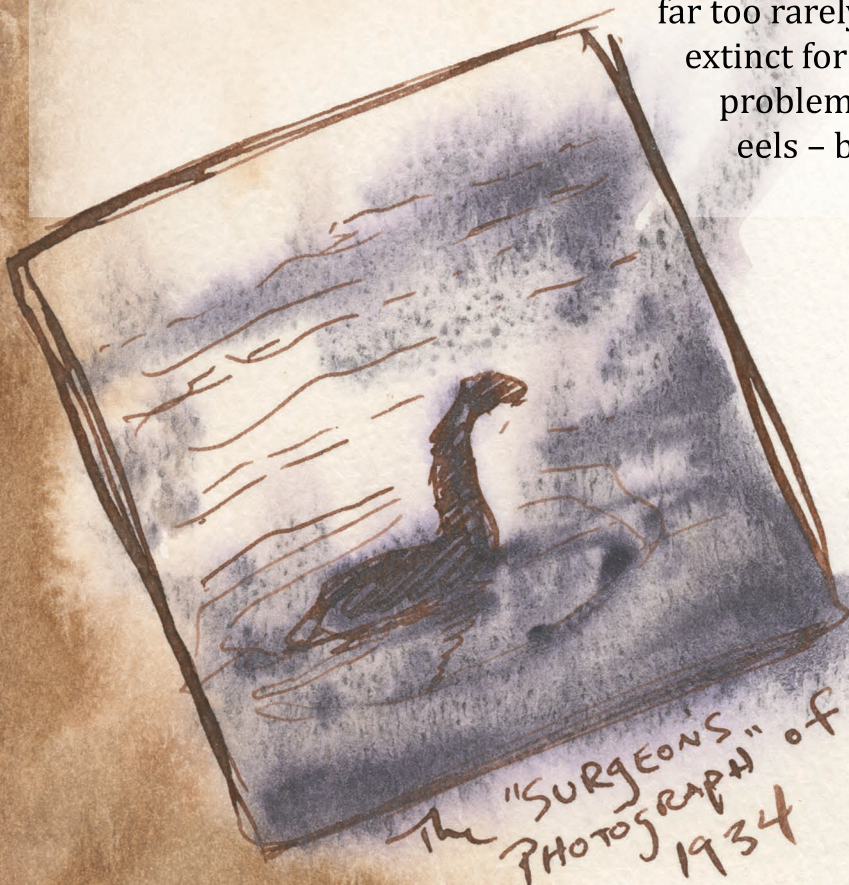
Role: Hidden Animal

Enemies: None, or cryptozoologists

Facts: Even today, some grown persons believe in enormous, ancient, reptilian creatures, though unlike their predecessors, Nessies don't generally hoard gold or assault people or teach them valuable lessons; they just swim around minding their own business. As dragons of old symbolized terrifying threats, natural phenomena, and the like, perhaps Nessies, too, serve a psychological need – a longing for wonder in a world that seems to have too little of it.

Most people think of plesiosaurs when they think of monsters in Loch Ness, though in fact this is probably the worst possible explanation, if indeed such animals exist.

