



# The Clever Rabbit

## A Korean Folk Tale



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**A GREEDY TIGER** roamed the forests looking for food. One day, he came upon a rabbit.

“You’re my breakfast,” the tiger said.

Although the rabbit was terrified, he said, “But honorable tiger, rabbits always taste better after a serving of rice cakes.”

“Where would I get rice cakes?” asked the tiger.

“I have some,” said the rabbit. “I’ll cook them for you.”

The tiger watched as the rabbit rubbed a few stones together and lit a small fire. His prey usually ran for their lives. They had never offered appetizers before.

The rabbit dropped some flat white pebbles into the fire—pebbles that looked a lot like rice cakes. He

*I dreamt I am in my kitchen cooking,  
making zee appetizers — snacks  
served before the main meal.*



said, "These cakes should always be eaten with soy sauce."

"Get me some soy sauce then," said the tiger, rubbing his tummy.

The rabbit hopped through the bushes and was swiftly gone.

The tiger waited long. His stomach rumbled and grumbled.

I'll eat just a few, he thought. I'm too hungry to wait.

He grabbed a pebble, thinking it was a rice cake, and swallowed it. The hot pebble burned his tongue badly. The tiger groaned and moaned as he walked the long path home.



A few days later when the tiger was out and about, he spotted the rabbit again.

"Ah, it's you," the tiger said. "You'd be perfect for lunch."

Although the rabbit was again terrified, he said, "I'm a small rabbit, and you seem very hungry. Perhaps a flock of swallows would make a better meal."

"An entire flock?" asked the tiger, licking his lips. "That'd be nice."



"Just wait here with your mouth open. I'll send them your way," said the rabbit. "Remember to close your eyes. The swallows have sharp claws."

"Hurry up," said the tiger. "I'm starving."

The rabbit rubbed a few stones, lit a fire around the tiger, and slipped through the trees.

The tiger heard the crackling leaves. He smelled the burning twigs. He quickly shut his mouth and opened his eyes. What? How?

Zay are my delicious cheese puffs  
I am making. And—what's ziss?  
Zay start to grow ...



He was surrounded by fire! He leaped through the trees and rushed home.



Months later, the tiger was walking by the riverside. How lucky—he spotted the rabbit once again.

“You! You’d be perfect for dinner,” said the tiger.

Although the rabbit was terrified, he bravely said, “If you waited just a little bit, you could eat me along with a big fish.”

“Really?” asked the tiger. He hadn’t eaten fish in a long time.

“You know what’s perfect for catching fish? My fluffy tail,” said the rabbit, shaking it over the river.

The tiger burst out laughing. “Your tail is too short,” he said. “I could catch the biggest fish in the river with my long tail.”

“I’m not sure about that, but I guess you could try,” said the rabbit.

“You’ll see,” said the tiger. He



And grow ... and grow ...  
and I can't stop ziss ...





sat on the bank and dropped his tail into the river.

The clever rabbit scuttled away through the trees as quickly as he could.

As evening turned to night, the forest grew cold. The tiger sat patiently waiting for a big fish. The next morning, he tried to pull his tail out of the water. It was stuck.

Maybe I caught a big fish, he thought, looking around.

But it wasn't a fish at all. His tail was frozen inside the water. The rabbit had escaped again, leaving him hungry and cold.

Rabbits are dangerous, thought the tiger. I must warn everyone about them. 🐜

And now zee kitchen is bursting with zees giant cheese balls, and zee house eez about to explode and ...

