

Ah-Choo!

Story Origin: Malaysia

Late one day, a father was walking through the jungle with his young son. When it began to grow dark, the father realized they wouldn't be able to find their way home until the moon came up. He said to his son, "Let's lie down and rest a bit before we go on. This will be a good spot right here by the side of the river."

The father lay down on the ground, but the little boy, who was frightened by the shadows in the jungle, said, "Daddy, I'm scared. I want to sleep in the middle."

"That's impossible!" replied the father. "How can you sleep in the middle? There are only two of us."

"But I want to sleep in the middle!" cried the little boy. To comfort him, the father lay down on his back and said, "Fine, you can sleep on my middle. Lie down between my legs with your head on my belly." The boy did so, and soon they were both fast asleep.

Before long, a hungry tiger came by. In the darkness, he saw a human being with what looked like *four* legs, *four* arms, and *one* head. He couldn't see the little boy's head for it was in the deep shadows around his father's belly.

"Hmmm...." thought the tiger. "How can this be? I've never heard of a man with *four* legs, *four* arms, and *one* head. I must be seeing things." He moved closer to investigate. He began to sniff around the strange creature's body. He sniffed at the legs. Sniff, sniff, sniff, sniff. "That's four legs." Then he sniffed at the arms. Sniff, sniff, sniff, sniff. "That's *four* arms." Next he sniffed at the father's head. Sniff. "That's only *one* head."

The tiger wanted to be sure, so he sniffed the man's head once again. But he sniffed so close that his whiskers tickled the man's nose. The man bolted up and sneezed a big 'Ah-Ah-Ah-

CHOO!” this took the tiger by surprise, and he fell backward into the river, creating a huge *splash!*

The father and the son jumped up and hurried off. By the time the tiger managed to get out of the water, they were nowhere to be found. To this day the tiger probably thinks he was seeing things that night for he never again saw the creature with *four* legs, *four* arms and only *one* head that let out a big “Ah-Ah-Ah-CHOO!”