The Tiger, the Jackal, and the Cave

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A tiger lived in a place called Pilkunja. One day, despite searching everywhere, it found nothing to eat. It had already hunted and eaten most of the animals in the forest, and the rest had fled in fear. Worn out from its endless search and weak with hunger, the tiger could barely see.

That evening, the tiger entered a nearby cave. Inside, it realized that another animal lived there. It thought, “Someone is sure to come here to sleep tonight. I’ll hide in a corner and wait.”

The cave belonged to a jackal. After eating cucumbers and bitter gourds from a nearby village, the jackal returned to its cave that evening, thinking, “Now I’ll go to sleep.” Near the entrance, it saw tiger footprints in the dust. The tracks led into the cave, but none came out. The jackal thought, “There may be a tiger inside, but how can I be sure? If I look in, I’ll fall straight into its jaws.”

Thinking this through, the jackal went near the mouth of the cave and shouted, "Ah, my dear cave! Whenever I returned home, you used to welcome me. You would lovingly say, 'Welcome, welcome, please come in and sit.' Why are you so silent today? Is something wrong, or are you angry with me? If you don't speak to me, I will go to another cave."
Hearing the jackal's words, the tiger got confused. "Perhaps this cave really does welcome visitors! Today, I must be sitting quietly out of fear. When one is frightened, hands and legs tremble, and the mouth refuses to open. Therefore, I will speak on its behalf."

With this thought, the tiger called out: "Oh ho ho, welcome, welcome, brother jackal! Drifted off to sleep, so I didn't realize you had arrived. Please come in, come in!"
The tiger's roar echoed loudly inside the cave. Hearing it, the animals and birds of the forest fled in panic. The jackal laughed out loud and said, "Sure, sure, big brother! Has the time come for caves to start talking? I have grown old, born and raised in this very forest, but I have never heard a cave talk!" Saying this, the jackal ran away from there.

Moral: When you sense danger, you must use your wit accordingly. Just as the saying goes, "Hunger blinds the eyes," excessive greed clouds one's intellect!