

SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Fantasia

Tales Around the World

Fantasy green road to magic bright fairy tale forest trees
Adobe Stock Photos

SJSU | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Table of Contents

Abstract and magical image of glitter Firefly flying in the night forest. Fairy tale concept..jpeg
Adobe Stock Photos

4

Director's Note

I-House Director's message

5

Baba Yaga

Slavic witch feared by many

6

The Legend of Saci Perere

Brazilian guardian of fauna and flora

7

Trolls

Norwegian creatures

8

Galone

Burmese Sunday dragon

9

Lord Vishnu

Indian God, Protector of Order

10

Yokai

Japanese supernatural creatures

12

Bakunawa

Filipino dragon that ate the moon

13

Minokawa

Filipino bird that ate the sun

14

I-House Ghost

Local folklore of house haunting

15

Chabah I Aswad

Lebanese ghost

16

Dangun

Korean lord born of a bear

17

Tooth Fairy

Worldwide creatures fixated on dental features

18

Residents Media

Residents' depiction of some creatures mentioned

Preface

PAUL JUNVER SORIANO

Enter the world of Fantasia – a magical place filled with creatures and stories. Here, we explore the mystical, whimsical, regal and scary regions of cultures around the world. If you are a fan of mythology, this is the world for you.

Whether it be a woman-turned bear in the new lands of Korea, the nplayful trolls in the streets of Norway, or the haunting in the International House laundry room, there is something unexplainable that happens in each culture. The unknowingness of everything connects us, and we hope you can connect with the stories.

So come along the ride, enjoy reading, and tap into your inner child. We all have a little magic in us.



One of my favorite childhood memories is of my sister and me sitting on our father's lap while he read us Grimm's Fairy Tales. I have the two tomes of those classic hard cover books in my home and every once in a long while, I pick them up to read them. As a young adult, we had a lot of fun with James Finn Garner's "Politically Correct Bedtime Stories," which were satires of these children's literature classics. Fairy tales guide us through morals, cultural norms, and let our imagination run wild. They can be read and enjoyed at any age. In the past few years, I have read fairy tale adaptations with Russian roots, a series starting with the Bear and the Nightingale, written by Katherine Arden.

The Fall 2021 newsletter written by residents of the SJSU International House captures the essence of the beauty and power of fairy tales around the world. Thank you to each of our contributors and to Paul Jun-ver Soriano, editor.

Director's Notes
LEANN CHERKASKY MAKHNIJ USA

Baba Yaga

VOLODYMYR ZHUKOV | UKRAINE



baba-yaga-design-on-a-russian-paper-mache-box.jpeg
King Edward's Music
Wordpress

An ugly old woman who owns magical items and is endowed with magical powers, the mention of which can be found in many Slavic countries – that is Baba Yaga. Despite the fact that different deeds are attributed to her in different countries, there is something in common in all her characteristics. She knows how to conjure, fly in a mortar, and lives on the border of the forest, somewhere in the wilderness, in a hut on chicken legs.

Usually, she is a negative character who tries to lure good people or children to her in order to cook and eat them. She also helps other negative characters in their opposition to the forces of good, but sometimes, she can help the main character of the story by giving them useful magic items, or suggest they need to go.

Baba Yaga is found not only in old folk tales, but also has already become a cult character in many cartoons and even in some films. Even during the Soviet Union, artists took her image and began to draw cartoons with her.

However, she did not try to eat or spoil anyone, and was more like a mischievous old woman with magical abilities.

Closer to modern times, Baba Yaga has become, I would say, an even more positive character; if she does something bad, she does not mean it. In fact, sometimes her actions even help.