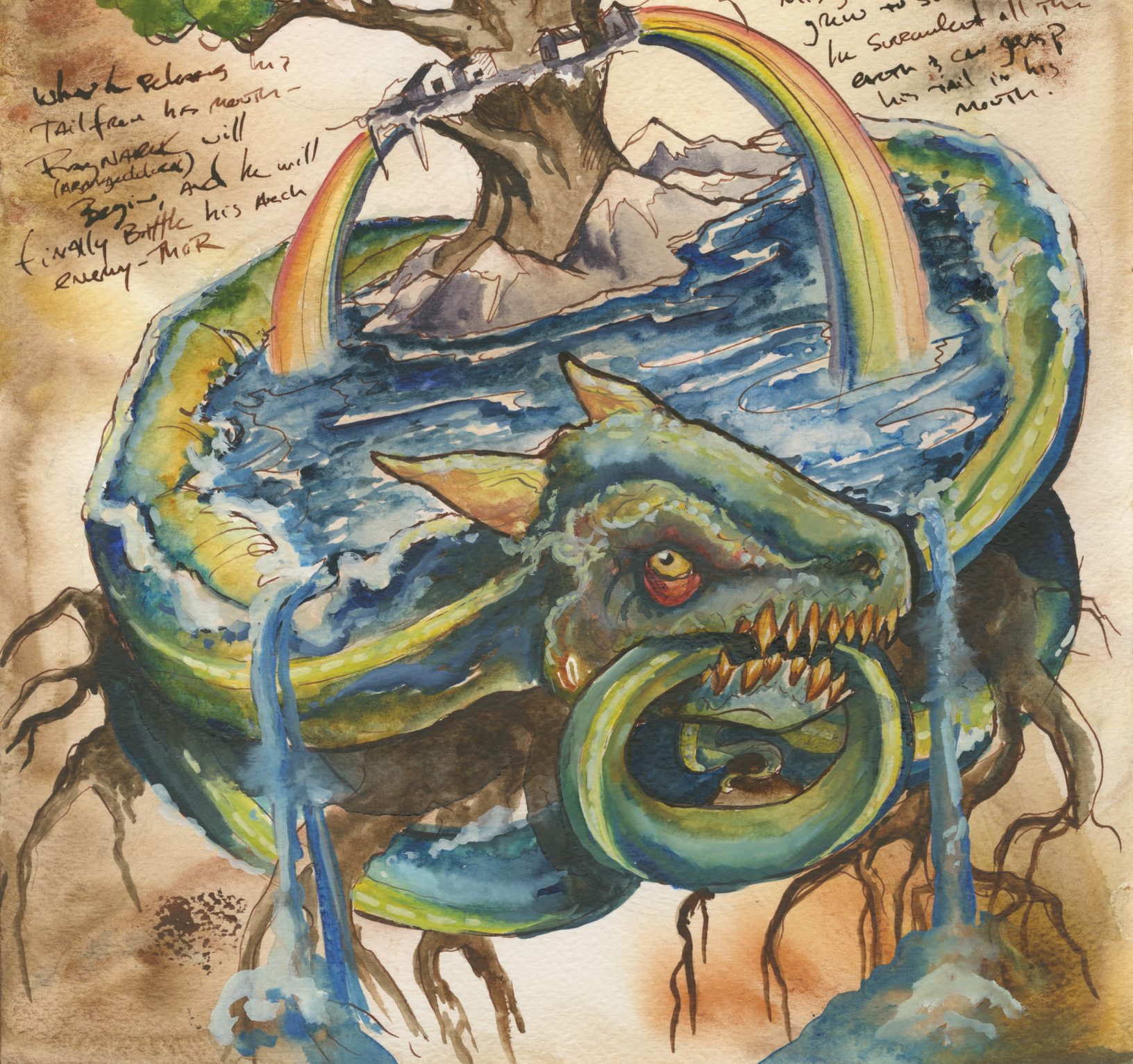
Plesiosaurs were cold-blooded (the loch is very cold), air-breathers (Nessies are seen far too rarely for this to be so), and also have been extinct for 65 million years, which is a little problem. More likely Nessies are enormous eels – but that is a story for another time.



Jörmungandr

Odin took Loki's
The giantess Angrboda's
Children, and tossed the
serpents Jörmungandr into
The ocean. The circles
Midgard. The dragon
grew so such as that
he surrounded all the
earth & can grasp
his tail in his
mouth.

When he releases his
tail from his mouth -
 Ragnarok will
(Armageddon)
begin, and he will
finally battle his arch
enemy - Mör



