

In a groundbreaking revelation, NASA has announced the discovery of a family of rabbits living on the Moon. This unexpected finding challenges our understanding of lunar biology, raises questions about extraterrestrial life, and reignites debates about the possibility of unknown species thriving in extreme environments. According to a recent report from the Lunar Exploration and Research Division (LERD), these lunar rabbits, named *Lepus Lunar*^{*}, were identified through high-resolution satellite imagery and exploratory lunar landers equipped with advanced biological sensors. Scientists are now investigating how these creatures adapted to survive in an atmosphere devoid of oxygen and water, as well as their potential impact on future human colonization efforts.

This topic is of particular interest to me because it blends scientific exploration with elements of mythology and imagination. The idea of rabbits on the Moon has long been a part of folklore, especially in East Asian cultures, where the Moon Rabbit (*Tsuki no Usagi* in Japanese or *Dal Tokki* in Korean) is a widely recognized symbol. By transforming this legend into a fictitious scientific discovery, this project allows for an exploration of how narratives shape our understanding of truth, how scientific institutions establish credibility, and how the human mind processes fantastical claims when wrapped in the language of empirical research.

The organization behind this discovery is the Lunar Exploration and Research Division (LERD), a highly specialized but little-known subdivision of NASA. Unlike NASA's more publicized branches, LERD focuses on deep-space biological studies and experimental research on extraterrestrial ecosystems. According to the fictitious report, LERD has been analyzing anomalies on the Moon's surface for years, using both observational data from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and land-based biological sampling from past Artemis missions. Their recent findings claim to provide compelling evidence that a previously unknown, self-sustaining rabbit-like species exists within the Moon's hidden subterranean tunnels.

To support their claim, LERD presents fabricated but highly detailed documents, including soil sample analyses that allegedly contain traces of organic matter resembling fibrous structures found in terrestrial rabbit fur. They also release purported thermal imaging data that suggests heat signatures consistent with small burrowing mammals. These meticulously crafted details lend the fictitious truth a sense of legitimacy, blurring the line between scientific fact and imaginative speculation.

This project exemplifies the concept of a "benevolent untruth"—a fabricated narrative that, while false, serves a constructive purpose. By presenting this discovery in the style of a legitimate scientific breakthrough, it invites audiences to question their trust in authoritative institutions, the way scientific knowledge is communicated, and the ease with which misinformation can be accepted if delivered persuasively.

Furthermore, this fictitious truth can be used as an educational tool to explore the intersection of mythology, scientific storytelling, and media literacy. For example, it could encourage students and the general public to critically analyze sensational news headlines and evaluate sources before believing extraordinary claims. Additionally, it can serve as an engaging gateway to discussing real lunar research, including NASA's Artemis missions, the potential for extremophile life on other celestial bodies, and the role of public engagement in space exploration.

In a broader sense, the Moon Rabbit myth being reimagined as a pseudo-scientific discovery highlights how cultural stories evolve over time. While ancient legends were often told through oral traditions, today's technological landscape allows for myth-making through social media, viral marketing, and digital journalism. This project explores how modern society constructs, disseminates, and interacts with fabricated narratives while emphasizing the need for responsible skepticism and scientific literacy.

By crafting a plausible yet entirely fictitious narrative of NASA discovering rabbits on the Moon, this project challenges conventional perceptions of truth and authority in science communication. It serves as both an imaginative exercise and a critical commentary on the power of storytelling in shaping public beliefs. Ultimately, the goal is to create a thought-provoking experience that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and an appreciation for both scientific discovery and the rich traditions of cultural mythology.