Saci Pererê

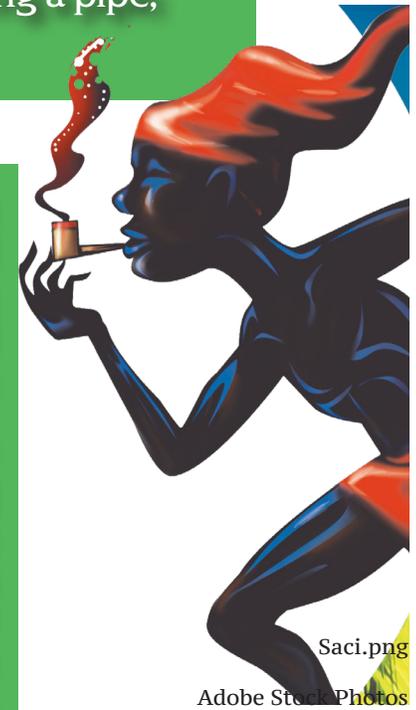
JULIA PECCIN | BRAZIL

The folklore of Saci Pererê, pronounced “sas-sy-peh-re-re” was first introduced by the indigeneous people of southern Brazil during the late 18th century.

During this time, Saci was depicted as a forest dweller Native Brazilian boy with tanned skin and a tail. As stories of this boy reached Northern Brazil, he adapted an African persona. Since this time, he has been depicted wearing a (magical) red cap and smoking a pipe; typical of Afro-Brazilian culture.

Saci Pererê’s character transformed into a young black man with only one leg. According to the myth, he jumped around with only one leg after losing the other in a capoeira fight. A capoeira is a Brazilian martial art designed as a dance and performed to musical instruments.

Saci’s powers enable him to disappear and reappear whenever he wishes. He also rides a small wind swirl around the forest. He likes to play tricks. He whistles through the roads at night. Saci Pererê braids animal manes while they are asleep, sets animals loose, and curses chicken eggs so they do not hatch. He is even to blame for silly misdemeanors like beans burning or a child’s toy missing.



Saci.png
Adobe Stock Photos

But Saci isn’t just a boy up to no good. He protects the forest from trespassers and hunters. Most of all, he guards natural herbs which the colonizers steal for medicines and cures without giving proper credit to the indigenous cultures. All who dare to cross his path become victims to his antics.

Saci Pererê is the guardian of all flora & fauna in Brazil. He provides comfort, safety, and identity for the Brazilian people.



Trolls
10/26/21
pngwing.com

Like many other children, I grew up with my parents reading bedtime stories to me as they try to get me to sleep. Sometimes, they would read the fairytales, especially the Norwegian ones, collected by Asbjørnsen and Moe. One of the ones I remember the best is “Askeladden som kappåt med trollet» or “The boy who had an eating contest with a Troll”. It is a fairytale about a boy named Askeladden. While chopping wood in the forest, Askeladden’s brothers, Per and Pål, ran into a troll. They got terrified and ran straight back. Askeladden wanted to try and defeat the Troll, so he went to find it. I won’t spoil the ending, but Askeladden is a clever boy and the showdown between him and the Troll is quite amusing. It is a great staple and a classic portrayal of a typical Norwegian troll.

When visiting Norway, you are very likely to encounter a troll in one way or another. They are everywhere from tourist shops, fairy tales, paintings, alpine complexes, and amusement parks. Trolls are staples in Norwegian mythology and they have taken many shapes and forms throughout the years. They are usually depicted as stupid, with messy hair and a tail. However, they can also be dangerous.

Norwegians’ perception of trolls today has been greatly impacted by the drawings of the famous painter Theodor Kittelsen. Even though most Norwegians don’t believe in actual Trolls anymore, it’s still an important part of our history and culture.

Trolls

HANNE SOFIE HAUGLAND | NORWAY



Illustration fantasy forest.jpeg
10/24/21
Adobe Stock Photos

In this article, we will learn a bit about one of several Burmese Supernatural Beings. The Galone, also known as the Garuda, is a legendary bird-like creature in the Buddhist faith. In context, Buddhism is the most practiced religion in Burma. The Galones are described as intelligent and social beings, combining characteristics of animals and divine beings. They live in their cities, with their own government. Some can morph into human form when they wish to deal with people. They are the nemesis of Nagas, serpent dragons that have a rivalry with Galones.

