

# Pan Gu and the Beginning of the World

A Chinese creation myth

**I**n the beginning the heavens and earth were still one and all was chaos.

The universe was like a big black egg with Pan Gu asleep inside.

After 18 thousand years Pan Gu woke from his long sleep. He took a broad axe and swung it with all his might to crack open the egg. The light part of it floated up and formed the heavens and the other, colder matter stayed below to form the earth. Pan Gu stood in the middle, his head touching the sky, his feet planted on the earth.



**T**he heavens and the earth began to grow and Pan Gu grew with them. After another 18 thousand years the sky was higher and Pan Gu stood between the heavens and earth so they would never join again.

When Pan Gu died his breath became the wind and clouds, his voice the rolling thunder. One eye became the sun and the other the moon. His body and limbs turned to five big mountains and his blood became the roaring water. The stars in the sky came from his hair and beard, flowers and trees from his skin.

**A**nd some say the fleas on his body became mankind.

