

Taros Reward

There was a young woodcutter named Taro, He lived with his old parents on a lonely hillside. He earned only a small amount of money from his work. This made him sad because he wanted to make life better for his parents. One day it was very cold. Taro's father said, "I wish I had a cup of sake".

This made Taro sadder than ever, for the sake was very expensive. However, next morning, he got up earlier than usual and made for the forest He kept on chopping the wood for a long time. His mouth was dry and he felt thirsty, but he went on chopping the wood.

Suddenly a sound of water falling somewhere nearby made Taro stop his work. He had never seen or heard of rushing water nearby. He was very thirsty. He ran in the direction of the sound. Taro saw a small but beautiful waterfall He drank the liquid but to his surprise it was not water but sake. Taro had a pitcher with him. He filled it with delicious liquid and hurried home.

The old man was delighted with the liquid. He took just one swallow, This stopped his shivering and he began to dance. This was his way to show his happiness. That day, they had a visitor from the village who was offered sake. Taro told her the story of the magic waterfall. So the story spread other villagers came to Taro's house and within half an hour, the pitcher was empty.

Next morning much before Taro all the villagers had reached the magic waterfall. However they became angry when they tasted the liquid. It was nothing but cold water. They were very angry and wanted to drown Tare who they thought had cheated them. Taro hid himself in the forest to escape their tre. When they had gone, hetasted the liquid himself. It was the same fine sake. It was now clear that the magle waterfall gave sake only to Taro. To all others it gave only water. Obwiously God was kind to Taro because he was a thoughtful son.

The story of Taro and his magie waterfall reached the emperor. He sent for Taro and rewarded him with twenty pieces of gold. Then he named the most beautiful fountain of the city after Taro. This was to encourage all children to honour and obey their parents.