So, what does the Garuda have to do with the Burmese zodiac? For starters, each day of the week has its own zodiac creature, with 8 animals for each day. (Wednesday is divided into 2 periods, before noon and afternoon). The Garuda symbolizes Sunday. According to the zodiac, some traits of people born on Sundays include: Independent, ambitious, and, authoritative.



Besondere Lichtstimmung in einem nebligen Wald im Herbst
Panorama Format.jpeg

SmileusAdobe Stock Photos



garuda.png
Adobe Stock Photos

Galone

YE WINT NYAN KYAW | MYANMAR

Vishnu

KRISHNAA SATYANARAYNA | INDIA

Through generations, different stories in Indian mythology have been passed down either by word of mouth, or through carefully stored records. Hindu mythology is a body of myths found in Hindu texts such as the Vedic literature, epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana, the Puranas. Hindu mythology consists of intricately woven stories of the Holy trinity: Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Protector, and Shiva the Destroyer. Their stories illustrate how righteousness (Dharma) always triumphs over non-righteousness (Adharma), teaching us moral lessons relevant even in today's cultural context.



vishnu.png
Adobe Stock Photos

Vishnu is one of the most important gods in the Hindu pantheon and considered a member of the holy trinity (trimurti) of Hinduism with Brahma and Shiva. Vishnu is the Preserver and guardian of men, he protects the order of things (dharma) and he appears on earth in various incarnations (avatars) to fight demons and to maintain cosmic harmony. Indeed, to illustrate Vishnu's superior status, Brahma is, in some accounts, considered to have been born from a lotus flower, which grew from Vishnu's navel.

Vishnu was married to Lakshmi (the goddess of good fortune), Saraswati (the goddess of wisdom) and Ganga (the goddess who is the personification of the River Ganges). However, unable to live with the quarrels between his three wives, Vishnu eventually sent Ganga to Shiva and Saraswati to Brahma. He is considered to live in the city of Vaikuntha on Mt. Meru, where everything is made of shining gold and fabulous jewels and where there are lakes resplendent with lotus flowers. It is believed that lord Vishnu has ten avatars or worldly appearances, which are people, animals or a mix of both.

Autumn background, stairs to the sky. amazing mysterious road steps leads to mystical world, fairytale path hides among yellow and orange trees, magical October in foggy forest, beauty of nature.jpeg
Adobe Stock Photos

Yokai are Japanese supernatural beings that are like monsters. Yokai appear in specific areas, especially during twilight.

Oriental background, digital art. Illustration of a mountain dawn landscape with sakura blossoms. Can be used as location for games, greeting cards or illustration for books.jpeg
Adobe Stock Photos



I'll introduce some of the most famous Yokai. The first yokai is "Tengu." Tengu have red faces and high noses. They can fly by using the wings on their back and they live in the mountains, where they are thought to cause many mysterious incidents. Tengu were believed in throughout Japan. In "Demon Slayer", one of the most famous animes in Japan, a character named Sakonji Urokodaki always wears a Tengu mask.



Sakonji_visual.png
Adobe Stock Photos

Yokai
AOI KOMIYAMA | JAPAN



kappa_cartoon.png
pngwing.com

The second yokai is “Kappa”, which is also believed in throughout Japan. Kappa have green skin, shells on their backs, and plates on their heads. Kappa live in rivers, where it is said that they drug people and horses. The legend of Kappa was theorized to be used to keep children away from danger in rivers during the old days in Japan. Cucumbers are also sometimes called “Kappa” in Japanese because Kappa are said to like cucumbers very much.

The final yokai is “Yuki-Onna.” Yuki-Onna were believed to live in the snowy regions of Japan. They have snow white skin and wear white Kimono. They appear only on snowy nights and were believed to make people freeze to death with one breath.

