

### **Brotherly Love: A Korean Folktale Retold**

Many years ago in Korea, there were two brothers who lived in small village houses, side-by-side. The village was very poor, and the brothers were also poor. During the harvest, they worked hard to feed and take care of their families.

The older brother had greater wealth, but he also had a larger family to feed. He had a beautiful wife and six children. The younger brother did not have a big family to take care of, but he also did not have much wealth. Each night the brothers would look through their kitchen windows at the other brother to make sure he was eating well with his family.

One night, the older brother could not sleep thinking about his younger brother. He worried that his younger brother did not have enough grain. He rose from bed, snuck around the back of his house, and took some grain from his shed. He brought it to his younger brother's grain storage and slipped it in silently. The older brother crept around the back of the house and slipped back into bed.

That same night, the younger brother tossed and turned thinking about how his older brother needed more grain to feed his family. He rose from his bed and walked out the front door of his house. He carried grain over to his brother's shed and filled it with grain from his own shed.

The next day, both men noticed that the grain in their shed was not lower. They resolved to bring another bucket of grain over the next night. Several nights went by and both men continued to fill the other brother's shed of grain. Still, the levels in the shed did not change.

One night, the older brother was approaching his shed, when his younger brother appeared with a buck full of grain.

"Brother! You scared me! I thought you were an animal. What are you doing here?"

"I am here to bring you grain, so you can feed your family," the younger brother replied.

The older brother laughed. "Oh, dear brother and friend, I have been bringing you grain as well. I was worried that you did not have enough for the winter."

The two brothers hugged and laughed. They decided to save their grain and get a full night of sleep.