

3 verschillende versies in het Engels van Het oude konijn en de olifant

1. <https://excellup.com/kidsImage/panchtantra/elephanthares.aspx>

### ***Elephants and Hares***

There was a herd of very ferocious elephants. Because of their sheer strength, they used to torment other animals. There was a pond in the jungle, which was always occupied by the elephants. Due to that, other animals were unable to drink water. There was a bunch of rabbits living in a nearby bush. They asked their leader to talk to the elephants to find some way out. When the leader of the rabbits went to the elephant king, he just laughed off at him and said, "Might is right".

### ***Moon God***

The leader of the rabbits was highly annoyed at the rude behavior of elephant. He thought of another plan to make the elephants fall in line. He once again went to the elephant king. It was a full moon night. The rabbit said that he was the messenger of the moon. He said that the moon was the god of the pond and he was not happy with the elephants. The elephant king became angry at hearing that and said he did not believe what the rabbit said.



### ***Peace for Rabbits***

Then the rabbit said, "You can come with me near the pond where I will arrange a meeting between you and the moon." Elephant agreed to go to the pond to verify what the rabbit said. When they went near the pond, rabbit indicated towards the reflection of the moon in pond water. Elephant thought that the god of the pond had descended down to the earth to show his wrath. Elephant was frightened deep in his heart. He promised to the rabbit that his herd would no longer disturb any other animal. After that, peace returned to the jungle.

*The moral of the story is, "Sometimes a little ingenuity can solve a seemingly big problem."*

2. <https://shortstoriesshort.com/story/the-clever-rabbit-and-the-elephant/>

A herd of elephants lived in a forest. They fed on the leaves of the wild trees and drank the cool water from the stream that flowed through the forest. One year, drought hit the area where the forest was located. Many animals fled the forest to other places which had no lack of water or food. The leader of the elephants was worried. He was called Iravat and he took good care of his herd. He sent his brothers to look for water. After a long search, they located a lake at the far end of the forest. They decided to quench their thirst and take their baths there very morning.

Now, everyday the herd would go to the lake to bathe and drink the sweet water of the lake. On the way, they would pass a colony of rabbits. They would not pay attention to rabbits on the ground. So, everyday some rabbits would be injured or crushed to death. As their number grew less, the leader of the rabbits called a meeting. "Dear brothers and sisters," he addressed his fellow companions, "We are all aware of how we are being killed by the unthinking elephants everyday. We must think of a way to save ourselves." Mikkoo was a young and intelligent rabbit. He said, "Sir, don't worry. go as your messenger and ask the elephants to change the path they take to the lake."

So with the leader's permission Mikkoo went as a messenger. He spotted the elephant herd approaching and stood on the top of a large, high rock to save himself.

When the Iravat, the elephant leader came near, he said, "Respected sir, I am Mikkoo, a messenger from the Moon himself. The almighty Moon has sent me to you with a private message, so please step aside."

When Iravat came near, Mikkoo said, "The lake where you go to bathe and quench your thirst belongs to the Moon. He is very upset as you crush many rabbits on the way. As we are his close friends and guides, our sad plight has saddened and angered the Moon. He wishes to speak to you privately. If you would be kind enough I will escort you to the lake of the Moon for a meeting."

Iravat readily agreed for the meeting. When Iravat and Mikkoo reached the lake, the Moon was reflected in its still water.

"let me offer my greetings to the moon," said Iravat and just as he dipped his trunk in the lake the water stirred and so did the Moon's

reflection.

“Oh! See how the mighty Moon shakes in anger,” said Mikkoo.

But why is it so?” asked Iravat.

“You have angered him even more by touching the holy water of the lake at night,” replied Shweta.

At this Iravat said in a mournful voice, “Please ask the Moon to forgive us. We shall never come again to this lake nor we will ever harm the rabbits, loved so much by the Moon.”

Thus Iravat left with a promise never to visit the lake of the Moon and the rabbits lived safely and happily ever after.

**MORAL**

A lie that saves many lives is worth a thousand truths.

3. <https://www.indianhindunames.com/panchatantra-stories-moon-lake.htm>

Once A large herd of elephants lived in a jungle. Their king was a huge, majestic tusk. He looked after them with love and care. Once, a severe drought hit the area. Birds and animals died of thirst. The wild elephants suffered for want of water. Their king knew that if they did not get water soon, many of them would die of thirst. He had to find water as quickly as possible.

He asked the elephants to go in different directions to look for water. One of them found a large lake full of water in another jungle far away. The king was happy. He ordered all the elephants to make their way to the lake. It was a beautiful lake. Close to it was a colony of rabbits. The elephants had to pass through this colony. Thousands of rabbits were trampled to death and thousands more were injured. The rabbits were in a panic. Their king called a meeting.

"A herd of wild elephants is passing through our colony," he said. "They have already killed or injured thousands of us. We have to take urgent steps to prevent more deaths. I want all of you to think of a way to save our race." The rabbits started thinking of ways to stop the elephants. One little rabbit stood up.

"Your Majesty," he said, "if you will send me as your messenger to the king of the elephants, I may be able to find a solution." "By all means, go as my messenger and see what you can do." The little rabbit hurried out.

He saw a group of elephants returning from the lake. Right in the middle was the king. To get near him was impossible. I will be crushed to death, thought the rabbit. So he climbed up a huge rock.

"O, king of the elephants," he shouted, "hear me, please." The king heard his voice and turned towards him.

"Well, who are you?" he asked. "I am a messenger," replied the rabbit. "A messenger? From whom?" "I am a messenger from the mighty Moon." "What is your business? Is there a message for me from the Moon?" "Yes, yes, your Majesty. But you must not be angry with me. Please remember that a messenger is never punished for what he has to say. He is only doing his duty." "Very well. Say what you have been sent to say. I shall not harm you." "Sir," said the little rabbit, "the Moon has this to say"

" You, the king of the elephants, have brought your herd to my holy lake and soiled its waters. You have killed thousands of rabbits on your way to the lake. You know that rabbits are under my special protection. Everyone knows that the king of the rabbits lives with me. I ask you not to kill any more rabbits. Otherwise something terrible will happen to you and your herd."

The king of the elephants was shocked. He looked at the little rabbit. "You are right," he said. "We may have killed many rabbits on our way to the lake. I shall see that you do not suffer anymore. I shall request the Moon to forgive me for my sins. Please tell me what I should do." "Come with me alone," replied the rabbit. "Come, I shall take you to the Moon." The little rabbit took the huge elephant to the lake. There they saw the Moon reflected in the still waters. "There, your Majesty, meet the Moon," said the little rabbit.

"Let me worship the divine Moon," said the elephant, and dipped his trunk into the water. At once the water was disturbed. The Moon seemed to move to and fro. The rabbit said, "Now the Moon is angrier than ever." "Why?' asked the king. "What have I done?" "You have touched the holy waters of the lake," replied the rabbit. The elephant bowed his head. "Please ask the Moon to forgive me. Never again will we touch the holy waters of this lake. Never again will we harm the rabbits whom the Moon loves so much." And the king and his herd went away. Soon there was rain and the elephants lived happily. It did not occur to them ever that a little rabbit had fooled them.

Story moral: Intelligence wins over might.