Jormungandr

Other Names: Jormungand, the Midgard Serpent, the World Serpent

Culture: Norse

Range: At the bottom of the sea, around the entire world

Frequency: Unique

Size: Gargantuan

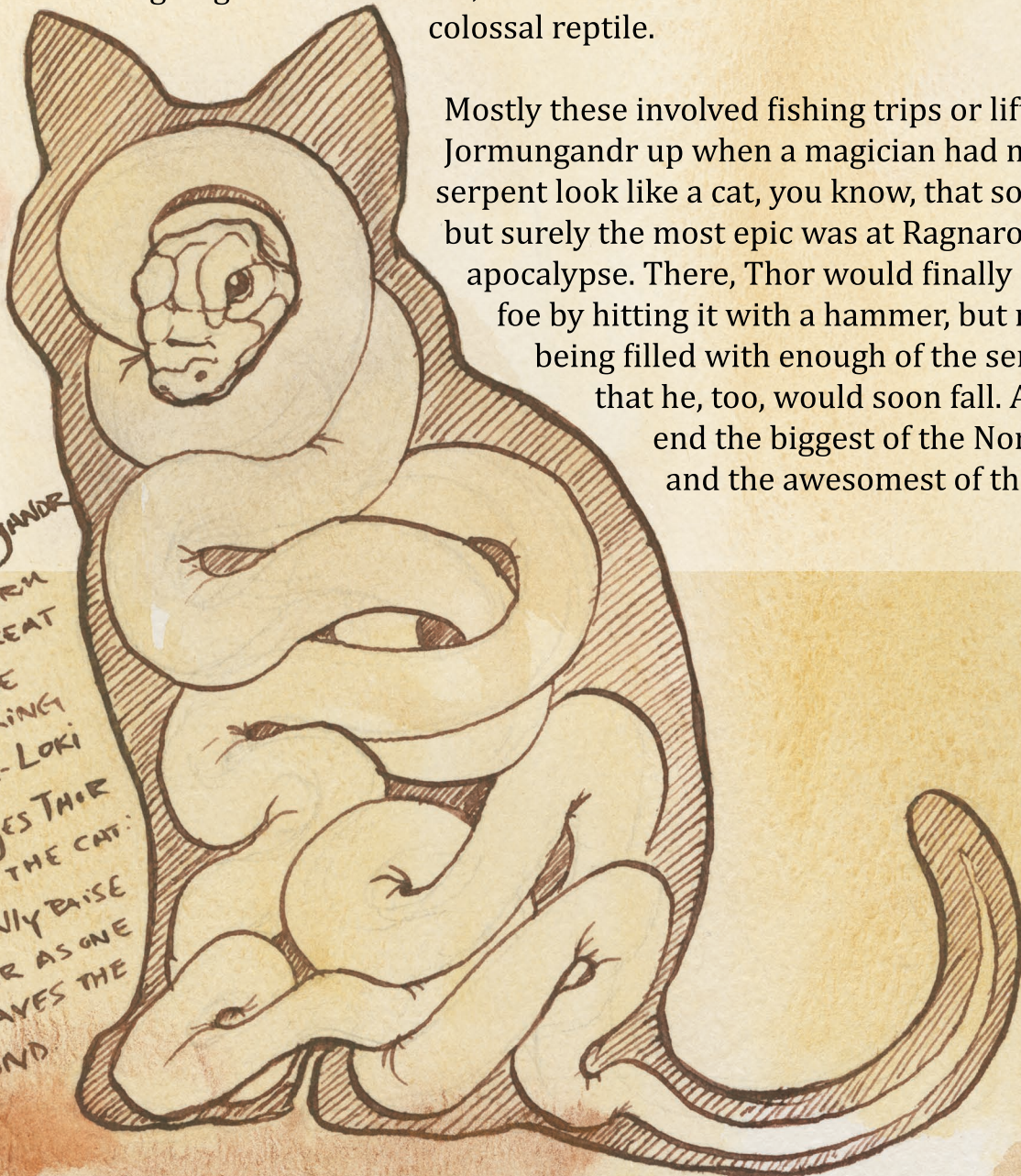
Identification: It's the enormous serpent at the bottom of the sea with its tail in its mouth

Role: Apocalypse Beast

Enemies: Thor (deity)

Facts: When the Midgard Serpent was born, the gods were horrified and threw him in the ocean; why the gods were afraid of snakes and why they couldn't come up with something better to do with him are not adequately explained in the Eddas. There, the monster grew and grew and grew, until he encircled the whole world and took his own tail in his mouth. And there he lay, at the bottom of the sea, encircling the world. Well, Thor wasn't going to stand for that, and would come into a number of conflicts with the colossal reptile.

Mostly these involved fishing trips or lifting Jormungandr up when a magician had made the serpent look like a cat, you know, that sort of thing, but surely the most epic was at Ragnarok, the Norse apocalypse. There, Thor would finally kill his ancient foe by hitting it with a hammer, but not before being filled with enough of the serpent's venom that he, too, would soon fall. And so would end the biggest of the Norse dragons, and the awesomest of the Norse gods.



JORMUNGANDR
IN THE FORM
OF A GREAT
CAT. THE
GIANT KING
UTGARDA-LOKI
CHALLENGES THOR
TO LIFT THE CAT.
HE CAN ONLY RAISE
IT SO FAR AS ONE
FOOT LEAVES THE
GROUND.

Amphisbeteira

Of course is
from the greek "Amphis"
Meaning "Both ways" and "Biteira" which
is "To go".

This creature was spawned into
Life from the blood of the
Gorgon Medusa when Perseus flew
off the Lipos Desert Is. for
Army on the match.

Lazy
Lunatics
Nail the
Carcass of
an Amphisbeteira
to the tree
Thyja belly
to both
Keep well
to make the
the cut
faster & easier

Folk
Medicine:

To have a safe
Pregnancy, wear a Live
Amphisbeteira round
your neck for the
Common Cold & Asthma
Wear only its skin
to attract many
lovers the flesh
should be
eaten.



