

A traditional East Asian painting depicting a multi-headed sea monster, likely a Qilin or a similar mythical creature. The creature has a large, yellowish-brown body with a prominent horned head on the right. From its back, several long, thin necks extend upwards, each supporting a smaller, similar head. The creature is shown in a dynamic, leaping pose against a background of stylized blue and white waves. The overall style is characteristic of traditional Chinese or Japanese ink and wash painting.

# Sea Monsters

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1. Jonah Thrown to the Whale. Catacombs of Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Rome. Cod. 0059100 2. Hercules and the Hydra. Hypogeum of Via Latina, Rome. Cod. 0059193



Floor. Church of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura, Rome. Cod. 0066627



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Etruscan art. 1. Youth on sea monster. Cod, 0081948 2.  
Corner ornament. Cod. 0081071



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1. Leviathan, c1280. Cod. H210353 2. Harleian Bestiary 4751 f. 68: Fish and mythical creatures, 13th cent Cod. H213635



**A**pres te nme en perseus . texte . v .  
 De qui le hault nom est seus  
 Par my le monde en toutes pars  
 V eca sus li cheuaus auxers



**E**st bestia in mari que grece aspido delone dicitur . Aspido ul  
 Latine u aspido restitudo . Etas etiam dicitur . ob lere .  
 inmanitate composit . est enim sicut ille q precepto

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1. Andromeda rescued by Perseus from the sea serpent, 15th century. Cod. H211036 2. Harleian Bestiary 4751 f. 69: St Brendan the Navigator, 13th cent. Cod. H212201



Aviarium codex 278. Folio N. 47 Hugo de Folieto: A mermaid and centaur below a small boat with three sailors, 14th cent. Cod. H212370



Roy 19.B.XV, Apocalypse, (Book of Revelation), in French, early 14th century. Folio 23 (detail): The beast and the dragon. Cod. H213843

Lo buero fa secta a far sua guerra.  
chosi la fiera pessima si stava.  
su lozlo che di pietra il sabbion ferra.  
Nel uano tutta sua coda guizaua.  
torcendo in su la uenenciosa forcha.  
cha guisa di scorpion la punta armaua.  
Lo duca disse or conuien che si torcha.  
la nostra uia un poco in fina quella.  
bestia maluagia che colla si torcha.  
¶ ero scardemmo a la testa mamella.  
e diece passi femmo in su lo stremo.  
per ten cessar la rena ela fiamella.



Dante and others meeting and riding mermaids, 14th century. Cod. H214317



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2



3

1. Anonymous Flemish painter. Creation of the Animals. Cod. 0012893 2. Pinturicchio. Frescoed vault: Scene with Sea Monsters. Cod. 0080519 3. Ignazio Danti. Sardinia. Cod. 0088774



1



2

1. Michelangelo. The Prophet Jonah. Sistine Chapel, Vatican City. Cod. 0022463. 2. Giotto. Ornamental band - detail (Jonah Swallowed by the Whale).. Scrovegni Chapel, Padua. Cod. 0036937



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3

1. Cavalier d'Arpino. Perseus and Andromeda. Cod. 0123630. 2. Rutilio Manetti. Perseus and Andromeda. Cod. 0083537. 3. Joachim Antonisz Wtewael. Perseus and Andromeda. Cod. 0097064



William Blake. Illustrations of the Book of Job RA 2001.77:  
Behemoth and Leviathan. Cod. S080316



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2

1. George Cruikshank. The Mermaid!, c1810-c1849. Cod. H211058.
2. Arcimboldo Giuseppe. Costume design for sea dragon no. 3216 F. Cod- 0112470



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3

1. Piero di Cosimo. Andromeda Set Free by Perseus. Cod. 0081863. 2. Hieronymus Bosch. Garden of Earthly Delights: central panel, detail. Cod. 0038111. 3. Charles Claude Buck. Serpent and Maiden, 1919. Cod. S042781



1. Chinese art Rubbing from a stone block of K'uei Hsing Chinese god of literature standing on the sea monster Ao. Cod. W007458. 2. A small jade ornament depicting a taniwha or sea monster. Cod. W009187 3. A small jade ornament depicting a Marakihau sea monster. Cod. W009188

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