

走进中国
吴志民
年

走进中国

前言

走进中国！
走进龙的故乡！
九百六十万平方公里的土地，
悠悠五千年的历史辉煌；

盘古开天辟地的故事，
炎黄子孙的美丽传说，
代代相传的三皇五帝，
世界闻名的先贤圣哲；

数不尽的奇珍异宝，
读不尽的壮丽诗篇，
尝不完的美酒佳肴，
看不够的名山大川；

壮哉，中国历史！
美哉，中国文化！
孔子两千年前向全世界发出了邀请——
“有朋自远方来，不亦乐乎！”
走进中国——
开放的中国拥抱您！

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BOOK I

LEGEND

一 . 传 说 篇



Pan Gu Separating Heaven and Earth

盘古开天辟地

The Legend of the *Long*

龙的传说

Pan Gu

Separating Heaven and Earth

At its remotest and earliest stage, the universe looked like a huge egg, with Heaven and Earth mixed into Chaos. It was in this huge egg that Pan Gu, creator of the universe, was begot.

Pan Gu was growing up in this huge egg of the primeval form of the universe, and began to be active only after eighteen thousand years had passed. The huge egg cracked open the moment he started to stir. The airy part of the egg, which was light and clear, slowly rose to become Heaven, and the rest, which was heavy and turbid, gradually sank to form Earth, and thus there was Heaven and Earth in each other's distinctive sense. However, the distance between the earliest Heaven and Earth was rather short, so much so that Pan Gu could not even straighten his back, and felt very much oppressed. He did his utmost to hold on, so that Heaven and Earth would not join together. As a result, with each passing day, Heaven rose ten metres higher, Earth became ten metres thicker, and Pan Gu himself grew ten metres taller. Standing firm on Earth, Pan Gu persisted in his efforts to prop up Heaven.



With the lapse of another eighteen thousand years, Heaven had risen very high and Earth had become very thick, and there was a distance of ninety thousand kilometres in between. In other words, by then, Pan Gu had grown to ninety thousand kilometres in height, like a high mountain towering aloft between Heaven and Earth. The making of Heaven and Earth was thus completed: Heaven rose no more, nor did Earth continue to thicken itself, and there was no chance of Heaven and Earth closing up. Having fulfilled the arduous task of separating Heaven and Earth, Pan Gu fell to the ground, and died.

After his death, his breath became wind and clouds; his voice, thunders; his left eye, the sun; his right eye, the moon; his four limbs, the four poles of the earth; his blood, rivers; his arteries and veins, roads; his muscles, fields; his hairs, plants and trees; his teeth and bones and marrow, rocks and metal and pearls; and his sweat and tears, rain and dew. Pan Gu gave his all to the world he had created, and made it beautiful and richly endowed.

The exploits of Pan Gu in separating Heaven and Earth are remembered for all time in China. Pan Gu's Tomb in Guangdong and Pan Gu's Temple in Guilin of Guangxi, are places where people go and pay tribute to the memory of this hero of remote antiquity.

盘古开天辟地

世界在最古、最初的时候，天地不分，一片混沌，像个巨大的鸡蛋。世界的开创者盘古，就孕育在这个大鸡蛋里。

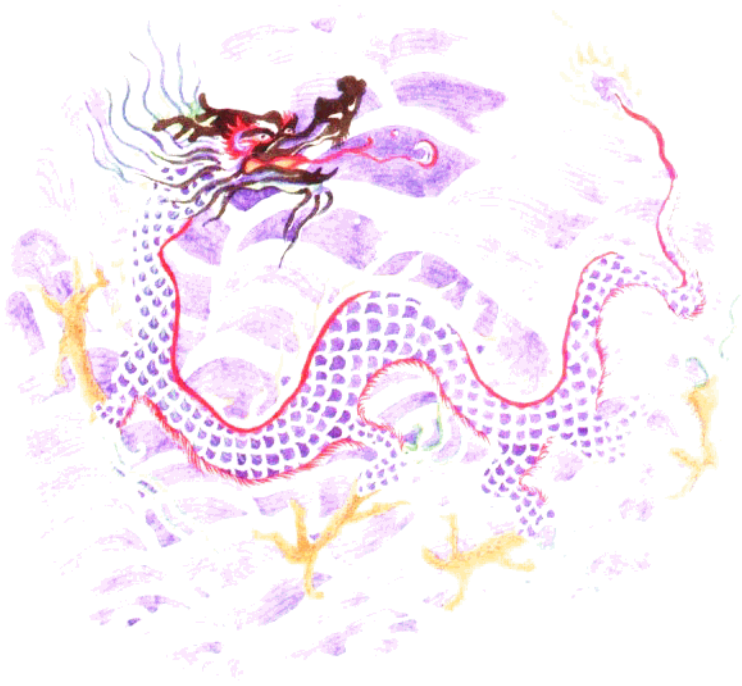
盘古在这个原始世界的大蛋里，慢慢成长，大约过了一万八千年，他开始活动起来。他一动，大蛋就裂开了。蛋里一部分轻而清的气体似的东西，逐渐上升，变成了天；另一部分重而浊的东西，逐渐下沉，凝成了地。这样才有了天地之分。不过，最初的天地上下距离很近，盘古连腰也直不起来，憋得很难受。他竭力撑持，不让天地合拢。以后，天每天升高一丈，地每天加厚一丈，盘古的身长也每天长高一丈。他始终顶天立地撑持着。

