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How the goat saved the deer.

Told by Wang Ming-ji.

They say that in a forest lived a large herd of deer. There came a lion, which caught the deer in the forest and ate them until only one little one was left. The deer was afraid and ran away. As he ran he met a goat who said, "Deer, what are you running away from?" The deer replied, "Oh! There used to be a great number of us living in this forest, but a lion came and has caught and eaten us all, until I am the only one left. So I was afraid and I am running away". The goat said, "Don't be afraid, where is he? You take me along to see him". The deer took the goat along until they reached the cave where the lion lived. The goat said, "Old man lion, you come out here to me!" The lion said, "Who is that?" The goat stamped his feet at the lion and said, "It's me, the lion eater! So far I have eaten two hundred and ninety-nine. Now there is only one that I have not eaten to make up the full three hundred!" Again the goat stamped his feet at the lion. The lion was so frightened that he got up and fled. The deer praised the goat very much.