

# Eastern Demons

---

A literary History

By KyL T. Cobb Jr.

*Long lips reaching out from where one hundred males gather send envious talk (mi-kha) like an arrow; where one hundred females gather, it is like spun wool... where one hundred demonesses gather, it flows like water...*

---

*In Tibet the dharma is dying out, like beings who are near death. Oceans are drying up, the Life Tree is falling. The big lips of the nine mi-kha brothers are coming...*

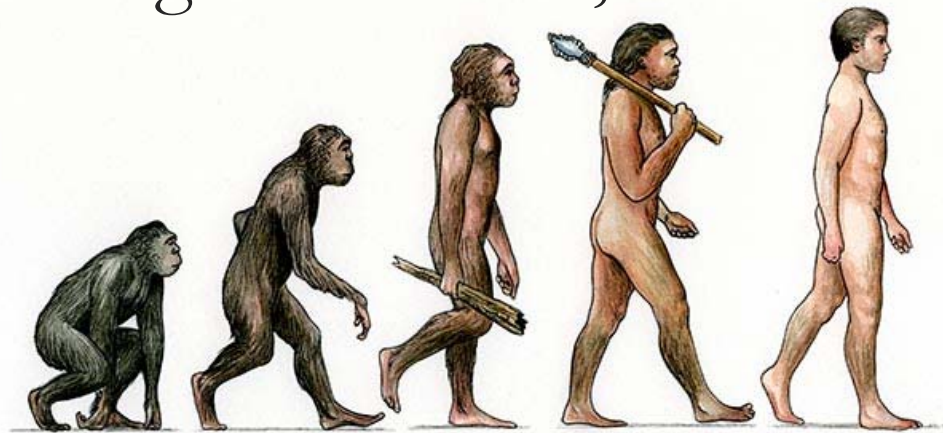
# Anthropology

---

Complete history of Man (abridged)

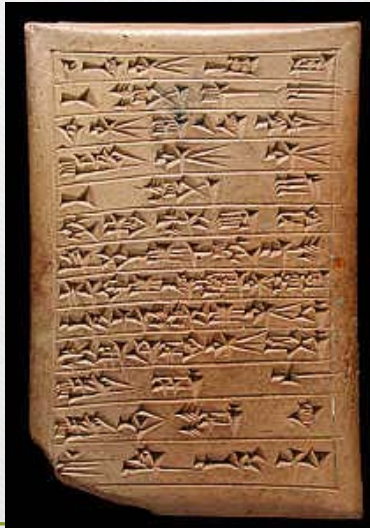
## Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Homo sapiens evolved 200,000 years ago in central Africa.
- Man began speaking around 100,000 years ago.



## Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Earliest known writing
- Harappan settlement in Pakistan
- 4,100 BC.



- earliest decipherable surviving writing system
- Mesopotamia
- 3,600 BC

## Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Before Mesopotamia, there is only art
  - The face from Angoulême, France (27,000 years ago)
  - Cave paintings of Nerja in Malaga, Spain (43,500 years ago)



# Conquest of Alexander the Great



# Definition

---

Finding a Demon



# Demon

## Definition using 5 Western characteristics

---

- Will
- Emotion
- Intellect
- Self-Awareness
- Speech

# Demon Definition

---

- Not previously been a human.
- Not exhibiting normal symptoms of a scientifically definable physical or mental disease.
- Outward manifestation beyond the explainable abilities of an associated host.
- Limited power and therefore at a lower level than a primary deity.

# Gilgamesh

---

The first historic demons

# Gilgamesh

## 3 types of demons from Sumerian texts

---

- Disembodied human spirits
- Half-monster, half-human entities
- Non-human forces



# Gilgamesh

## Utukku

- Ghost of Eabani
- Generic term for Sumerian and Babylonian demon that haunts barren places.