Amphisbaena

Other Names: Amphisboena, amphivena, other spellings like that

Culture: Greece

Range: Libyan desert

Frequency: Rare

Size: Small

Identification: Serpentine; head on either end

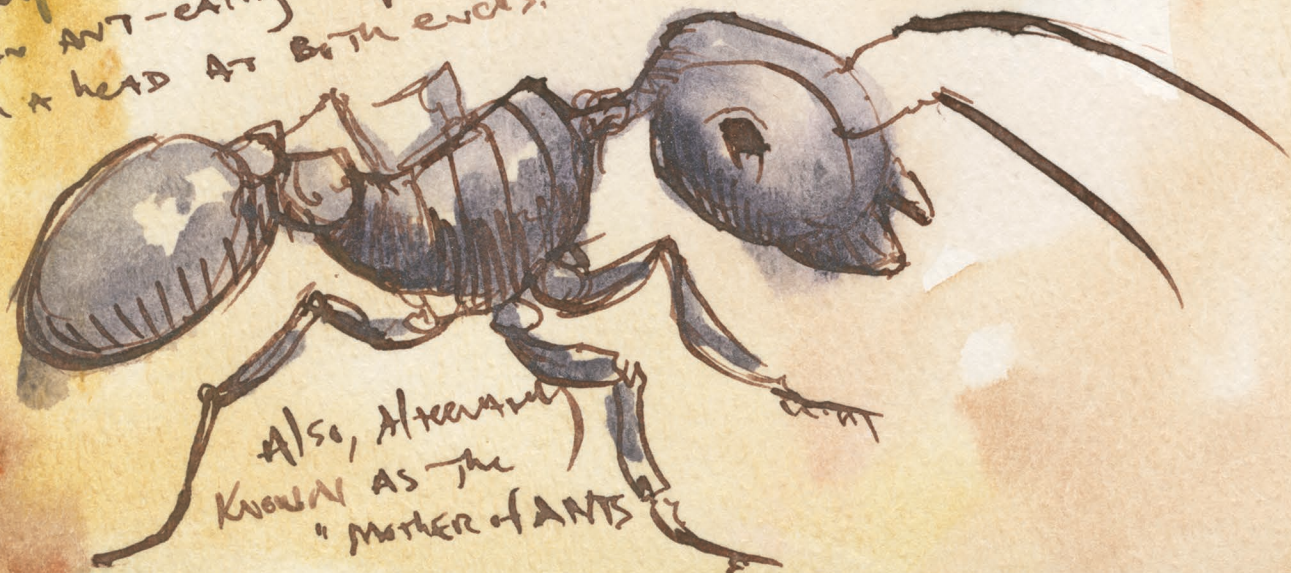
Role: Heraldic Beast

Enemies: None specific

Facts: Created when the blood of Medusa dripped out of the bottom of her neck as Perseus was flying over the desert with his winged sandals carrying Medusa's severed head – has everybody got that? – amphisbaenas could move in one direction or the other without having to turn around. Without having to turn around! It is incredible that mere humans can even imagine such power!

In some tales, amphisbaenas can grab one head in the other, form themselves into a circle, and move like rolling, in the manner of a wheel. Why an amphisbaena would be more apt to do this than a normal serpent is unrecorded; indeed, it seems like a worse idea for an amphisbaena than for a regular snake, as one of the heads has to be very uncomfortable. But I'm not here to tell ancient monster-inventors how to do their jobs.

Amphisbaena
is an ANT-eating serpent
with a head at BOTH ends.



Kalamainu'u

fishermen who wish to
bring his/her in to this
powerful

Mo'o
who are full
in Love
with the
young child
while
Suffering

Most Mo'o
are female
and all are
shape shifters



Kalamainu'u

Other Names: None

Culture: Native Hawaiian

Range: Moloka'i Island

Frequency: Unique

Size: Huge


Identification: Enormous black lizard, or beautiful woman

Role: Deity

Enemies: Puna'aikoa'e (hero); Pele (deity)

Facts: Kalamainu'u was one of the greatest of the *mo'o* – a group of water-lizard-gods who were protectors of the people, except for when they weren't. This was a common problem with Pacific dragons; Chinese longs, while generally good, would occasionally assail the world with floods and storms, and New Zealand taniwhas were protectors of clans and then sometimes just monsters needful of killing. These dragons were symbolic of nature, and nature, well, it does what it likes.