大约又过了一万八千年，天已经升得很高，地也凝结得很厚，中间的距离大约是九万里。也就是说，盘古的身高大约是九万里。他像一座高耸入云霄的大山，矗立在天地之间。这时，天地的构造稳固了，天不再升高，地不再加厚，天地重合的可能已经不存在了。盘古开天辟地的艰巨任务完成了，他倒下来，死了。

盘古死后，他口里呼出的气成了风和云，声音化成了雷霆，左眼变成了太阳，右眼变成了月亮，手足化为大地的四极，血液化为江河，筋脉化为道路，肌肉化为田野，汗毛化为草木，牙齿、骨头、骨髓化为石头、金属、珍珠，汗水、泪水化作雨露。盘古把他的一切全部献给了他亲手开辟的世界，并把她装饰得富饶而美丽。

盘古开天辟地的业绩在中国千古流传。广东盘古墓，广西桂林盘古庙，是人们怀念这位英雄的地方。

The Legend of the *Long*



“There is a *long* in the faraway east, whose name is China.” The *long* is the symbol of the Chinese nation.

In ancient times there often occurred droughts and floods in China. The *long*, or the dragon-like being, who was capable of absorbing water and producing rain, had, therefore, become the object for people to offer worship and sacrifices to. The *long* is identified as having the horse’s head, the snake’s body, the deer’s horns, the cock’s claws, and the fish’s scales. It can soar to the skies, gather clouds, make rain, and raise wind.

According to legend, Huang Di, or the Yellow Emperor, of remote ages, was a *long*. The Chinese are posterity of the Yellow Emperor, and, naturally, they are descendants of the *long*.

The ruler of every feudal dynasty of past ages invariably claimed to be the “Long Incarnate and Son of Heaven”. It is said that Qinshihuang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, was the first to be called *long*, and that Liu Bang’s mother had found herself twined round by a flood *long*, and was thus made pregnant. She then gave birth to Liu Bang, later to become Hangaozu, i.e. the first emperor of the Han Dynasty, which immediately followed the Qin Dynasty.

The *long* symbolizes power, strength, propitiousness, peace and promise.

The *long*, as the embodiment and deposit of a culture, is deep-rooted in the subconsciousness of the Chinese, and permeates every aspect of Chinese society. The image of the *long* is found everywhere in China, typically the Imperial Palace in Beijing, where 9,999 palace halls and buildings boast a total of sixty thousand *longs*; it is practically a world of *longs*.

For myriads of years, the *long* has kept company with the Chinese, bringing favourable prospects to them. Now there is no more the so-called “Long Incarnate and Son of Heaven”, but the *long*, as a mascot and as a spiritual symbol, is still alive in the heart of every Chinese. Each year on every major festive occasion, people enjoy themselves by putting on *long*-lantern shows and paddling *long* boats, dancing with the *long*, singing in praise of the *long*.

龙的传说

“遥远的东方有一条龙，它的名字叫中国。”龙是中华民族的象征。

中国古代经常发生旱涝灾害，能吸水能行雨的龙便成了人们崇拜和祭祀的对象。龙的形象是：马头、蛇身、鹿角、鸡爪和鱼鳞。它可升天，可聚云，可行雨，可生风。

传说上古时代黄帝是一条龙，中国人是黄帝的后代，自然是“龙的传人”。

历代的统治者，都把自己称作为龙的化身，自称是“真龙天子”。据说秦始皇是第一个被称为龙的人；汉高祖刘邦也因为有条蛟龙盘在他母亲身上，由此其母怀孕，生下他来。

龙象征权力，象征力量，象征吉祥，象征太平，象征希望。

龙，作为一种文化的凝聚和积淀，已深入到每个中国人的潜意识之中，已渗透在中国社会的各个方面。在中国，到处可以看到龙。北京故宫，简直是龙的世界，九千九百九十九间宫殿，总共有六万多条龙。

