

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.

Men Shen

11TH CENTURY BCE

Warriors of Chinese legend, the Men Shen were fierce guards immortalized into doors and used to prevent negative energy from entering the household or property.

Lucky Bamboo

16TH CENTURY CE

A symbol of beauty, the bamboo plant represents the elements of earth and good character traits. Bunching different number of stalks together changes the protection purpose

Dhristi Markings

17TH CENTURY CE

Also known as 'Evil Eye', the Dhristi markings, is placed on babies or people involved in important moments to negate the negative energy that may befall them from very jealous individuals.

Mango Leaf Garlands

17TH CENTURY CE

Derived from Hinduism, mango leaf adorned with sandalwood and saffron dots are hung on doorways or inside vehicles to prevent misfortune and ease anxieties.

Dragon Dance

18TH CENTURY CE

Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Dragon Dances were initially popular forms of entertainment and good fortune blessings for foreign dignitaries. In Chinese culture, the dragon is a highly auspicious creature and are closely associated with bringing strength, prosperity, fertility and wisdom.

Maneki Neko

19TH CENTURY CE

Maneki Neko, or beckoning cat, originated in Japan. Used mainly by business owners, the raised left paw of the cat is believed to welcome wealth and fortune. Today it can also be found in homes, with the left paw moveable via solar power.

Arowana Fish

20TH CENTURY CE

Arowanas closely resemble dragons and are believed to carry their traits, hence, they gained popularity to be kept as pets. Kept particularly by businessmen, the arowana is known to bring good outcomes. It is said to protect people against danger and bad accidents.

TODAY

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