

M415

## How the rang deceived the tiger.

*Told by Yang Xiu-gong.*

People tell a story that, once upon a time, old man Rang and his people were performing the ancestral sacrifice. The rang wanted to go in search of a horse to ride at the place where old man Rang's guests were assembled. The rang happened to meet old man tiger and said to him, "Old man tiger, old man Rang and his people are performing ancestral rites. Come, let us each seek a horse to ride". Old man tiger said, "Good!" So the two of them went along together. The rang said, "When we arrive no one must speak a word, but let each of us find a horse which is very good and very fat". Old man tiger replied, "That's right". When evening came the rang took old man tiger to the stable to feel the horses. Old man tiger felt every one, and all had protruding backbones, very thin indeed. There was not one which was fat, with a backbone which did not protrude. The rang also felt them and found that not one was any good. Then he reached old man tiger. Now he was very fat, there were no protruding bones on his back, so the rang forced a bit into old man tiger's mouth, led him outside, jumped on to his back and whipped him until he began to run. Old man tiger ran over several hills and several valleys before presently he stopped and looked on his back. There he saw that it was the rang that was riding him. He said, "Today I have been caught and ridden by you until I am tired out!" The rang said to old man tiger, "Don't stay talking any more. You run on quickly for the people are hunting us". Old man tiger got up and ran on over several hills and several valleys. The rang, still on old man tiger's back, saw a large tree with a hole in it that the woodpecker had dig out. The rang said, "Old man tiger, you stop. I have got something to tell you". Old man tiger stopped in front of the tree, and the rang jumped right into the hole.

There was nothing that old man tiger could do. Still afraid that people were coming behind, he had no option but to keep running straight on. As he was running he met the bear. The bear asked him, "Old man tiger, what are you running for?" Old man tiger said, "Old man Rang and his people were performing the ancestral sacrifice, the rang wanted to take me to seek a horse to ride. He took me along, but among old man Rang's horses we found none fit to ride, but I got ridden by the rang well and truly! He rode me until we came to the hill yonder, where there was a tree with a hole in it. Seeing this he ran and dropped down inside the hole in the tree, but I was afraid the people were chasing me so I kept on running". The bear said, "Do not be afraid. Take me along and we will both go and have a look". So old man tiger took the bear, and when they arrived old man tiger said, "The rang ran into that hole there". The bear climbed up, took his tail and poked it into the hole. Inside the hole the rang tugged on the bears tail, while the bear pulled with all his strength until his tail snapped off. Old man tiger said, "What has happened to you?" The bear replied, "It's only the tail of my coat that has got torn off!" Old man tiger said, "That rang! We are never going to catch him. Another time do not have anything to do with him!"