千百年来，龙和中国人民朝夕相伴，它给中国人们带来希望。如今，“真龙天子”已不复存在。但龙作为一种吉祥物，一种精神和力量的化身，仍然活跃在中国人的心里。每年的节日，人们舞龙灯，划龙舟，与龙共舞，为龙歌唱。

Chinese history, like a long river flowing from a distant source, has extended, according to old traditions, for about five thousand years from the time of the legendary Yellow Emperor to the present day. Here is a brief Chinese chronology, which provides you with the primary background knowledge the moment when you are crossing the threshold of China and trying to understand this country. Keep the chronology in mind for this marks your first step into China.

中国的历史，象一条长河，绵延流淌。按照传统的说法，从传说中的黄帝到现在，大约有五千年。本篇向您介绍的，是中国历史上的朝代名称和它的对应年代，这是您走进中国、了解中国所遇到的首要问题。记住它们，这是您走进中国的第一步。

BOOK II

HISTORY

二 . 历 史 篇



The Long Process of History

历史长河

A Brief Chinese Chronology

中国历史纪元简表

The Long Process of History

Five thousand years ago, there lived many clans and tribes in the Yellow River and Yangze River valleys. Huang Di, or the Yellow Emperor, was the most famous tribe-chieftain in legend. Meanwhile there lived another tribe-chieftain called Yan Di in the northwest of China, who, according to legend, was a close relative of Huang Di.

It happened that a third tribe-chieftain called Ci You, who was fierce and warlike, kept attacking Yan Di and occupied large tracts of his territory. Yan Di dispatched troops to resist the invasion, but found himself no match for Ci You, who finally put him to rout. Yan Di could do nothing but turn to Huang Di for help, who, in response, allied himself with the forces of other tribes, and inflicted a crashing defeat on Ci You. Huang Di, therefore, won the support of many tribes, and people of the later generations all regard him as the earliest ancestor of the Chinese nation. As Yan Di and Huang Di were close relatives and later fused their tribes into one, the Chinese nation is sometimes identified as being descended from Yan-Huang. You cannot benefit much from your visit to China without a knowledge of Chinese history. Nor can you acquire a knowledge of Chinese history without an acquaintance with the ancestors of the Chinese. In Huangling County, Shaanxi Province, you can pay a visit to the burial-ground of the great Yellow Emperor. Every Pure Brightness Day* witnesses grand commemorative activities there.

If you pass by Shaanxi Province, be sure that you don't forget to visit the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum. For buried there was the oldest neighbour of your ancestors.

The Yellow Emperor marked the beginning of Chinese civilization.

* Pure Brightness Day: This falls on the day April 4, 5, or 6, marking the beginning of the 5th of the 24 solar terms, traditionally observed as a festival for worshipping at ancestral graves, technically known as "sweeping the graves".

A Brief Chinese Chronology

Five Lords*(c.2600-c.2100B.C.)

Xia Dynasty(c.2100-c.1600B.C.)

Shang Dynasty(c.1600-c.1100B.C.)

Zhou Dynasty(c.1100-221B.C.)

Qin Dynasty(221-206B.C.)

Han Dynasty(206B.C.-220A.D.)

Three Kingdoms(220-280)

Jin Dynasty(265-420)

Northern and Southern Dynasties(420-581)

Sui Dynasty(581-618)

Tang Dynasty(618-907)

Five Dynasties(907-960)

Song Dynasty(960-1279)

Yuan Dynasty(1271-1368)

Ming Dynasty(1368-1644)

Qing Dynasty(1644-1911)

Republic of China(1911-1949)

People's Republic of China (founded on Oct.1st,1949)

From the Five Lords to the founding of the People's Republic of China, successive dynasties and political regimes alternated like the rise and fall of the tide, all contributing to the making of the splendid civilization of the Chinese nation.

With these reign and regime titles as navigation marks and with the chronology directing the course, you can sail along the long span of Chinese history. This is a shortcut to approaching China and to understanding China.

* The Five Lords: Huang Di was the first of the Five Lords, the other four being Zhuanxu, Di Ku, Di Yao and Di Shun.

