

HOW THE TIGER GOT ITS STRIPES

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This tale was collected in Seoul, Korea as told by a 64 year old woman, Yi Songnyo.

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Tale 103

Long ago, they say that tigers smoked pipes, (long bamboo pipes). One day while the pipe was in his mouth, the tiger fell asleep. While he was sleeping, the fire in his pipe spread and fell onto the tigers fur. While sleeping, the tiger felt his body to be very hot, woke up, and saw that his fur was on fire. The yellow tiger jumped up quickly, ran to the brook, drenched his body and so averted a disaster. At that time, the tiger's fur was burnt in places. Even now those spotted places on the tiger's fur are said to be the remnants where the tiger's fur was burnt by the fire of the pipe.

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