

A Brave Rabbit

Long, long ago, as you know, a rabbit and a tortoise had a race to the top of a hill. Everyone thought a rabbit should get there much faster than a tortoise, but it was so careless of him to fall asleep on the way. When he woke up, it was too late.

The tortoise had already stood on the hill when he reached the goal.

The rabbits in his mountain got very angry and said to him,

"You brought disgrace to us. You are no more one of our families. Get out of this village at once."

He left his village and started a new life by himself in another mountain.

One day, he happened to hear the birds over a tree talking about his village.

"They say there seems to be a serious problem in the rabbit-village. A dreadful wolf is demanding three young female rabbits to him. If they rejected the demand, he would attack the village and kill all the rabbits."

He ran back to his village and shouted to the villagers,

"I hear you are in serious trouble. I'll go to the wolf and have a fight with him. If I succeeded in defeating him, would you allow me to live here again?"

"Of course, we would." cried the villagers.

He climbed up the mountain and got to a cliff where the wolf lived.

"Mr. Wolf. I took three young female rabbits to you. But they say they are so afraid of seeing your face that they can't come here. Would you please turn your face toward the valley on an edge of the cliff while I took them here?"

"No problem. Bring them to me at once."

The wolf sat on the edge of the cliff with his face toward the valley as he was told by the rabbit.

The rabbit came near the wolf from behind secretly and pushed him into the valley with all his strength. The wolf fell into the valley and lost his life.

The brave rabbit returned to his village and became a new hero.

He had a happy life again in his village.(98.12.31)



勇敢なうさぎ

むかし、むかし、ご存知のとおり、うさぎとかめは、山の上まで競争しました。誰もが、うさぎの方がかめよりも早くそこに着くと思いましたが、しかし迂闊にも、うさぎは途中で寝てしまいました。目が覚めた時は、もう後のまつりでした。かめはすでに山のとっ辺に立っていました。山のうさぎたちはカンカンに怒って言いました。

「この恥知らずめ。勘当だ。即刻ここから出て行け。」

うさぎは故郷を出ると、別の山で新しい生活を始めました。

ある日のことです。木の上の鳥たちが故郷のことを話しているのを耳にしました。

「うさぎ村で大変なことが起きているそうよ。恐ろしいオオカミが若い三匹のメスうさぎを要求しているんだって。もし拒否したら、村を襲ってうさぎを皆殺しにするんだって。」

うさぎは、村に駆け戻ると、みんなに言いました。

「一大事とのこと。俺がオオカミの所に行って、奴をやっつける。うまく行ったら、もう一度ここに住ませて下さい。」

「いいだろう。」とみんなは言いました。

うさぎは山を登り、オオカミが住むがけの上に行きました。

「オオカミさん、三匹のメスうさぎを連れてきました。でもあなたの顔を見るのが恐くて、ここには来られないとのことです。ここまで連れてくる間、がけの端に座って、谷の方に顔を向けて下さい。」

「よかろう。すぐ連れて来い。」

オオカミは、言われたとおり、がけの端に座ると谷のほうに顔を向けました。

うさぎは、こっそりオオカミの後ろに近づくと、思いっきりオオカミを谷に突き落としました。オオカミは谷に落ち、命を落としました。

勇敢なうさぎは村に戻り、新しい英雄になりました。めでたし、めでたし。(2004.2.10)