历史长河

五千年以前，中国黄河、长江流域一带生活着许多氏族和部落，黄帝就是传说中最著名的一个部落首领。当时在中国西北还住着一位部落首领叫炎帝，据说跟黄帝还是近亲。

当时，有一个部落首领叫蚩尤，十分强悍，他不断地侵犯炎帝，占去了炎帝许多地方。炎帝起兵抵抗，但他不是对手，被蚩尤杀得一败涂地。炎帝没有办法，便请黄帝帮助。黄帝便联合各个部落，把蚩尤打得大败。于是，黄帝得到了众多部落的拥护，后代的人都认为他是中华民族的始祖。因为炎帝和黄帝是近亲，后来他们又融合在一起，所以有时也称中华民族为炎黄子孙。

走进中国，不能不了解中国的历史。要了解中国的历史，不能不了解中国人的祖先。在陕西省黄陵县，伟大的黄帝葬在那里。每年清明节，在那里都将举行盛大的纪念活动。

如您路过陕西省，千万不要忘记去参观黄帝陵。因为那里葬着你们祖先最古老的邻居。自黄帝起，中国开始了自己的文明史。

中国历史纪元简表

五帝（约前 2600—约前 2100）

夏（约前 2100—约前 1600）

商（约前 1600—约前 1100）

周（约前 1100—前 221）

秦（前 221—前 206）

汉（前 206—公元 220）

三国（220—280）

晋（265—420）

南北朝（420—581）

隋（581—618）

唐（618—907）

五代（907—960）

宋（960—1279）

元（1271—1368）

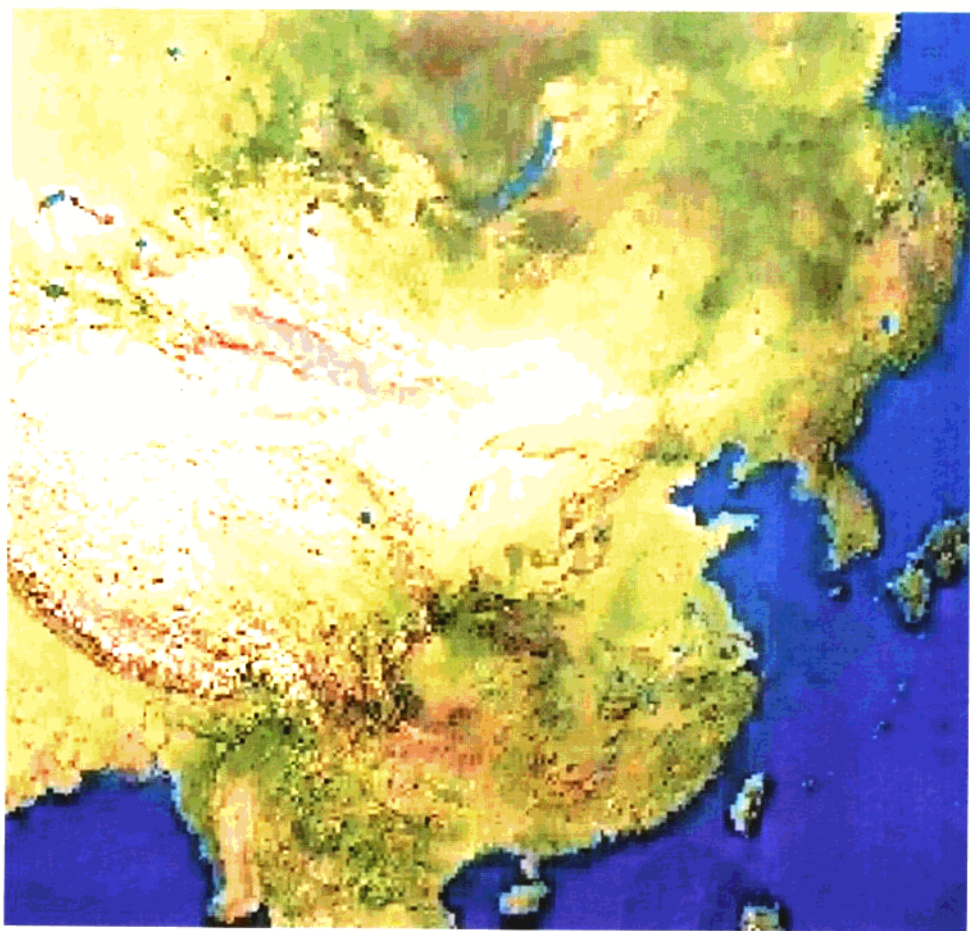
明（1368—1644）

清（1644—1911）

中华民国（1911—1949）

中华人民共和国（1949 年 10 月 1 日成立）

从五帝到中华人民共和国成立，改朝换代、政权更迭，犹如潮起潮落，中华民族书写了一部灿烂辉煌的文明史。以这些政权的名称为航标，以它们的纪元为线索，您便可走进中国历史的长河——这是您走进中国，了解中国的捷径。



Chinese history, like a long river, has extended for five thousand years.

中国历史，像一条长河，绵延流淌五千年。