

## THE TYRANT OF THE ASIATIC JUNGLE



UPON the African continent the lion reigns supreme, sole monarch at least over his own feline race. (Read *The Monarch of the Jungle* in the February, 1940, issue of *The Young Citizen*.) But in Asia the lion's sovereignty is disputed by his gaudily dressed cousin, the tiger, the most formidable member of the cat tribe. Majestic as the lion appears when viewed full face with his great bushy mane, he lacks the agile strength of his near relative, the tiger.

The tiger is larger, stronger, quicker, more graceful, and has greater cunning than the lion. He is also considered the most nearly perfect and most beautiful of his race because of the bright coloring of his coat, his litheness, and graceful proportions. The stories of hunters conquering lions, single-handed, have no parallel in the history of the tiger, for no man, however well trained, is a match for the tiger on foot.

Asia is the home of the tiger. This animal is not found on any other continent. Strange to say, the tiger ranges far to the northward of his proper home in Hindustan, even to Korea, Manchuria, and Russian Siberia. In those cold regions the tiger grows to his greatest size, and is clothed with a dense coat of long and shaggy hair which is a much heavier and warmer coat of fur than that of his southern relative. Although larger, the Siberian species is less fierce than the royal Bengal tiger of India which is best known.

The coat of the Bengal tiger has a grand color of tawny yellow with black stripes on the body and limbs, the tail also being ringed with black. This coloring makes it very difficult to see a tiger in a thicket of reeds or dried grass. The largest tigers are about eleven feet in length from the nose to the tip of the

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father then began to pull the rope. In a considerably short time the dead shark which was bigger than our vinta was brought to the side of our boat. "This is the biggest shark I have so far caught," said my father.

I noticed that the shark was hit on its side about three feet from its tail, and about one-fourth of the harpoon was buried into the flesh of the fish.

Sailing homeward was quite slow because besides the fact that we were dragging along a very heavy weight, there was no favorable wind. I had to help my father row the boat. "Father," I said, "I wish that the shark swam homeward. He would have saved us a lot of time."

My father chuckled because he thought that my remark was clever.

Even if I had to help him row, I didn't feel so weary because I knew that the shark would give us some money, and my father would buy me a new pair of trousers and a shirt, as he had promised. "This is my first trip with him, and I have brought him good luck," I said to myself. "And so I can also ask him for a pair of shoes."

We arrived home two days later. My mother

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tail, and weigh about 500 pounds.

The chief difference between the tiger and the lion is in the coloring of their skin and the fact that the tiger has no mane. The skeletons of the two animals are almost exactly alike.

In habits, also, the two animals are much alike, except that tigers, unlike lions, hardly ever hunt in pairs. Tigers are also good swimmers, which is unusual with the cat family. If a tiger is hard pressed by a hunter, the animal will sometimes climb a tree.

Tigers prefer to hunt at night by stalking their prey, but they also prowl about in the daylight. They prey upon all kinds of wild animals, and destroy a large number of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and other domestic animals. A cattle-eating tiger will kill an ox or a cow about every five days, or from 60 to 70 a year.

Unless he is cornered or greatly provoked, the tiger avoids the elephant, and seldom attacks a large buffalo or a bear. In fights with a bear or a buffalo he is frequently killed. In beamed with pride and joy when I told him about the exciting trip.

some respects the tiger is cowardly. He will eat decaying flesh rather than attack an enemy that is capable of making a successful defense. In the search for prey and in efforts to avoid hunters, the tiger is cunning and bold. In his native wild state he is the most blood-thirsty of beasts, and in captivity is treacherous.

It is said that when a tiger once tastes human blood, the animal becomes a confirmed man-eater, preferring human flesh to all others. Man-eating tigers are greatly feared by the natives of India.

A case is recorded in which a single tiger killed 127 persons in a single year. On an average 1,000 people are killed each year by tigers, mostly in India. The young tigers are far more destructive than the old ones.

Tiger cubs number from two to five in a litter, but more than two are seldom reared to maturity. The cubs remain with the mother until the third year while she teaches them to hunt.

The tiger will be found upon the earth long after the lion has disappeared. He is far more clever at hiding, he is a more skillful hunter, he is less given to taking foolish risks, and

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## THE LEGEND OF . . .

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tended nearer to the home of Pinatubo and Sinukuan. Day after day more trees were cut, and more timber was put into the bridge.

Then a strange thing happened. The greater part of that portion of the bridge already constructed disappeared! When and where it went nobody knew. It just disappeared. You see, Pinatubo was using his magical powers, and by means of magic had caused a part of the bridge already constructed to disappear. Nobody except Pinatubo knew why a part of the bridge had disappeared.

When Mayumo saw that a part of the bridge had disappeared, he could scarcely believe his eyes. But he was not daunted. All the trees nearby had been cut, so he hired twice as many laborers as before and sent them to the distant Caraballo Mountains for more timber. They cut and cut day and night.

Finally the laborers had enough timber collected to complete the bridge. But it had taken them a long time to cut and to carry the logs from the distant Caraballo Mountains to the site of the bridge. The workmen labored day and night and worked as hard as they

could, but the bridge was not completed within the specified time.

Mayumo had failed! He had not been able within a year's time to build the bridge which Pinatubo required! He couldn't marry the beautiful Sinukuan!

"I will steal her at night from her father's home on Mount Arayat," thought Mayumo.

Pinatubo, by means of his magic, discovered the plot which Mayumo had in mind. "I can easily prevent that," said Pinatubo to himself.

Accordingly, by means of his magical powers, Pinatubo moved Mount Arayat from the town of Candaba to its present location near the present town of Arayat. That is why the town is called Arayat. Pinatubo moved the mountain so that Sinukuan would be farther from Mayumo. "I can be more watchful of my lovely daughter," said Pinatubo to himself, "if her home on Mount Arayat is far away from the home of Mayumo. Besides, it will then be more difficult for him to try to steal her at night."

And so Mount Arayat was placed in its present location. If you go to Candaba, you can still see the

where Mount Arayat once stood; at least, that is what some of the old folk will tell you. Where Mount Arayat once stood near Candaba is now a low place filled with water, some will point out. People call the place Candaba swamp.

Near Arayat today we can find a large footprint on a rock. It is said to be one of the footprints of Pinatubo.

As for the beautiful Sinukuan, the legend says that she did not marry Mayumo—thanks to the magical powers of her father Pinatubo—but instead married a more desirable young man, and for many years the happy couple lived peacefully in their home on Mount Arayat.

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he does not advertise his presence and invite his enemies by the bombastic roaring in which the lion delights to indulge.

The tiger is an animal of serious mind, and he attends strictly to business. A lion will stalk out in the open, in broad daylight, but the tiger sticks closely to cover until the friendly darkness renders it safe to roam abroad. Then he is, indeed, "the tyrant of the Asiatic jungle."