

# The Happy Hunter and the Skilful Fisher

Long, long ago Japan was ruled by an emperor named Akira. He was not only handsome but he was also very strong and brave and he was famous for being the greatest hunter in the land. Because of his matchless skill as a hunter, he was called 'The Happy Hunter of the Mountains'. His elder brother was a very skilful fisher and he was named 'Skilful Fisher of the Sea.' The brothers led happy lives, thoroughly enjoying their occupations. The days passed quickly and pleasantly while each pursued his own way, the one hunting and the other fishing.

One day, the Happy Hunter came to his brother, the Skilful Fisher, and said, "Well, my brother, I see you go to the sea every day with your fishing rod in your hand and when you return you come laden with fish. As for me, it is my pleasure to take my bow and arrow and to hunt the wild animals up the mountains and down in the valleys. For a long time, we have each followed our favourite occupation. Surely now we must both be tired. Would it not be wise for us to make a change? Will you try hunting in the mountains and I will go and fish in the sea?"

The Skilful Fisher listened in silence to his brother and was thoughtful for a moment. At last he answered, "Your idea is not a bad one at all. Give me your bow and arrow and I will set out at once for the mountains and hunt."

The two brothers each started out to try the other's occupation, dreaming of all that would happen. It was very unwise of them, for the Happy Hunter knew nothing of fishing, and the Skilful Fisher, who was bad-tempered, knew nothing about hunting.



1. Give one way that the Happy Hunter and the Skilful Fisher are similar and one way that they are different.

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2. Find and copy three adjectives that the author uses to describe the Happy Hunter.

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3. Do you think that the brothers will be successful with their new occupations? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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4. What was the Happy Hunter's real name?

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