Do you like Japanese Yokai? There are still many interesting ones. Japan has many comics and anime based on Yokai, like “GeGeGe no Kitaro” or “Yokai Watch.” I recommend for you to watch them and learn even more about Yokai!



yuki_onna.png
pngwing.com

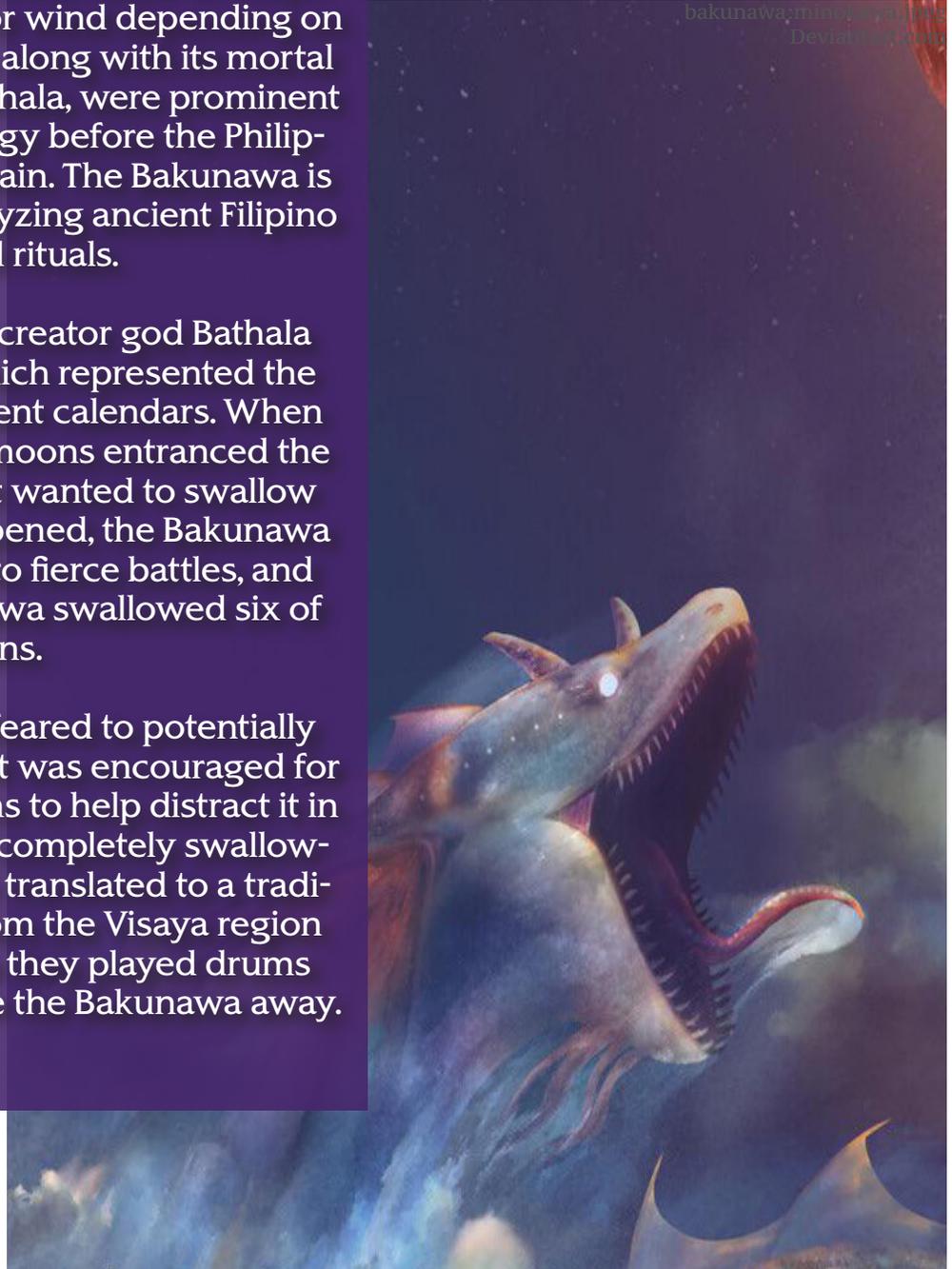
Bakunawa

ANNA MÃRÇOS | PHILIPPINES

The Bakunawa is a sea serpent in Filipino folklore that, according to legend, is the cause of eclipses, earthquakes, rain, and/or wind depending on the region. The Bakunawa, along with its mortal enemy, the creator god Bathala, were prominent figures in Filipino mythology before the Philippines was colonized by Spain. The Bakunawa is an important figure in analyzing ancient Filipino weapons and rituals.

