

Story #341 (Collected orally and then in
written form; not taped.)

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The Rabbit and the Wolf

One day when a rabbit was walking in the forest, he heard someone crying out, "Help! Help!" He looked around, and finally he saw a wolf. A great stone had fallen on his back so that he could not get up. He asked the rabbit's help, and said that he would die if nobody helped him.

The rabbit worked very hard, and finally managed to ^{get} the big stone off the wolf's back. Then the wolf jumped up and caught the rabbit in his mouth. The rabbit cried and asked for mercy, but the wolf insisted on killing him for his meal.

Then the rabbit said, "No good person kills someone who has helped him. It is not fair. You can ask the duck, who is very fat and knows everything."

So both of them went to the duck. He listened to their story, and then he said, "Show me the stone." They went to the stone.

"Now, let me be sure about this," said the duck. "Put the stone on the wolf's back exactly as it was when you found him." So the wolf lay down, and with much effort the stone was put on his back again.

"Well, what do you think?" the wolf asked the duck.

The duck thought for a moment. Then he said, "I think you were wrong to be cruel to the rabbit, who had helped you. Now see if someone else will help you!"

And leaving him in the sorry state in which the rabbit had come upon him, they went their way