

Dawei and his friend talk about dragon.

1. Ei, Dawei, what did you do during the Spring Festival?
2. What's your deepest impression about them?
3. Why about dragon?
4. Do you know why the dragon image is considered so important in Chinese culture?
5. According to what we know, once there were animals called dinosaurs in the natural world.
6. It is a very complicated issue. Many researchers have done research on the myth of the dragon, but so far they haven't reached a consensus.
7. Some say the dragon image is similar to lightning. They think the dragon image is the result of natural phenomena that ancient Chinese couldn't understand. Ancient Chinese considered lightning as the appearance of god because they saw lightning followed by thunder, rain and flood. Later, ancient Chinese called this natural phenomenon the "dragon".
8. I think that another researcher's study makes more sense. He thinks that the myth of the dragon is associated with the ancient Chinese tribes' worship of dragons.
9. Many ancient Chinese tribes used an animal as its symbol. After the tribes were unified, they concentrated all animals' characteristics together to form the dragon image.
10. Yes. This is the reason why dragons can fly in the sky and swim in the water.
11. Yes, some studies show that the dragon image was the symbol of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty, the Xia. That is why emperors called themselves dragons, and Chinese people think of themselves as the offspring of dragons.
12. It is a proverb meaning they hope their sons will grow up to be a capable man.
13. They say they hope their girl will grow up to be as beautiful and smart as a phoenix".
1. I visited some museums and watched some Spring Festival performances.
2. My deepest impression is Chinese people's worshipping the dragon.
3. The reason my deepest impression is about the dragon is because during Spring Festival, I saw many dragon images on houses, paintings and ornaments, and in museums as well. I can say that dragon images can be found everywhere in Chinese people's life.
4. I don't know, but I am very interested in finding out.
5. Though once there were dinosaurs in the natural world, there were no dragons. After all, where did dragons in Chinese culture come from?
6. Then how many ideas about dragons have they had?
7. Do you agree with them? If you don't agree with them, then what is your opinion?
8. Why is it associated with ancient Chinese tribes' dragon worship?
9. No wonder the dragon image I saw has the body of a snake, the head of a horse, the jaw of a eagle, and the horn of a deer.
10. I was told that dragon image represents power because it exists everywhere.
11. No wonder, I saw that dragon images were used to decorate emperors' beds and clothing. Another thing I noticed when I was in China was that Chinese love to say they hope their sons will amount to something. What does that mean?
12. If the child is a girl, then what do they say?
13. I got it. Thanks a lot. I think the dragon is a very interesting topic.

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.104 Chinese IV (Regular)  
Spring 2004

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.