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The foolish monkeys.

Told by Yan Xiu-gong.

They tell a story that once upon a time, there was a Chinese carrying hats from Sichuan, intending to sell them in Zhaotung. When he reached Yi-liang it was very hot, for it was the time of the fifth and sixth moons. So he went and lay down on the ground at the foot of a large tree, and went to sleep.

In the tree above were many monkeys who saw him sleeping there below. The monkeys came down to look at him. They saw he was wearing a hat, and also that beside him there was a box. The monkeys first came and smelt him. Seeing that he did not move, they then went, opened the box and looked in. They saw a lot of hats inside, they also saw that the Chinese sleeping there had put one on, so the monkeys came and each one took a hat and put it on.

When the Chinese hat-seller woke up he realised that his box was open and saw that all his hats had disappeared. He was too angry for words. He snatched off his hat and flung it down on the ground. The monkeys saw what he did and copied him. Every monkey snatched off his hat and threw it down. So the Chinese man got them all back.