

# Kraken-ka, the Komodo Dragon



**Narrator:** Once, a very long time ago, on a small island east of Bali, in the middle of the Flores Sea, a dragon was born. His name was Kraken-ka.

**Naga:** What a marvelous creature I've created! Look how beautiful he is with his patterns and colors! He is the first dragon ever to roam the earth! But...though he is special, he must follow the rules ...take from the earth only what you need!

**Kraken-ka:** Look at me! I'm the most spectacular creature on this island. I might be the hungriest too! Hmm...beetles, bird eggs, geckos, rats, snakes, deer, and goats! Where does a hungry dragon begin? Crunch, crunch, crunch, munch, munch, munch!

**Narrator:** Kraken-ka ate and ate and grew and grew. He grew to be ten feet long. He grew a crown in the middle of his forehead. He grew hungry as well. Soon, no animal on the island felt safe.

**Kraken-ka:** Crunch, crunch, crunch, munch, munch, munch!

**Other Animals:** Look out! He's coming! Everybody run!

**Kraken-ka:** I am thirsty. I'll drink water from this pool. Who is this handsome devil? That's me! Look at all my colors! I'm perfect. (Yawn) Time for my nap today!

**Cobra:** Oh, Naga, Goddess of Wisdom and Beauty, your most glorious creation is causing trouble on the island.

**Naga:** What do you mean? You can't mean Kraken-ka. What kind of trouble could he cause?

**Cobra:** He is eating everything in sight. All of the animals are frightened. Some are disappearing!

**Naga:** This will never do! (Gong sound) CLANG!

**Kraken-ka:** Aaaah! What loud sound awakes me from my slumber?

**Naga:** A most disgusting mess! You've eaten so much that your patterns are crooked, your colors are dim, and your shape has a big bump on one side. Not acceptable!

**Kraken-ka:** Who are you to say such things to me? Chomp, chomp, chomp!

**Naga:** Who am I? I am Naga. I created you! Take from the earth only what you need! That is the law, Kraken-ka, and you have broken it!

**Kraken-ka:** But, but, but....uh....

**Naga:** This is your warning. You have three chances to prove you can obey the Law or else you must suffer the consequences! Three chances only!

**Narrator:** In the flash of a rainbow, Naga disappeared. The next morning, Kraken-ka woke up. His stomach was growling.

**Kraken-ka:** Crunch, crunch, crunch, munch, munch, munch! Ah, what a delicious breakfast. Time for my nap beside my pool of water.

**Narrator:** In his dreams, Kraken-ka heard the Cobra hiss "Take from the earth only what you need, or suffer the cons-sssssquences! Only two chances...ssss left!"

**Kraken-ka:** What a strange dream. Perhaps I ate something this morning...what? How can that be? What has happened to my colors?

**Narrator:** The glorious gold, red, and turquoise colors from his back and sides were gone. His whole body was black. When he woke up the next day, he didn't seem to mind too much.

**Kraken-ka:** I I am so hungry this morning! What is that delicious smell? I must follow it with my tongue....hmmm...this way...yes...now here....aha! A dead water buffalo! Yummy! Crunch, crunch, crunch, munch, munch, munch! This is so tasty! I really should stop, I'm almost full, but I'll have just one more crunchy ear. And one more foot. Oh, I can't pass up that tail! Yummm! All this eating has made me so sleepy...

**Narrator:** And Kraken-ka dozed off beside his water pool. The next morning, he got up to a drink from the pool, only to see Naga floating above the water.

**Kraken-ka:** You startled me!

**Naga:** I've been waiting for you. Don't be surprised at what you see.

**Kraken-ka:** What do you mean? Hey, I look different again today. My patterns! What happened to my perfect patterns?

**Naga:** Your perfect patterns are gone, Kraken-ka. Take from the earth only what you need, or suffer the consequences. That is the Law. Only one chance left!

**Narrator:** Kraken-ka wandered all morning thinking about what he might like to eat. By the time afternoon rolled around, he was very hungry. As he made his way to the beach, he saw two animals he'd never seen before. Square patches of blue, yellow, green and red covered their bodies, and their heads looked like they were covered in brown stringy seaweed.

**Kraken-ka:** I wonder what those creatures would taste like? Oh, I must not eat them. Naga would be so angry, but I don't see her anywhere. Maybe if I just sit still, my hunger will go away. No, no, it is only growing bigger. I am so hungry, I can hardly stand it! I've got to have something to eat. I can't wait any longer. I'll just run as fast as I can toward those creatures and see if I can...

(Gong sound)- Bong!

**Naga:** Demon!

**Kraken-ka:** Aaaah! Oh no! I must run away! Faster! Faster! Run as fast as I can! What is that shape that is following me? Ugly and black? Naga must have sent a creature after me! I must run even faster!

**Narrator:** And the faster Kraken-ka ran, the faster the creature ran, dragging its belly on the ground and swinging its long tail.

**Kraken-ka:** I can't go any farther, I am too tired. I give up. What? Where did it go? It's gone! How can that be?

**Naga:** You used your last chance Kraken-ka. Now you must accept your final consequence. Your glorious colors, your perfect patterns, and your amazing shapes are gone. The ugly creature you were running from was your own shadow.

**Kraken-ka:** My own shadow! My crown is gone too! (crying) I am no longer beautiful, but... but...I am still hungry!

**Naga:** Take from the earth only what you need. That is the Law and you have broken it. But my heart is merciful, Kraken-ka. Come look with me in the pool of water and you will see a reminder that once you were the most beautiful creature on the island.

**Narrator:** Kraken-ka followed Naga to the blue pool. He looked into the water mirror. There in the middle of his forehead was a shimmering mosaic of turquoise. In the right light, it was still almost as blue as the sky.

**Akhir**