*“A door cannot exclude them,  
A bolt cannot turn them back;  
They slither through the door like a snake,  
They blow in by the hinge like the wind,  
They bear off the wife from a man’s embrace,  
They snatch the son from a man’s knee.”*

-Extract from a Mesopotamian incantation

# Gilgamesh

## Alu (Gallu)

- Bull of Heaven sent after Gilgamesh to avenge Ishtar
- Alu from Sumerian Gallu which means “tempest”. Spirit hunts the night.



# Gilgamesh

## Lilu

- Prototype of incubus/succubus
- Believed to steal life-force
- Blames for crib death
- Associated with sleep paralysis
- Not origin of Jewish Lilith



# Gilgamesh

## Shedim

- Babylonian meaning “to be violent”
- Winged bull temple guardians





# Transfer of Religions

---

The three methods

## 3 primary methods of religious transfer:

---

- Neighbor to neighbor
- Trade
- Conquest

## Methods of preserving culture/religion:

---

- Conversion of competing religions gods to lesser gods/demons
- Branding any competing religions gods as Evil.
- Prohibiting breeding outside the tribe as well as self-imposed tribal isolation.
- Unique diets
- Maintaining tribal languages
- Maintaining secret rites for the initiated.

# India

---

A 1000 gods, a 1000 demons

## Hindu Prohibitions

---

- Wine
- Meat
- Fish
- Hand gestures with your left hand
- Sexual union

# Mahishasura

- Granted the gift from Brahma that no male could kill him.
- led an army against the gods and defeated them.
- gods' anger created the goddess Durga.
- Durga eventually cut off the head



# Rakshasa



- Blood-drinking cannibals
- fly, vanish, change shape and size.
- black with two fangs protruding from their mouths and sharp claws.
- created from the breath of Brahma when he was asleep.
- started eating Brahma himself.
- Brahma shouted "Rakshama" (which was Sanskrit for "Protect Me!")
- To save Brahma, Vishnu expelled all Rakshasas to Earth.



## Rakshasa : Ramayana

- Ravana the king of the Rakshasa with 10 heads
- Steals Rama wife Sita
- Rama is forced fight Ravana to the death to free his wife.





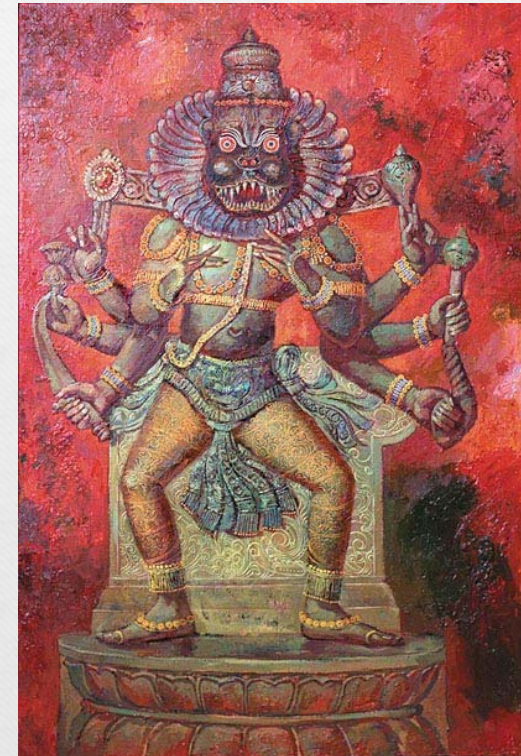
# Rakshasa: Mahabharata



- The Rakshasa live in the jungle and dining on travelers
- Female demoness scout falls in love with Bhima.
- Warns him of the Rakshasa attack
- The demons attack and are ultimately defeated.

# Pishachas पिशाच

- flesh eating with dark skin and glowing red eyes.
- shift form at will, turn invisible and even possess victims.
- Believed to feed off of life energy
- causing illness and even insanity.
- can be cast out using certain mantras and religious tools.
- Same as Tibetan Pisat (ปีศาจ).