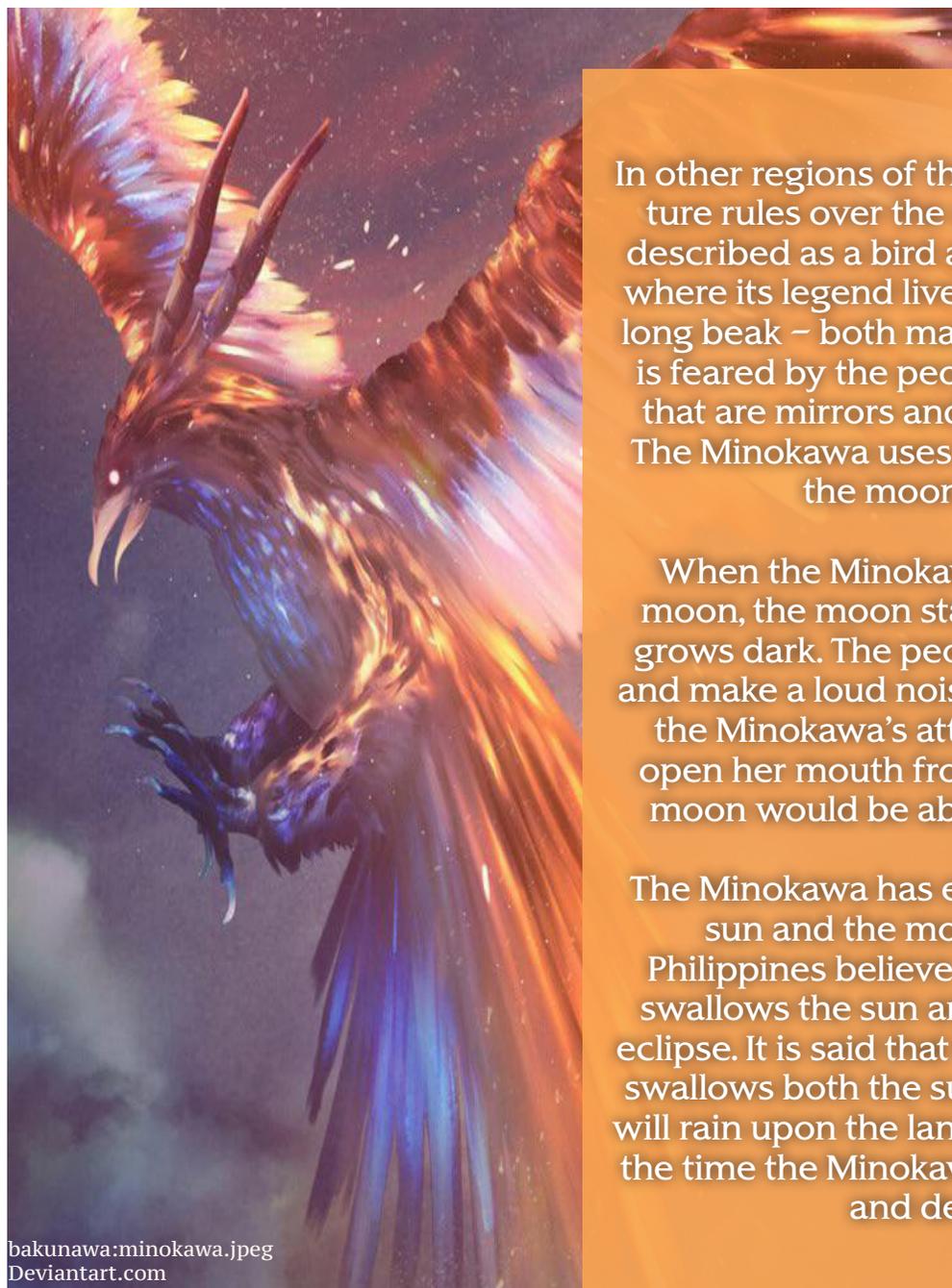
According to legend, the creator god Bathala created seven moons, which represented the seven lunar cycles in ancient calendars. When lit in the sky, these seven moons entranced the Bakunawa so much that it wanted to swallow them. Every time this happened, the Bakunawa and Bathala would get into fierce battles, and repeated until the Bakunawa swallowed six of the moons.

