



Variations on the Dragon Pattern - 1

The Chinese imperial court regulated the production and trade of dragon robes into Tibet during the Ming dynasty.

But because the dragon patterns were popular with Tibetan aristocrats, variations in colours and designs were created to avoid offending the Chinese imperial court and their regulations.

There were four general variations on the original dragon pattern.

The *Mang* 蟒 is a dragon with four claws.

The *FeiYu* 飛魚 is a dragon with four claws, a fishtail, and wings.

The *DouNiu* 斗牛 is a dragon with four claws and bull's horns.

The *Qilin* 麒麟 is a mythical beast with a dragon head, fish scales, a horse's body and hooves (no claws).

In the following three scenes, there are three textiles with different variations on the dragon pattern.