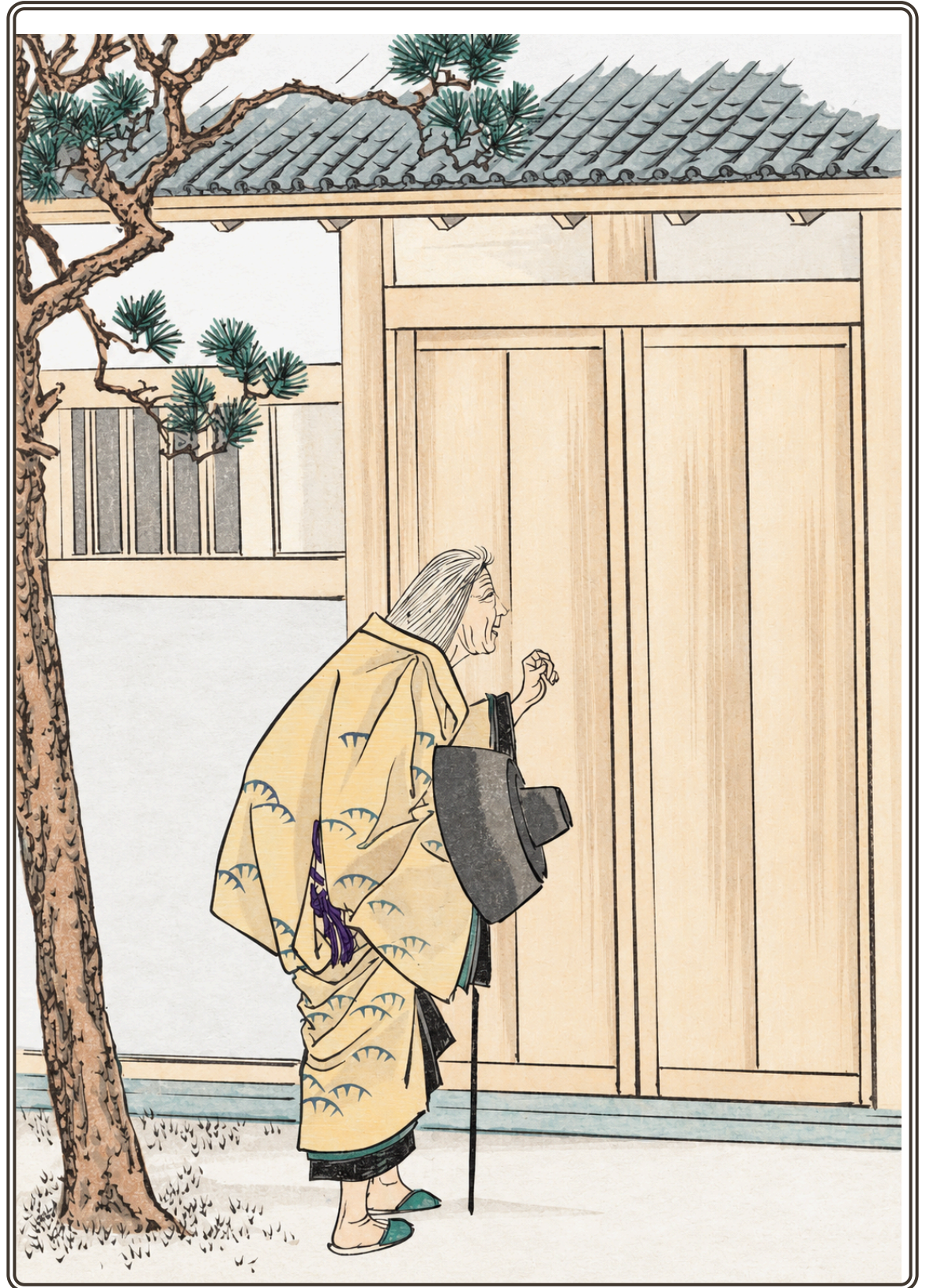


Next morning Tsuna, accompanied by his friends went to consult a famous wizard named Seimei as to what should be done with Shutendoji's arm. Seimei advised that it should be placed in a strong stone chest, and watched by Tsuna night and day, for seven days.