# Tibet

---

An exorcism tradition

## Tibetan terms:

---

- Bdud- Demon
- Gto- Expel
- Bardo-State between ghost world, reincarnation and Nirvana.

# Tibet spirits

---

- Ser na- “yellow nose”- hungry ghost that possess living to feed.
- The Klu-serpent deities- whisper false accusation into minds to destroy the harmony of the world.
- The btsan- warrior spirits that seek to revenge their heroic deaths.
- The bdud- demons that that cause personal and historic decay.

# Tibetan Grul-dzul

---

- Gyasumdo Tibetans
- demon arrives in their villages on the back of a traveler
- hunts within the village for the weakest member and attacks.
- Ward uses a sign of a leaf rake sticking out of basket with girl's pants on their doors prohibiting travelers from entering

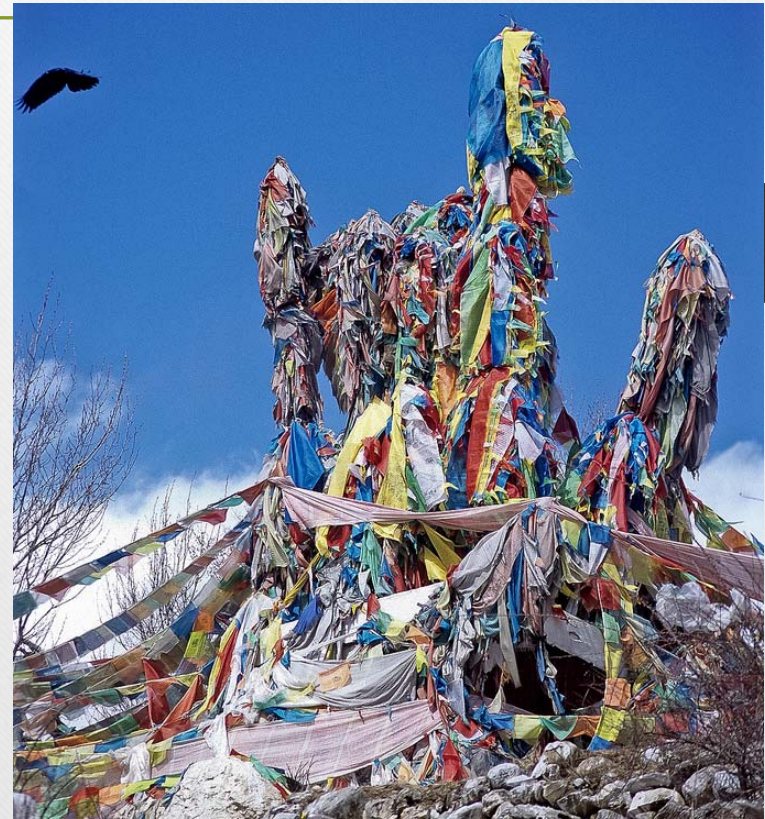
# Tibet- 4 ways to stop a spirit

- Use of a phurba
- Spirit traps to protect the home
- Gouduojie festival rituals
- Direct exorcism



# Tibet- spirit trap

- A kind of yarn spindle mounted to the outside of a house or to a tree
- colored interwoven yarns designed to catch the attention of spirits nearby.





## Tibet- spirit trap



- spirit becomes fascinated with the colors and is trapped within
- spindle is then burned to destroy the spirits inside.

# Tibet- Detection a possession

---

rnam-rtog ceremony

- The enticement... “Come swim in the lake...”
- the destructive part... “May you be carried away in the landslide...”
- Obey and prosper. Defy and be destroyed.

## Tibet- Detection a possession

- construction of an effigy on the victim
- Blood or red wine is poured over the effigy as a red offering.
- chant... “Take the meat and go...”



