



# THE EVOLUTION OF PROTECTION

Mastercard®, together with Dr Indira Arumugam, an Anthropologist from the National University of Singapore, looked through history to identify the evolution of how people have always protected themselves.



## Tumpeng

### UNKNOWN

Originating from Javanese Cuisine, the Tumpeng is rice stuffed into a cone shaped bamboo container with coconut milk or turmeric. It was originally used to show gratitude for harvests. It then evolved to a form of protection against negative forces and is eaten at big festivals.



## Seren Taun Festival

### 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CE

Seren Taun was a ritual to show gratitude for a bountiful harvest and take the form of a procession to present rice to the community leader. In some villages spring water is collected, blessed and sprinkled on the village folk. This ritual was a form of protection to ensure future harvests were bountiful too.



## Garuda

### 6<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CE

The Garuda is a mythological Golden Eagle featured in many ancient Hindu, Jain and Buddhist texts. The Garuda is said to devour those that are evil and as such became a form of protection against danger and catastrophe. This protector status saw the Garuda becoming part of Indonesia's coat of arms.



## Spekkoek

### 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CE

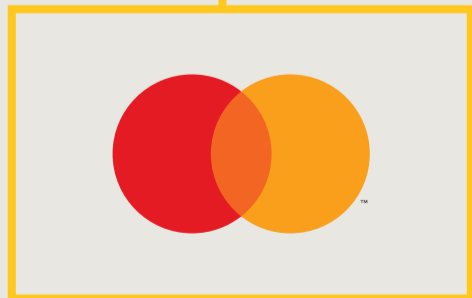
Spekkoek or Lapis Legit is served at auspicious ceremonies and during Chinese New Year or given as gifts. It is said to bring in joy, harmony in relationships and positivity.



## Gemstones

### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CE

With the numerous gemstones available, finding the right one is important. Wearing the wrong gemstones is believed to bring ill-fortune. As such looking into horoscope or zodiac signs, the selected gemstone is then set into jewelry and worn by both men and women to protect them from different forms of ill and misfortune.



### TODAY

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