"But," said Seimei to Tsuna, "you must purify yourself by much fasting and prayer, and spend those seven days in holy contemplation, holding converse with none. Unless you faithfully carry out my directions, I foresee that misfor-





tune will surely follow.”

Tsuna therefore caused a strong stone chest to be prepared, placed the ogre’s arm within it, and, having purified himself by fasting and prayer, sat down alone to watch it. The doors were shut, and all visitors refused admittance. Alone, and wrapt in holy contemplation, Tsuna kept watch and ward.

One night, when the seven days and nights were almost accomplished, came a knocking at the gate.

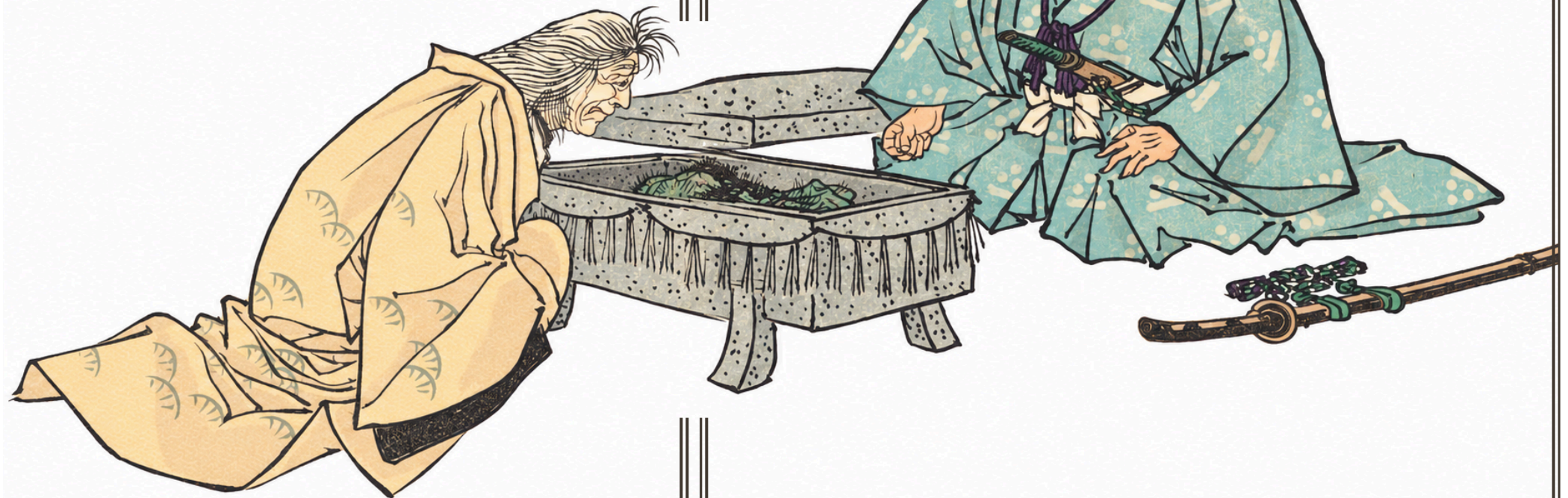
“Who’s there?” called out Tsuna.

thing. Let me pray have one little peep at it.”

“I am sorry,” answered Tsuna, “but my vow forbids my opening the case, or showing the arm to

any one, even for a moment, until the seven days are past.”

At this the old woman burst into bitter tears, refusing to be comforted.



Thereupon Tsuna, who was a soft-hearted young warrior, could withstand her no longer.

