

M405
The rabbit's great idea.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time there was a forest where lived a tiger. The wild creatures in the forest had to give one animal each day for the tiger to eat, the various kinds of animal taking it in turn. On one occasion it was the turn of the rabbits, when a rabbit had to be eaten, but at the time he should have gone, the rabbit did not go. Two days went by, and then he went. The tiger said, "You little rabbit there! I expected you much earlier, why have you only today turned out and come?" The rabbit said, "I came very early, but down yonder is a white tiger. He is stronger than you, and he wanted to eat me. Well, I told him that you were here waiting to eat me, and I had to talk to him nicely before he eventually allowed me to come". Now the tiger was angry and said, "How is it that there is someone stronger than I? You take me to see him!" The rabbit took the tiger along until they came to a large pool of water. The rabbit said, "You go and look, he is here all right!" The tiger went and looked and saw his reflection in the bottom of the water pool. The tiger jumped down to catch his reflection and was drowned in the water. All the wild animals in the forest praised the rabbit greatly.