

animal stories from
**DONKEY
TALES**
Indian Folklore

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EMESCO

Donkey in Disguise

Once upon a time, there was a merchant who owned a donkey. He used the animal to carry his goods from place to place.

Now, the merchant was a stingy fellow. He didn't want to waste his money on food for the donkey. So, wherever he went, he would first unload his goods. Then he would throw a tiger's skin over the donkey and set him to graze in a field. The owners of the field, seeing a fierce tiger walking about on their land, were usually too scared to chase it away.

One day, the merchant had as usual unloaded the donkey and set it free in a field. Then he went away to eat his own breakfast.

The farmer who was watching over the field saw what looked like a tiger right in the middle of it. He was frightened out of his wits. He ran to the village, shouting "Tiger, tiger!"

All the villagers, armed with stones, bells and sticks, ran to the farmer's field. Making a terrific din to scare the tiger away, the men rushed in all together.

Seeing them, the donkey was terrified. He shook off his tiger's skin and began to bray loudly.

The men were so angry that they jumped on the donkey and beat him up with their sticks and stones. Then they grabbed the tiger's skin and went home. When the merchant came back, he found the donkey all bruised and beaten.

"You foolish fellow!" said the unkind merchant to the poor donkey. "If you had only kept your mouth shut, you wouldn't have got into this mess."

