





and the Chilseok
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(and a weaver)
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however, on the
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The story of the two brothers, the greedy Heungbu (흥부) and kind-hearted Nolbu (놀부), begins when Heungbu tricks Nolbu out of their father's fortune, leaving him destitute. But after Nolbu heals a swallow's broken leg, the swallow returns to gift him a seed that sprouts into three gourds full of treasure.

One mischievous frog would ways do the opposite of what his mother said, until she resigned herself to that fact at her deathbed. Rather than telling him to give her a proper burial on a mountain, she told him to bury her on the riverbank, believing he would do the opposite. Ironically, out of all this last request was the only one he carried out faithfully and his mother's grave was eventually washed away in the monsoon rain, explaining why green frogs cry when it rains.

dedicated to my parents, who gave up on their unruly frog daughter and read me all these tales back when tigers smoked. I, even after nearly losing my tongue to tuna sandwiches, will see rabbits on the moon.



When a disguised god begs a monkey, an otter, a jackal, and a rabbit for food, the monkey picks him fruit, the otter hunts him fish, the jackal finds him a lizard and milk-curd. Since it isn't able to offer anything other than grass, the rabbit instead throws itself into the fire for his meal. Impressed, the god puts that rabbit on moon to become its guardian, where it spends the rest of eternity making rice cake beneath a gyesu tree. This moon rabbit (달토끼) has become somewhat of a symbol for the mid-autumn harvest festival Chuseok, in which half-moon shaped rice cakes called songpyeon (송편) are traditionally eaten.

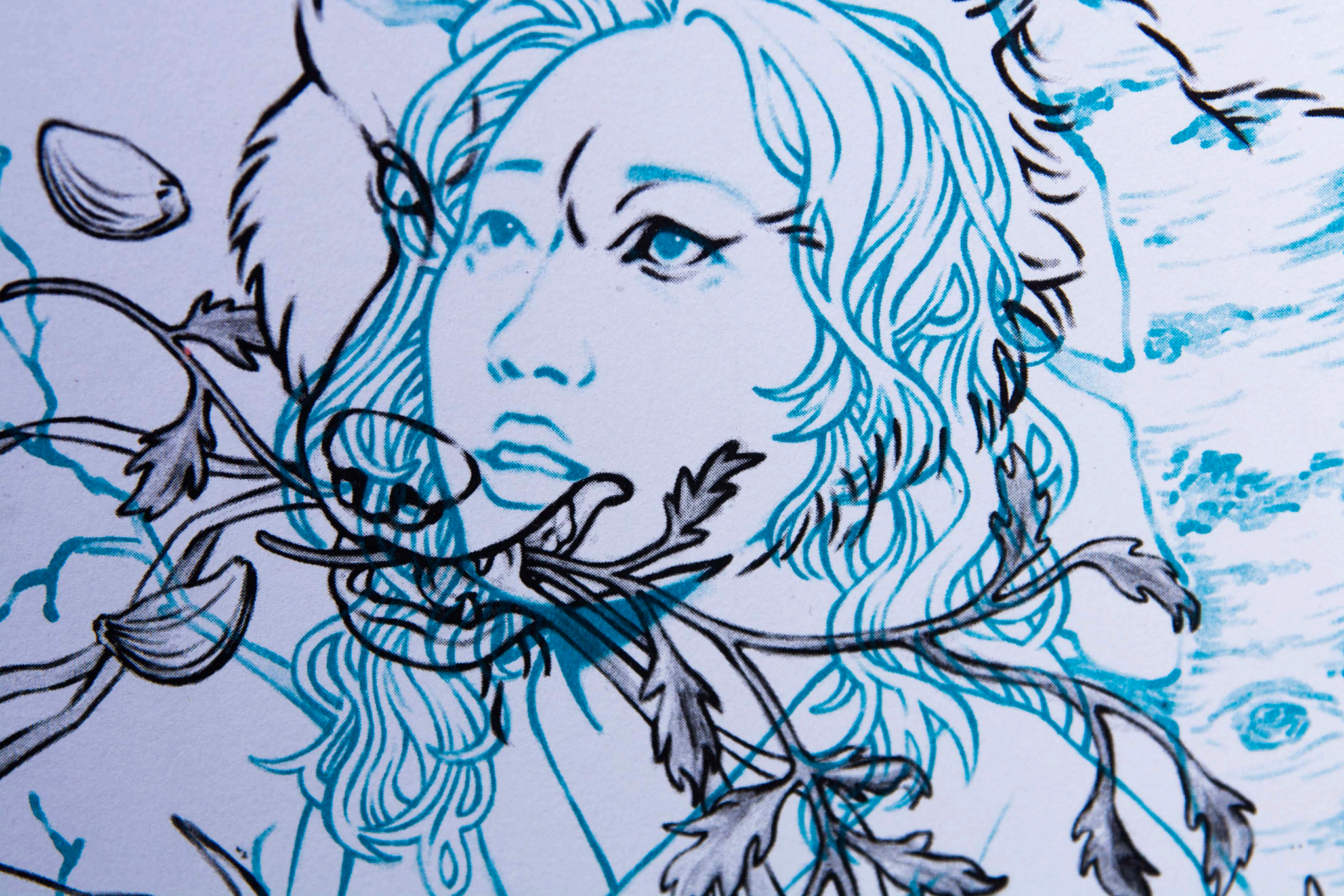
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Korea's creation myth starts with the story of Ungnyeo (웅녀), a bear who prays to the divine king to become human, and does so after living off of 20 cloves of garlic and a bundle of mugwort in a dark cave for 100 days. Once Ungnyeo becomes a woman, she prays to the divine king again under a birch tree, this time for a husband. Once that wish is also granted, she births the founder of Korea.

rings a rabbit to the

underwater palace,

finds that he was

When Heungbu finds out
this, he breaks a swallow
himself to treat it. After
gives him a seed which