# Tibet

## Sri Demons



- Sri demons are the escaped inhabitants of the Gurung underworld of Khro-nasa.
- small dough animal effigies are placed in a tray with a thin layer of white ash then covered by black ash.
- A dog's skull is used to hold the trapped demons.



# Tibet

## “death demons”

- za-dre kha sgyur ceremony
- “If you disobey Phyag-na rDo-rje, he will split your head! He will chop up your body and send down a rain of weapons and turn you to dust! Instead it is better that you leave!”
- A special phurba forces the demon out of the spirit world to a “higher rebirth” or the demon is destroyed.



# Tibet

## Nag-po mgo gsum

---

- 3-headed black demon
- performed annually demon will periodically return.
- For this ritual an effigy of the demon's host is made to trap the demon



# Tibet

## Nag-po mgo gsum

- The effigy is threatened.
- Chants are used to draw any other demons in the structure to represent the house it attacked
- The demon is trapped inside the construct
- Trap is then placed at a crossroad to ward off any traveling demons



# Tibet

## Gcod, severance rite

---

- Encourages the demon to enter and feast on the body of performer.
- Goddess Ma-gcig slab-sgron (ma-cig lab-dron) invoked to cut up the body and distribute it among swarms of demons.
- When satiated, they leave and take the anger, passion, ignorance and ego.





# Burma & Thailand

---

Nature spirit

# Burma & Thailand

## Nat and Phi

---

- instead of possessing people generally prefers to live in trees, along the rivers or serving as cemetery guardians
- represented as positive nature spirits unless provoked.

# Japan

---

Kokoro No Oni

# Japan- The nature of evil

- Onmyodo- the way of yin and yang
- Oni are the opposite of good and represent all of the evil spirits dedicated to harming humans.



# Japan

## 5 characteristics of Oni

---

- Cannibalism
- Transformation
- The Other- Oppressed, outsiders, alienated, isolated
- Lightning
- Prosperity

# Japan

## Shuten Doji, the drunken Demon

---

- Would kidnap a beautiful maiden and then eat her.
- Fought warrior class and became a kind of demonic Robin Hood
- Also represents the resistance of the old religions to the encroachment of the government
- “there is nothing false in the words of Demons.”

# Japan

## Shuten Doji, the drunken Demon



- Defeated by warrior hero Minamoto No Raiko (Yorimitsu) and his four lieutenants.
- Rise of warrior class was at the expense of farmers, the outcast demon's struggle became that of the villagers outside the capital.

# Japan Yamauba

- Ugly woman forced to live in exile in the mountains
- Capturing and murdering people
- a warning of the dangers found in being less than vigilant when leaving the villages.
- Shape change into a beautiful woman to seduce her would be victim.





# Japan Namahage



- From coastal village
- Red, blue or black faced demons dressed in straw garments
- Re-enacted in Setsubun ceremony with men in costume that storm down from hilltop shrines and raise havoc in the villages searching for lazy or disobedient children.

# Japan Namahage

- "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!"  
"鬼は外！福は内!"  
Oni, Go out! Blessings come in"
- Soy beans are tossed at thee Oni and food is offered. A large meal is consumed to appease the Namahage.
- Straw that is dropped from the costumes is used for luck



# Japan

## Namahage - Origins

---



- The girl, the village and 100-step shrine
- Foreigners that invaded the villages and are now personified as demons.

# America

---

Demons without Buddhism

# Maya

---

Nature demons

# Maya

## Camazotz, Bat archetype

- “Death Bat“
- god of fire, Zotzilaha Chamalcan
- Camazotz decapitates the hero Hun Hunahpu with his claws but was ultimately defeated and cast out from the world.