The Bakunawa was also feared to potentially eat people, and as a result it was encouraged for people to use pots and pans to help distract it in an attempt to stop it from completely swallowing the moons. These later translated to a tradition that ancient tribes from the Visaya region would take part in where they played drums every lunar eclipse to scare the Bakunawa away.



Minokawa

PAUL JUNVER SORIANO | PHILIPPINES



bakunawa:minokawa.jpeg
Deviantart.com

In other regions of the Philippines, another creature rules over the skies: Minokawa, which is described as a bird as large the island of Bohol, where its legend lives on. With sharp claws and long beak – both made of steel – the Minokawa is feared by the people. It also possesses eyes that are mirrors and feathers that are swords. The Minokawa uses these features to dive into the moon and swallow it.

When the Minokawa is able to swallow the moon, the moon stays in its belly and the sky grows dark. The people then bang their gongs and make a loud noise, hoping that it will attract the Minokawa's attention so that she would open her mouth from the distraction, and the moon would be able to come out and shine.

The Minokawa has enough size to swallow the sun and the moon fully. People of the Philippines believe that when the Minokawa swallows the sun and the moon, it causes the eclipse. It is said that the moment the Minokawa swallows both the sun and the moon, darkness will rain upon the lands. This dark time would be the time the Minokawa will descend to the land and devour people.

I-House Ghost

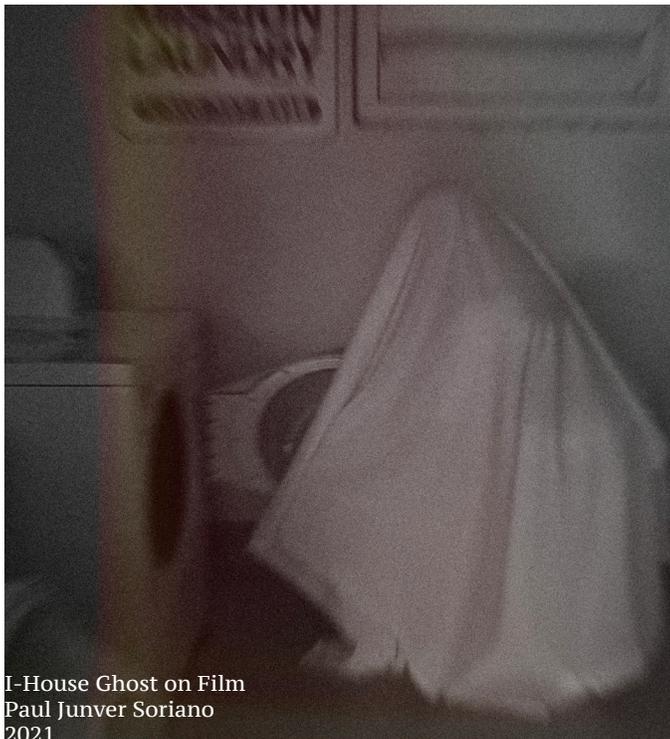
CARMEN CALZADA DIEZ | SPAIN

To get the laundry done, it costs \$1.50 for the washer and \$1.75 for the dryer, which is what all the I-House residents normally pay to get their clothes clean. \$3.25 for the laundry? Yes – unless you are friends with the I-House Ghost and it pays the dryer for you.

One lucky resident was Mai. She came all the way from Japan to get her clothes dried for free. While she was away from the House, her clothes were already dried, ready to be folded and put away in her closet.

