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The ancient Sichuan civilization in Rome

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In Rome is taking place a major exhibition dedicated to the ancient Chinese civilization of Sichuan.
An extraordinary journey in the social life and in the spiritual world of the ancient Shu people, who created a unique civilization in the south-west of China. From 26 March to 18 October, exceptional works in bronze, gold, jade and terracotta will be exhibited - dating from the Bronze Age (II millennium BC) to

the Han period (II century AD) - found at the Sanxingdui and Jinsha sites and coming from important Chinese institutions such as the Sanxingdui Museum, the Museum of the Archaeological Site of Jinsha, the Sichuan Museum, the Chengdu Museum, the Chengdu Archaeological Research Institute, the Mianyang Museum , the Qiang Ethnic Museum in Mao County.

As the origins of Rome were linked to the Tiber, so the origins of the Shu people were marked by the flow of the Yangtze River, Cháng jiang. The Yangtze River is the main theme of the exhibition and is significantly traced on the golden installation inspired by a
Chinese dragon that invades the central space of the Great Hall, welcoming visitors. This and other scenographic effects are enhanced

by the monumental structure of the Markets of Trajan which served as a commercial center in Ancient Rome.The fantastic scenario exalts the extraordinary archaeological remains from China, which for the first time are presented in an extensive exhibition in Rome after having been in Naples .The exhibition project is divided into two sections with many themes enclosed in a suggestive overview. The first section is dedicated to the religious culture of the state of Shu and focuses on the spiritual world telling the rites of a people dedicated to the worship of the Sun through bronze masks from the excavations of the Sanxingdui site. The second section, instead, deals with the daily life of the Shu people, reconstructing the commercial plot

developed in the Sichuan area through bas-reliefs of brick of the Han dynasty, human figures and ceramic animal figurines.
To the 130 works exhibited in Naples, Rome exceptionally added 15 new loans, among which the two masks and a bronze head of Sanxingdui, each strongly characterized.
In particular, one differs from all the masks found so far on the site due to the rendering of the face more delicate and the veiled smile, elements that have led scholars to think that it represents a deity of the ancient

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Shu culture.
https://youtu.be/EN6dCX0PgNo

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