Kalamainu'u herself is mainly known for tricking the O'ahu chief Puna'aikoa'e into being her husband, or at least boyfriend. When he escaped, she chased him, along with other *mo'o*; when the volcano goddess Pele would not turn him over, the *mo'o* tried to block the volcano by coughing up phlegm. Didn't work! But you never know until you try.



Mo'o often
Become part
of the
Landscape
in Deity.

Mo'o
Above
Halawa
Valley,
Hawaii

Cockatrice



Oil-dripping womb of misery
O my accursed womb, the
Bed of death!

A Cockatrice has thou
hatched to the world,
Whose unavailing eye is
Murderous—

Shakespeare Richard III

Known to
kill with a
look—
may die instantly
upon hearing the
Crown of a Rooster.
The weasel is the
only animal
immune from its
death glare.

The cockatrice
is the issue of an
egg laid by a Rooster;
incubated by a toad or
snake. The Basilisk is the
Reverse offspring: The egg of
a rooster hatched by a Rooster.

Although in literature of old
The Cockatrice & the Basilisk
Are used interchangeably
they are very
different animals.

from Old French
"Cockatrice" - from
cock + trice
Alamix

Cockatrice

Other Names: Basilicok, Regulus

Culture: Europe

Range: Throughout Europe and Africa

Frequency: Uncommon

Size: Small

Identification: A rooster-like creature with a long, serpent's tail

Role: Wandering Monster

Enemies: Weasels, various dragonslayers

Facts: Cockatrices are the most venomous creatures on Earth. So venomous that they make deserts of their homes; so venomous that just looking at them will kill you; so venomous that, even if you do kill one with a sword, its venom will crawl up the sword and avenge the cockatrice. As such, it is the king of the serpents! And it looks like a rooster. For some reason. If this is blowing your mind, probably best to skip the next paragraphs.

Now, a cockatrice is born when a seven year-old rooster lays an egg while Sirius is ascendent, which is then incubated by a toad, who apparently volunteers. The good news is that this of course never happens; the other good news is that if it does anyway, you can throw the egg over your house and if it doesn't touch the house it will never hatch.

Also, weasels are immune to cockatrice venom. I am not making any of this up. Cockatrices may be the most random monster in all of Europe.



Hai Ryo



Nou aru taka wa tsume wo kakushi

Let us know about these
things, please.

Hai-riyo

Other Names: None

Culture: Japan

Range: Japan

Frequency: Rare

Size: Huge, presumably

Identification: Hornless Asian dragon's head on a bird's body

Role: Artistic Motif

Enemies: None recorded

Facts: Dragon-headed birds show up sometimes in old Japanese art. There are no recorded legends or tales associated with them, but who cares? Dragon-headed bird!

Other Japanese dragons in general are superficially similar to the Chinese longs, though the Japanese ones were a bit more hostile than the Chinese. And thus, there were dragonslayers, such as the god Susano-o, who dispatched a dragon with eight heads, but only after getting it drunk. Which may seem like cheating, but then, from another perspective, being an eight-headed dragon is sort of cheating as well.





A. Bambi Wendt is an independent illustrator and explorer who is currently traveling the globe seeking out hidden worlds and the creatures that inhabit them. Follow her adventures on Instagram: @bambikhan.

Matt Kessen is a Minneapolis-based writer, actor, and dramaturg. He has been writing and performing his live solo show, Reverend Matt's Monster Science ("Part science. Part comedy. All monsters"), in a variety of venues since 2012, and it may be found online at revmattsmonsterscience.com. He also posts daily monster entries on Monster Science's Facebook page, and it was here that many of these dragon paintings first saw the light of day. He is also very tall.



Bambi would like to say...

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Also from Beard Poetry

Anna Binkovitz

The Love Hypothetic

Kieran Collier

This to You: Erasure poems from Fall Out Boy's album *Take This To Your Grave*

Clair Dunlap

In the Plum Dark Belly

Cristopher Gibson

Dysfunctional: Portrait of a Small Town

Hasani Harris

ego alleluia

Thressa Johnson

(blank space): Erasure poems from Taylor Swift's album *1989*

A Particular Weight

Thressa Johnson & Amoreena Tarvas

At the Sky

Chris Lee-Rodriguez

Really From

A Callused Smile

Lewis Mundt

REDacted: Erasure poems from Taylor Swift's album *Red*

The God of the Whole Animal

As

GUNPOWDER AVALANCHE

you better close that window; they say it's gonna rain tonight

Lewis Mundt & Holly Rios

The Human Panic Attack (forthcoming)

Susan Niz

Beyond this Amniotic Dream

Bao Phi

It was flame.: New poems

Ollie Schminkey

The Taste of Iron

