Long ago, there lived a young man named Lisheng, who had just married a beautiful woman. His new bride dreamed of a new coat. One day, she had an idea that a coat of fox fur would look pretty on her, so she asked her husband to get her one. Unfortunately, a coat like this was rare and too expensive for the husband to purchase. He wanted his new bride to have everything she wanted, and if a new coat was her desire then he was going to make sure she had one. The helpless husband was forced to walk around on the hillside in search of the perfect fox. Before long, a fox with a stunning coat of fur came walking by. He lost no time at all to catch it by the tail. With great happiness at his success, he said to the fox, “My bride wants a fox coat. Can you give me your skin so that she may have one? That isn’t a big deal, is it?”

The fox recognized trouble and was shocked by the request. He quickly thought about how to save himself. He calmly replied, “Well, my dear friend, that’s easy. You must let my tail go so that I can pull off the skin for you.” Lisheng was so delighted that he had found a fox so willing to offer his skin for his new bride’s coat that he freely released the fox from his grip. With that, the fox took off running as fast as he could. Lisheng chased after the fox begging for him to stop. “I promise not to take your coat if you will just tell me where I can find another fox with a coat of fur as stunning as yours,” Lisheng called out.

A pack of wild dogs over heard the commotion and came to see what was going on. When they realized that Lisheng was trying to take the fox’s skin they leaped at him. Lisheng, being chased by the wild dogs, ran as fast as he could to get away. Being grateful for the help, the fox stopped, turned around, and called to Lisheng, “You should know better than to try to take something that is not yours!” Laughing at his silly request and at Lisheng’s look of horror on his face, the fox continued on his way, thankful to be alive.
The Wolf & the Goat

(a Greek fable adaptation)

A very hungry wolf was out one day searching for something tasty to eat. He quickly caught sight of a goat grazing above him on the edge of a high cliff. The wolf smacked his lips at the thought of a fine goat for dinner, but he knew he could not possibly get to her. The wolf knew she had to come down from the cliff eventually, so he patiently waited on his prey.

The clever goat had spotted the wolf, and she knew his intentions. The goat decided that it was best if she continued to graze on the high cliff where she was safe. She hoped that the wolf’s hungry belly would lead him away from her and to another source of food so that she could eventually come down and go home.

The longer the wolf waited, the hungrier he got. His impatience left him no choice but to reveal himself and somehow lure the goat down from the high cliff. “My dear friend,” said the wolf in his sweetest voice, “I am afraid you will fall from that high cliff. Why don’t you come down here and graze on this fine grass beside me on safe and level ground?” “No thank you,” replied the goat. “But, you are risking your life up there, madam. Please take my advice and come down here where you will find the finest and most tender grass in the country,” the wolf pleaded, pretending to be very worried about the goat’s safety. “Risking my life? I’m safer here than I would be down there,” the goat calmly explained.

A few dogs in the distance overheard the conversation between the wolf and the goat. They thought it was best to help the situation. Together they ran at the wolf with their threatening barks. Knowing that he couldn’t possibly defend himself against all the dogs, the wolf took off running as fast as he could. The grateful goat called to the wolf as he ran into the woods behind him. “You are not concerned about my safety! You only care about yourself and your own appetite!” Laughing at the sight of the dogs chasing the wolf and his unsuccessful attempt at eating her, the goat trotted down the cliff and returned to her home, thankful to be alive.