



# Giants, Monsters, and Dragons: An Encyclopedia of Folklore, Legend, and Myth

By Carol Rose

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**Giants, Monsters, and Dragons: An Encyclopedia of Folklore, Legend, and Myth** By Carol Rose

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We have always conjured up creatures never seen in nature, from flying horses and two-headed birds to fire-breathing dragons and enormous killer skunks, as well as fantastic distortions of our own image, from giants to nubile maidens. In these pages you will meet extraordinary beings from Hindu and Navajo religions, Scandinavian tales, Russian folklore, Lithuanian stories, Irish oral history, American tall tales, and Aztec myth. Just some of the monstrous entourage: • Baku, a benevolent Japanese monster with the body of a horse, the head of a lion, and the legs of a tiger, who helps people by devouring their nightmares. • Kurma, the giant tortoise of Hindu myth, whose upper shell forms the heavens and lower part the earth. • Missipissy, the feared fish serpent of North America's Great Lakes region. This illustrated encyclopedia not only identifies and describes individual beasts in their cultural context but also groups them together across cultures and discusses common mythological strands and conceits. 60 b/w illustrations.

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #75027 in Books
- Brand: W. W. Norton & Company
- Published on: 2001-11-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.00" w x 7.80" l, 2.02 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 416 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

There are three criteria for inclusion in this near-comprehensive reference work on a relatively narrow aspect of folklore: the creature cannot be divine, it must be a supernatural being from mythology, legend, folklore, or classic literature, and it may be a cryptozoological or symbolic being, such as a heraldic beast. Although various other sources treat giants, monsters, and mystery animals, none seems to cover them all at once, and this work's inclusion of the symbolic element appears to be unique. Entries give basic descriptions of each creature as well as its activities, region, culture, and historical period, and each entry is both cross-referenced and referenced to a selected bibliography. Appendixes categorize beings under country or region as well as such headings as "Beings Associated with Catastrophe." While works as modern as J.R.R. Tolkien's are cited, the Harry Potter series is not, though several monsters described here are present in J.K. Rowling's books. Perhaps Rose (Spirits, Fairies, Gnomes, and Goblins) does not consider Potter classic literature, but for a current reference work, this may soon prove a serious oversight. Recommended for public and school libraries where similar references are used. DKatherine K. Kaigler-Koenig, Ellis Sch., Pittsburgh, PA  
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Review

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About the Author

Carol Rose is a research member at the University of Kent and a senior lecturer at Canterbury College, England.

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