

The Dragon-Kings: A Chinese Myth

8 The dragon-kings live in gorgeous palaces in the
18 depths of the sea, where they feed on pearls and
27 opals. There are five of these divine creatures; the
39 chief is in the centre and the other four live in the
47 north, the west, the south and the east.

56 Each is incredibly long and so bulky that they
63 throw one mountain against another when they
72 move. Each creature has five feet (one of them
83 being in the middle of its belly) and each foot is
92 armed with five sharp claws. They can reach into
99 the heavens and stretch themselves into all
108 quarters of the sea. They have a glowing armour
117 of yellow scales, a beard under their long snout,
123 a hairy tail and fluffy legs.

Quick Questions



1. Find and copy an adjective used to describe the dragon-kings' armour.



2. Which two things do dragon-kings feed on?



3. Do you think dragon-kings are loved or feared? Explain your choice.



4. Give one way in which the dragon-kings are similar to another creature you know.
