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Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 8:16 AM
To: CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU
Subject: [CTURTLE] The Legend of Nanri Island- as told by Lanlan Zhang, Xiamen University PRC

Dear Cturtler's, I've always been fascinated with stories about supernatural sea turtles and their encounters with people in all corners of the globe. Tales of such turtles can be found in Jack Rudloe's books "Search for the Great Turtle Mother" (1995) and "Time of the Turtle" (1979); also in various issues of Marine Turtle Newsletter. A mystical sea turtle that rewarded the young man Urashima Taro for his kindness was featured as the official logo of ISTS-38 in Kobe.

During a visit to Xiamen University, Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China (PRC) I had conversation with Lanlan Zhang, a student of Professor Min Liu. Lanlan was born and raised on Nanri Island located in the Taiwan Strait about 10 km off the Fujian coast and 150 km from Taiwan. I asked Lanlan if there were any interesting stories about sea turtles on her island. The following was then happily told to me- written first in Chinese by Lanlan and then translated by her into English. It is my pleasure to share the story with you, on behalf of Lanlan Zhang.

The Legend of Nanri Island

"According to the legend, there was a miss who was separated from her loved ones by the Taiwan Strait. She made a living by selling flowers in Nanri Island. As time goes by, the longer she lived the more she missed her family. But she didn't have enough money for traveling expenses, because nobody came to buy her flowers. One day she came to the seaside where she always looked for her family. And she felt tired. So she slept on the stone which looked like a turtle shell. Magically when she woke up she found she was in Taiwan amazedly. Finally. She knew it wasn't a stone. It was a turtle who was touched by the emotion." - as told by Lanlan Zhang, Xiamen University PRC January 2017