# Maya

## Camazotz, Bat archetype



- Bakairi-Evaki, a night goddess
- Muskogee Creek, Cherokee and Apache have bat as part of religion
- Zotzil and the Zinacantan people of Mexico still worship
- More Cryptozoology than Demonology

# Maya

## Xibalba, “the place of fear”

---

- 10 demons serve in paired groups:
- Xiquiripat (Flying Scab) and Cuchumaquic (Gathered Blood) cause sickness by poisoning peoples’ blood.
- Ahalpuh (Pus Demon) and Ahalgana (Jaundice Demon) cause swelling in dead bodies as well as from infection.
- Chamiabac (Bone Staff) and Chamiaholom (Skull Staff) represent the natural decomposition of bodies into skeletons.
- Ahalmes (Sweepings Demon) and Ahaltocob (Stabbing Demon) are demons that lie in wait in the unswept areas of people houses and stabbed them to death.
- Xic (Wing) and Patan (Packstrap) cause people to die coughing up blood especially when while out walking on a road.



# Maya

---

- Muan- messenger screech owl demon- provides-ill omens to any whom encounter it.
- Caprakan- spirit of earthquakes, Child of Gucup Cakix and brother of Zipacna. He was defeated by Hunahpu and Ixbalanque.
- Cotzbalam- "Crunching Jaguar". Killed first people in destruction of the Second Creation
- Xecotcovach- "Face-Gouger"- bird servitor that blinded the first people in destruction of the Second Creation

Zuni

---

*Átahsaia*

# Zuni Átahsaia

- Giant cannibals with torso as big as an elk, hands so thick that his knuckles appear horned and a wild mane of grey bison hair.
- unblinking eyes and yellow tusks.



# Zuni Átahsaia



- Capture and eat various women that have strayed from their villages.
- Twin Zuni gods, Áhayúta and Mátsailéma,
- "wa'templa" ceremonial dance, Átahsaia is used as a figure to frighten children into obedience.

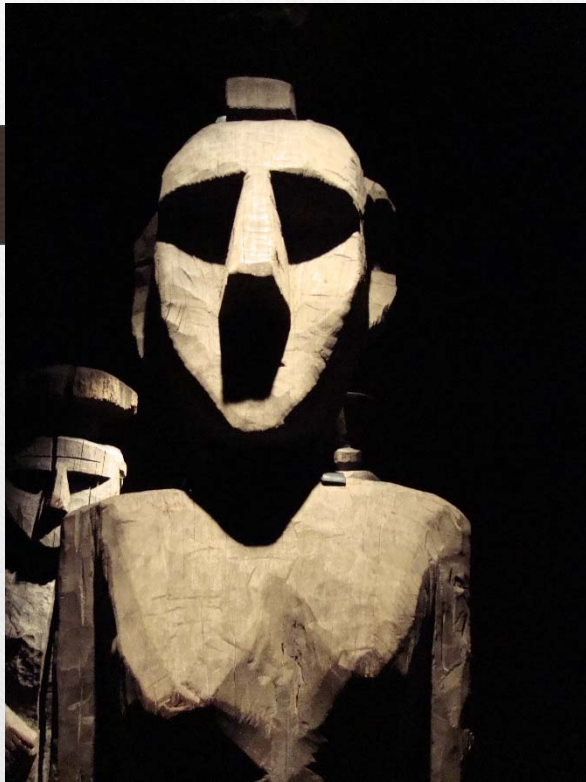
# Shoshone Dzoavits

---

- earthquake demon
- feeds on children as well as the eggs from the sacred dove.
- tricked into chasing the dove into a cave where he becomes trapped. The shaking earth is the demon trying to force his way from the cave.



# Mapuche Wekufe



- Shape changers or spirit form.
- In order for the Wekufe to possess a host a sorcerer most often hides the demon within object that must touch the victim or the wekufu may also enter a victim when it is in its ghost form.
- victim of the Wekufes must have violated a taboo

# Amazonia Chullachaqui

- Shape changers or guardian spirits
- protect the forest and punish those that violate taboos.
- Appears as prey to hunters and lures deep in the forests into
- Associated with particularly violent attacks of the chupacabra.

