

Dragon is invisible to man. If this were the case, how could we see his bones? I myself have seen a whole skeleton, head, horns and all, in a dilapidated mountain, and have no doubt they come from a dead animal, and have not been cast off by the Dragon.

“Li She Chan remarks: I believe the above remarks to be inaccurate. In the Tso Chūne (a history written in the time of Confucius) an official named Wan Lung Shee used to eat spiced Dragons' flesh. A book named Shut Yu Kēe (The Record of Curiosities) says that King Wo of Hon Kwok (the old name of China) made soup of a Dragon, which fell into the palace during a heavy rain. He invited all the high officials to partake of the soup. The author of the Pok Mut Chee, says that Cheung Wo got Dragon's flesh, which he steeped in vinegar, and thereby gave to the latter five different colours. As the animal is seen and used in this way, I have no doubt that the bones are those of a dead Dragon, and have not been cast off.

“This medicine is sweet and is not poison. Dr. A. Koon certainly says that it is a little poisonous. Care must be taken not to let it come in contact with fish or iron. It cures heart-ache, stomach-ache, drives away ghosts, cures colds and dysentery, cures fainting in children, irregularities of the digestive organs, heart or stomach, paralysis, nocturnal alarm, etc., and increases the general health.”

In the Chinese Repository* is a further quotation from Li She Chan concerning Dragons' bones, as follows: “The bones are found on banks of rivers and in caves of the earth, places where the Dragon died, and can be collected at any time. The bones are found in many places in Szechuen and Shanse, where those of the back and brain are highly prized, being variegated with different streaks on a white ground. The best are known by the tongue slipping lightly over them. The teeth are of little firmness, the horns hard and strong, but if these are taken from damp places, or by women, they are worthless.” †

It is possible that other mythical animals besides the Dragon may be, like it, partly of fossil origin, as were, without doubt, numerous races of Giants, which spring from the discovery of Mammoth bones. Fossil bones from caves, under the name

* The Chinese Repository, Canton, 1832-1838, p. 253. Extract from “Pun Tsaou Kang Muh.”

† For accounts of Chinese Medicine, see M. P. Dabry de Thiersant, “La Medecine chez les Chinois.” Also same author, and Dr. Leon Soubeiran, “La Matière Medicale chez les Chinois,” also “Études sur la Matière Medicale des Chinois.” Acad. de Medicine, Paris, July 16, 1873.