



*Takenouchi no Sukune Meets the Dragon King of the Sea, 1875-1879, Dallas Museum of Art, Foundation for the Arts Collection, The John R. Young Collection, gift of M. Rances and John R. Young*

There once lived a great and courageous warrior in Japan named Takenouchi. It was rumored that he was over 360 years old, and therefore, was very wise. Takenouchi was so wise that many of Japan's rulers would come to him for advice.

Long ago, a terrible and ferocious sea monster began terrorizing the waters and killing humans and sea creatures alike. Japan needed a hero to save them from the terrible beast.

Takenouchi had a dream that he was chosen by heaven to destroy the evil sea monster. The next morning he set out to rid the waters of the beast and he did so with extreme bravery.

Ryujin, the Dragon King of the Sea, was very pleased that Takenouchi had slain the sea monster. He emerged from the deep waters of the ocean to thank Takenouchi for his help. All of the other sea creatures came to the surface to catch a glimpse of the amazing warrior.

Ryujin presented Takenouchi with a beautiful and magical jewel that gave its owner control of the seas. Takenouchi thanked him and humbly accepted the wonderful gift. Both people and sea creatures rejoiced that the waters would forever be peaceful.