
 THE PROVOCATIVE RABBIT

Rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ།

A retreatant finished chanting for a family, packed up the offerings from the host, and started back to his hermitage feeling satisfied. A rabbit, called Ja dkrug mgo 'Trouble Maker', watched the retreatant through an evergreen bush, and decided he wanted to cheat the retreatant out of his offerings. Trouble Maker came out of the bush and stood in front of the retreatant in the middle of the path. As the retreatant came closer, Trouble Maker ran forward a few steps and then again turned back to watch the retreatant, who chased the rabbit for a while, but the heavy bag burdened him and he soon got very tired. He finally threw down his bag and chased Trouble Maker, who ran just beyond the retreatant's grasp. Finally, having left the retreatant far behind, Trouble Maker doubled back, picked up the retreatant's bag, and carried it off.

The rabbit took a jar of honey from the bag and scooped out some honey with his paws. Soon, a bear approached and said, "What's that you are eating?"

"I'm eating my eye. You know, eyes will grow back after a few days," the rabbit said, closing its left eye.

"Really? What does your eye taste like?" asked the bear.

"Very sweet," said the rabbit.

The bear came up to the rabbit with much curiosity. The rabbit took out a bit of honey, put it in the bear's mouth, and asked how the eye tasted.

"It is really tasty! Could you dig out my left eye? I would like to eat it," said the bear.

"Sure, bear's eyes are sweeter than rabbit eyes," said the rabbit and gouged out the bear's left eye. The bear's eye was bleeding and

the bear was in great pain, but the rabbit put a dollop of honey into the bear's mouth, and asked, "How does your left eye taste?"

"It is painful, but very sweet and delicious," said the bear.

"OK, bye. I must leave. Your eye will recover in a few days," said the rabbit.

"Wait! I would like to eat my right eye too, but I am worried nobody will be here to lead me around before my eyes recover," the bear said.

"I am a helpful rabbit and I will be your eyes," the rabbit offered.

"Then please dig out my right eye," the bear said.

The rabbit took out the bear's right eye, put it in the bear's mouth, asked, "How does your right eye taste?"

"It's not very sweet," said the bear.

The rabbit led the bear. On level grassland, the rabbit told the bear that he had to be very careful because they were on a stony road, so the bear fearfully followed the rabbit. When they were on a rocky road, the rabbit told the bear that they were on a level road, so the bear walked quicker and more freely. As a result, the bear often tumbled and injured himself.

The sky was darkening so the rabbit and the bear stayed in a cave at the top of a high cliff.

"Do you want to sleep in the inner or outside part of the cave?" asked the rabbit.

"The inner part," replied the bear.

The rabbit helped the bear to the inner part of the cave, made a big fire at the entrance of the cave, hoping that it would burn and suffocate the bear.

"Do you want to stay in the inner part of the cave or go outside?" asked the rabbit.

"Outside," said the bear.

The rabbit helped the bear to the edge of the cave and moved the fire near the bear. The bear was unable to bear the heat and fell down the cliff.

"Help, help!" cried the bear, where it was hanging to some brush.

"Raise both of your hands! I can't see you!" yelled the rabbit

The bear raised its paws and fell further down the rocky face, but managed to grip a bush with its teeth.

"Yell! I don't know where you are!" shouted the rabbit.

The bear roared, fell into the deep valley, and died.

The rabbit joyfully ran to a nearby shepherd and said, "A big bear has died in the valley. Why don't you go get it?"

"I have no person to watch my lambs," said the man.

"When wolves come, I'll shout to the sheep, 'Go back to the yard,' and cry '*Ki hi hi!*' to the wolves. Then I'll drive the sheep into the yard," said the rabbit.

The man trusted the rabbit and went for the bear. At once, the rabbit went to a den of wolves and said, "The shepherd has left to get a bear. Why don't you go kill his sheep?"

"Well, I'd like to, but then no one would protect my newborn cubs from the crow," said the mother wolf.

"I will. I'll whistle at the crows and point my ears at them," assured the rabbit.

The wolf then left for the sheep. The rabbit immediately went to the crow and said, "The wolf has gone for the sheep. Why don't you go take the wolf cubs?"

"I'd like to, but I must look after my eggs," the crow said.

"I'll cover them with my smooth hair when the wind comes and protect them from hunters," the rabbit promised.

The crow believed the rabbit and left. Meanwhile, the rabbit broke all the eggs and ran on its way.

NON-ENGLISH TERMS

ja dkrug mgo ཇ་དཀྲུག་མགོ།
 ki hi hi ཀི་མི་མི།
 rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ།