

The Hare in the Moon

Prince Siddhartha determined to live a simple life. He gave up all his wealth and chose to wander the world, travelling alone, finding shelter and help where he could.

Lost in the depths of a forest one night, he met a hare who offered to guide him. The prince said he had no money to reward the hare but the hare wanted no reward. He simply wanted to be of use and willingly he guided the prince through the forest, keeping him company on his journey.

As they travelled the hare realised how hungry the prince must be. Eagerly he offered himself as a meal and set to work gathering firewood and building a fire. The prince was horrified and he protested. He begged the hare to stop but the hare built up the fire, and before the prince could stop him he flung himself into the flames.

Without a second's thought the prince plunged his hand into the fire and grabbed the hare by his ears. Swinging him round his head, he flung him into the sky. The hare soared into the air and hit the moon, where he began to dance. The prince left him up there so that anyone looking up to the moon can see the dancing hare and remember his kindness and his generosity.