

"For Children" Shared from *Hikari the Light*, January 2022, page 6

There once lived a tiger king on the grassy plains. The tiger was always hungry. One day, he wrote a letter to the head of the woods, an old deer. "I am hungry. Send me your friends, one by one. Otherwise, I will be there and eat them all up."



The head deer and the other animals gathered in the woods. The old deer had an idea and called a small but brave rabbit as a messenger to the tiger. The rabbit went to see the tiger. It was a long journey for the rabbit. Finally, the rabbit arrived near the tiger.

The tiger roared grrrow! and asked the rabbit, "Why did you come here?"

"I want to talk to you," said the rabbit.

"I am hungry but you are too small to eat. What do you want to talk about?"

"Our head will send you someone, one by one."

"Well, that is good. But you did not need to come here to tell me this. After all, if nobody comes, I will be there," said the tiger.

"By the way, Mr. Tiger, while I was coming here, I saw a bigger tiger than you and he said he is the king around here," said the rabbit.

"What! I am the biggest tiger here and I am the king. That tiger must be fake. I'll beat him. Take me to him!" said the tiger angrily.

"Yes, I will take you there," said the rabbit and guided the tiger.

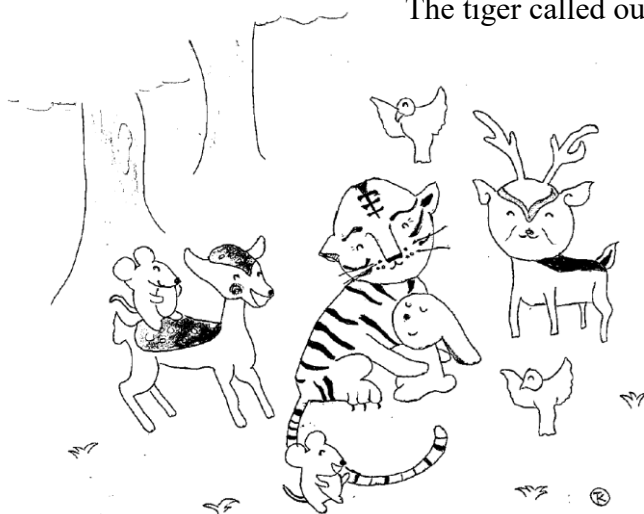
On the way, the tiger asked the rabbit, "Where is he?"

"Well, very soon you can see him." As the head deer said, the rabbit took the tiger into the woods and showed him an old well.

"Mr. Tiger, a bigger tiger than you is living in the well."

"Okay, I'll catch him," said the tiger, looking into the well. The tiger saw another tiger who looked just like him. "That's right. There is a fake king there." The tiger roared into the well. A bigger roar came back.

The tiger called out, "You are a fake king. I am the real one."



From inside the well, the other tiger replied, "You are a fake king. I am the real one."

The tiger was so upset and jumped in the well...splash! "Help me!"

This was the old head deer's idea. Then the rabbit, the deer and all of the animals came to pull him out from the well. From then on, the tiger became a friend to all the other animals.

(Y. Izumi)