The question that we all want answered: Who is the I-House Ghost? The only thing I can tell you is that it is neither Mai nor Victor. As with most of the weird things that happen around the House, Victor was also involved. He changed Mai's clothes from the washer to the dryer but he did not pay for it and when Mai came back her clothes were dried.

If anyone has more information about the ghost and can solve the mystery, please share the information with the other residents. We all want to know who the I-House Ghost is so it can pay for our laundry too.



I-House Ghost on Film
Paul Junver Soriano
2021



Throughout my childhood, I was always scared of “Chabah l Aswad,” which means the dark ghost. The ghost is said to be dark, tall and fast. I never knew who this ghost was or if he was real. However, every night I spent at my friend’s house, we would scare each other by talking about this ghost. His house in the mountains looked like an abandoned house in the middle of nowhere. Thus, we used to tell each other stories about how this ghost would suddenly appear in the middle of the night and murder us. It sounds horrific, but we had fun talking about Chabah l Aswad, and it made my nights with my best friend memorable and joyful.

In addition, every person that we met in the mountains knew about that ghost. We used to tell everyone that we knew about the ghost, and some kids used to believe in the stories that we made up. The moral of the story is to have fun whilst you’re young, scare your friends by creating a fictional character that you can make up stories of, and most importantly, tell everyone about it!



path in dark and scary forest.jpeg
Adobe Stock Photos



the_shadow_people.jpeg
Getty Images



path in dark and scary forest.jpeg
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Chabah l Aswad

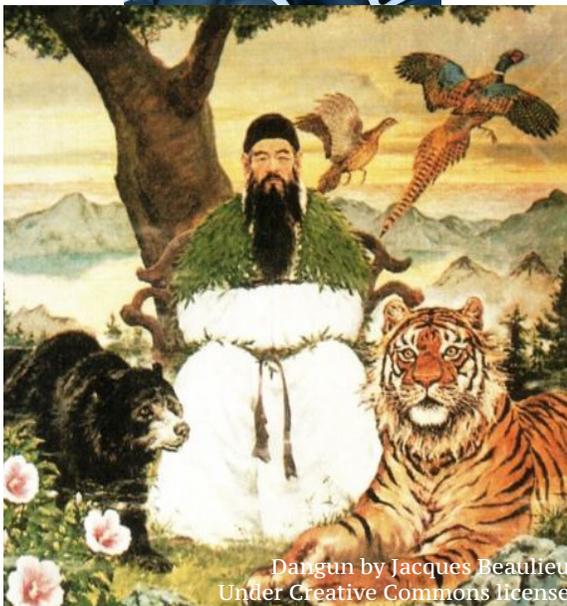
KHALED EL DROUBI | LEBANON

Dangun

FISCHER KIM | S. KOREA

Dangun myth is about the establishment of the first kingdom in Korean history named Gojoseon and also the best well-known Korean myth to people.

The lord of heaven named Hwanung decided to make Korea his own country with 3,000 servants. One day a tiger and a bear visited and asked him to make them human. He said, "If you stay in a cave for 100 days without going outside and just eating wormwood and garlic, then you can be a human." The tiger gave up but the bear continued to attempt to do the challenge. After 21 days, the bear became a woman and asked Hwanung for marriage. He accepted and borrowed a human body and became human. They gave a birth to a child and named him 'Dangun.'

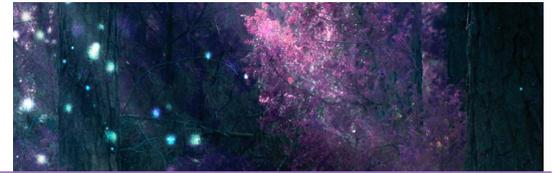


Dangun by Jacques Beaulieu
Under Creative Commons license

Dangun found the country Gojoseon and controlled it for around 1,000 years. After his reign, he went to heaven and became the lord. Now, Korea celebrates October 3rd as a public holiday since in Korean myth, Dangun established Gojoseon on that day.

