

Story #348

Story #348 (Collected orally and then in written form; not taped.)

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The Cat and the Tiger

They say that the cat is the uncle of the tiger. Anyhow, one day a strong tiger saw her uncle the cat and asked him, "Oh, my uncle, why are you so small?"

The cat said, "If you were in the hands of human beings you would know why I am so small."

Then the tiger said, "Show me a human being, will you, uncle?"

"Follow me!" said the cat.

While they were going along, they saw cows grazing. "What are those, uncle?" asked the tiger. "Are they human beings?"

"Huh! A very young one of the human beings can gather a hundred of them before him and can bring them to these fields," said the cat.

They continued walking and saw ten horses grazing. Again the tiger asked if these were human beings. "They are nothing when compared to human beings. Human beings can ride on them," said the cat bitterly.

After some time they saw several camels. The tiger asked, "Uncle, are those human beings?"

"No," answered the cat. "A child can gather fifteen of them and can graze them."

They went on and met a woodchopper. The cat told of their mission. When the woodchopper heard this, he asked the tiger to put her forefeet

between the two huge pieces of wood and hold them apart. When the tiger did this, the rail which was holding the two pieces apart fell down, and the forefeet of the tiger were pressed tightly between them.

The woodchopper laid down his axe and came to watch the tiger. The cat climbed up into a tree. The tiger began to ask, "What do you think, uncle? Will they set me free when I am as small as you are?"

"I do not know--mew," said the cat whenever the tiger asked this question.

They say that the mewling of the cat began with this happening.

There was a jackal who lived in a cave, especially to a place in a mountain. One day, he was going to a place in the forest. He saw a tiger who was sick and lying on the ground. The jackal decided to offer to carry the tiger to a place in town. The tiger would go with their sick friend to live in town while he recovered. The jackal, after discussing the matter, accepted the offer, and the tiger went to the forest to find a room for the dogs in town. The jackal went home and the tiger became uneasy. They went to a place to live in town again, and one of them went to a hill near town and