

Draconmania

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dragon n. **1.** (from the Greek word *drakon*) a mythical monster-like reptile usually with wings and claws and able to breathe out fire. **2.** an imaginary anthropomorphic monster that devours humans and possesses supernatural powers.

mania n. **1.** excessive enthusiasm; an obsession with something. *He has a ~ for dragons.* **2.** (med) a mental illness marked by obsession with certain ideas.

draconmania n. **1.** (med) a mental illness found in adults marked by an obsession that there are dragons on earth. *The animals observe humans in their uncontrollable ~ and smile sadly because they know that dragons exist only in their imaginations.* **2.** (sociology) the construction of imaginary enemies and a warmongering climate intending to repress freedom and impose totalitarian measures on society.

It all started with the imagination of a young, ambitious red ant, who, during his first patrol of the borders Red Ant World, he stumbles upon a strange object resembling an egg. When this strange object starts to crack in a little while and a hooked shape (a claw? A beak?) starts to emerge, the mole watching the ants' movements is convinced he is witnessing the birth of a terrible dragon on earth. So are the ants. Panic spreads from the ant to the rodent world and from there to the birds of prey, to the four-legged herbivore mammals and to the four-legged carnivores. The animal kingdom calls a truce and patrols are organized to protect their mutual ground – Earth. Finally, the news reaches the ears of the hunter of the Yellow King, who informs the King by means of a letter of the terrible news. The King immediately announces that the kingdom is in a state of alert, taking extreme precautionary measures.

The ambitious ant realizes on a later patrol that the dragon was nothing but a figment of his imagination and that the egg was an abandoned cuckoo's egg from which a baby cuckoo was hatched. Despite this, the ant, who has in the meantime created some hostility among his colleagues, will win their appreciation when he decides to go and face the cuckoo/dragon and when he realizes his mistake and owns up to it, he will gain their respect. He will then inform the mole of the misunderstanding, who will, in turn, spread the news to the hawks. The hawks then announce the new findings at the general assembly of the birds of prey. The eagle then tells the chameleon, who informs the rest of the reptiles. The news reaches the mammals and the carnivores. The animals call an end to the truce and go on with their lives after having learned to appreciate their opponents during their time of peace. But

despite their attempts to inform humans that there is no dragon, humans turn a deaf ear, as draconmania – the fear of dragons – has spread like wildfire. In a little while, when the kings finally realize there is no dragon, they name their neighbours dragons and start a war. In the war, however, there is great number of people who reacts against the war, setting up pockets of free citizens in nature, near the animals, who sadly watch on as humans are consumed by their uncontrollable draconmania.