Tooth Fairy

AKASH AGRAWAL | INDIA



Tooth Fairy is a fantasy figure which was popular in Western and Western-influenced cultures but later spread in different parts of the world as well. According to the myth, when children lose their baby teeth and put them under their pillow, the Tooth Fairy visits to take the tooth and leaves a gift in return.

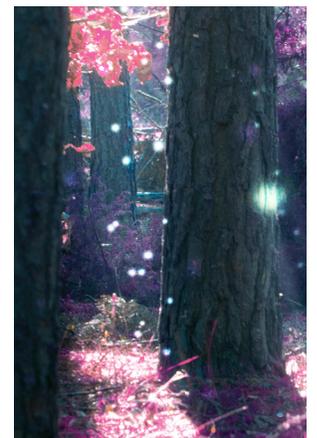


Tooth Fairy is called with different names in different places like: Raticito Perez in Spain, Topolino in Italy, La Petite Souris in France, and Els Angelets in Catalonia. In South Korea, it is considered that if the child keeps their fallen tooth on the roof and South Korea's national bird, the Magpie finds and takes it, it brings good luck to the child. In the Basque Country, there is a similar belief of keeping the tooth on the roof and Mari Tellatuko (Mary from the roof) taking it for a gift in exchange.



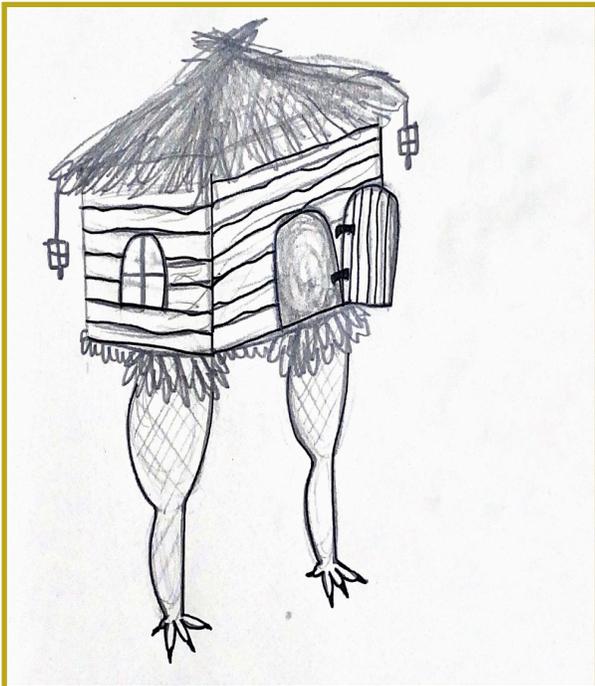
Fantasy Landscape. Mysterious Old Forest.,.jpeg
©SubbotinaAnna-stock.adobe.com AdobeStockPhotos

No matter the name, belief in the Tooth Fairy is quite popular among children and parents. For children, the Tooth Fairy brings comfort in the sense that they receive a gift when they endure the pain of a falling tooth. Parents find solace in the fact that they can teach their children the importance of believing in fighting pain for something greater in return and assuring them that someone out there is looking after them.



Residents Media

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Baba Yaga's House



Tooth Fairy

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Saci Pererê

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About the Newsletter

The newsletter serves as a way for alumni, friends, and current residents to stay connected with the International House (I-House) community.

Current residents leave their legacy on the House by sharing their stories while alumni and friends get a taste of the current resident's cultures. Each semester, a Resident Advisor is tasked with creating the newsletter, with a theme up to their own discretion. This decision leaves room for creativity and ingenuity by the lucky Resident Advisor, which is why every newsletter has its own unifying theme.

Residents get involved by writing stories, creating media such as photographs and drawings, and helping the Editor-in-Chief design the layout. In its own way, the newsletter is a microcosm that reflects I-House event planning, resident involvement, and community building.

We hope you enjoy the Fall 2021 Newsletter!

Paul Junver Soriano
Resident Advisor, 2021-2022



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