



# 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.

## Sai Sin



### 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BCE

Sai Sin is a thread that can either be white, yellow, saffron or red, and is tied by a monk onto a person's right wrist. Blessed by the monk through sacred incantations, it protects the wearer from untimely deaths and dangers.

## Spirit House



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

Spirit House or San Phra Phum is a dedicated structure that houses images or reminders of ancestors, statues of Indian Gods and auspicious animals. It honours the ancestors of the land and protects the current guardians from any wayward spirits.

## Takrut Amulet



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

The Takrut is a popular amulet containing a scroll with sacred verses written by monks. The scroll can be made from a variety of materials including animal skin, among others. The Takrut is sealed with metal so the wearer cannot open it and read the verses. It is typically worn around the neck by soldiers, police and Muay Thai fighters to protect them from harm.

## Phra Somdej



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

Phra Somdej is an amulet with Buddha on a three-level throne. The throne signifies the philosophy of the three worlds according to Buddhist cosmology. It used to be made by combining soil and dust from the temples with pollen and even the hair of monks. Known also as the King of amulets, it protects against misfortune and negative energies.

## Jatukam Rammathep



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

Thailand's most modern amulet is the Jatukam Rammathep. Most are decorated with a Hindu God on one side and a Demon-God eating the moon on the other or a mandala. It is usually worn around the neck or wrists when making important business decisions, as the amulet is said to bring forth wealth and success.

### TODAY

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