

ANIMAL TOTEMS BY SCOTT KING

THE DRAGON: Sovereign of Earth, Air, Fire and Water

Webster's Dictionary defines the dragon as a huge serpent; a fabulous animal usually represented as a monstrous winged and scaly serpent or saurian with a crested head and enormous claws.



When we imagine dragons, we usually see the fire-breathing beasts of faerie stories with thick, long bodies of scaly skin, talon-toed feet, two bat-like wings, and wedge-shaped heads on long necks. Some dragons, it is said, are also able to shapeshift into any form they choose, fiercely protecting hoards of treasure stolen from villages, stacking it in long winding holes dug deep into the sides of mountains. Although this imagery is typical to most people, Dragon's power is actually that of shedding its skin and emerging as a new, transformed being.

Q About 6 months ago a dragon came to me in a dream. He told me his name and said he was one of my magickal helpers. I was wondering what a dragon means and how I could use it in my magickal workings? I also have an affinity with silver/white wolves – what do they represent?

Silverwolf, via email

A Simplistically, Dragon speaks of transformation, being that they are reptilian in nature and largely resemble

Dragon demonstrates the will to dare by teaching courage, strength and self-knowledge. It encourages us to face our fears, to combat them and transform them into personal gifts of inner strength and self-power. Many traditions also give specific qualities to Dragon as protector of the Elements. Earth Dragon guards the treasures of the Earth in store for us, as her 'legacy' to those who honour and respect her as our Mother. Earth Dragon, a large worm-like creature that inhabits holes and caverns, speaks of abundance and the wisdom obtained as we reach the maturity of old age.

Water Dragon guides us as we meditate and contemplate. Water Dragon teaches the art of introspection by encouraging us to calm the inner chatter so that we may find the silence within.

The winged Dragon of the Air brings clarity of mind while sharing the gifts of intuition and heightened intellect, while the flame-breathing Dragon reminds us to honour the fire in our belly, the passion that drives our creative force, while teaching the lessons of enthusiasm and innocence. Fire Dragon is most potent at puberty when we seem to know everything, but in fact know nothing; when we are zealous about everything and hold the world as our oyster in the palm of our hand.

the serpent in appearance. Though Celtic tradition gives specific qualities for dragons as guardians of the Elements – Earth (the lessons of abundance, prayer and maturity); Fire (the lessons of innocence, passion and sexual energy); Water (emotions, contemplation and introspection); and Air (the intellect, intuition and clarity of mind), in general terms – Dragon's power is that of shedding its skin and emerging as a new, transformed being.

Therefore, you may use Dragons as representative of the Elemental quarters as you cast Circle, while also asking your magickal helper to aid you in your personal healing.

The silver Wolf is seen as the teacher and pathfinder. Influenced by the energies of the moon, she is a lunar creature who represents loyalty in its purest form. Silver or white Wolves are allies of the Goddess and an instructor in all psychic workings. Representing Sirius, the Dog Star and home of the Gods, the Wolf is said to act as guide for the souls of the recently departed.

Q I would be grateful if you could help me to interpret a dream that keeps popping up. I dream my children and I moved into a new home in the country. It sat on a small hill overlooking the front yard which was grassy and green. Then some men pushed a statue of a dragon, which had been lying on its side, and placed it looking at the house, and me. Upon waking, I felt strange but wonderfully protected. *Scorpio, Nth Qld*

A In Arthurian legend, the dragon was seen as a symbol of the conquest of good over evil, and is linked to the story of Arthur and his perfect land, Camelot. Camelot was an ideal; a model world where it only rained at night and the beauty of eternal spring days were enjoyed by all.

The Dragon is said to bring to those who heed its message the 'wisdom of kings', and an understanding of the ability to manifest one's desires. Upon his death, Arthur was said to have been buried atop the Glastonbury Tor, a spiralled hill of great spiritual significance.

I suspect you are being told to find your small hill with grass so very green, as I believe you will be moving soon to a place of divine importance for you and