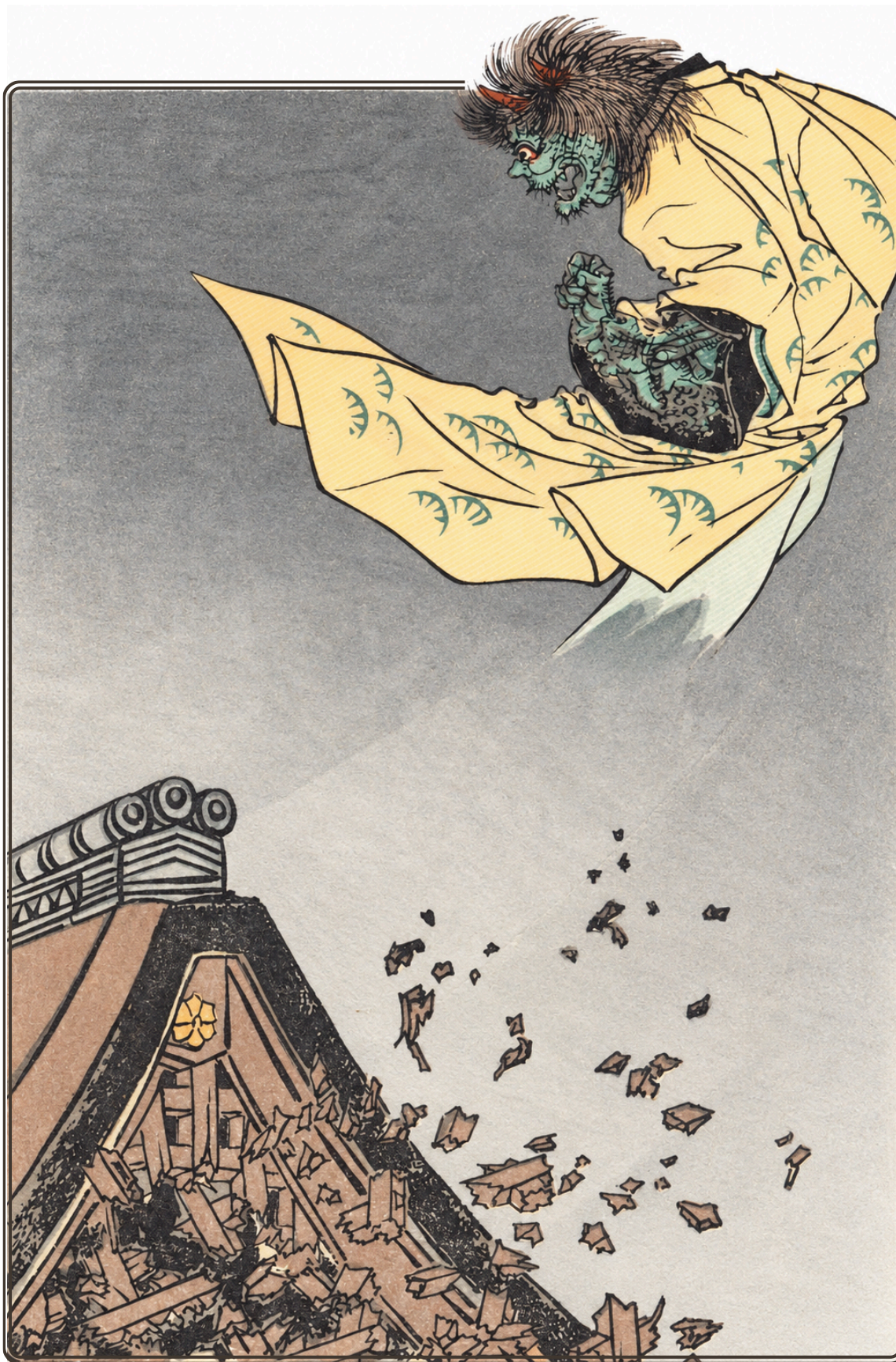
“Just one look then,” said he, and lifted the lid of the chest.

The pretended aunt took up the arm, and seemed to be gazing at it in a kind of rapture, when, suddenly appearing in her true shape, which was none other than that of the ogre Shutendoji, she shouted, “My arm is my own again,” and immediately vanished through a hole in the roof.

Tsuna, quickly recovering from

his surprise, rushed out; but not a trace of the ogre was to be found.





Sad and crest-fallen, the warrior bent his steps to the house of Raiko, and told him all that had happened. Raiko called his followers round him, and they there and then solemnly vowed that they would one day destroy the ogres in their stronghold of Oyeyama, or perish in the attempt.