

## The Monkey And The Crocodile



Once upon a time, there was a monkey who lived in a huge fig tree. The tree rested on the margin of the river, some of its branches laid over the river and others over the land. One day, as the monkey was breakfasting the nuts of the fig tree, the crocodile asked for some nuts. The monkey threw some nuts to the put in appearance of the crocodile down below. The monkey complied to continue feeding the crocodile.

One day the crocodile asked the monkey, "Monkey, my friend. You have shown me all of your kindness this whole time. How about you come to my home with me so that I can repay you?"

The monkey replied, "how can I? don't you know that, we as land beasts don't stroll about water?"

"Don't worry yourself, I will carry you, not even a drop of water can hover through your body" Crocodile responded.

"If so, let's go," the monkey replied enthusiastically.



Halfway down the river, the crocodile broke the calabash on the monkey. "Actually, I didn't want you to come so that I can repay your kindness, our King is so sick and the doctors have said not anything else apart from monkey's heart can save his life." the crocodile said.

"Oh! why didn't you tell me before we began?" Monkey exclaimed. "Why should I tell you?" Asked Crocodile. Monkey stayed quiet for so long, thinking of a trick. "Why aren't you talking?" The crocodile talked after the silence. "Well, you could have known that monkeys leave their hearts on the tree branches before traveling." Monkey replied. The crocodile proposed they should return back to the tree to carry the monkey's heart with them. The monkey declined. "Let's just go home. You will kill me and look for my heart all over my body never to find it." Monkey scolded. After a couple of negotiations and offers from the crocodile, the monkey finally agreed. They swam back to the bank of the river.



The monkey climbed the tree as fast as lightning. When he reached the top branch, the monkey remained silent. "Monkey, come let's go." The crocodile requested. "Go where?" I am not a washerman's donkey." Monkey provoked. "What about it?"



The monkey told the story as follows. Long ago, there was a washerman's donkey who was very lazy. the owner chased it away. She went to the forest and made herself a home. Hare happened to be the most cunning animal in the jungle. As he was strolling by, he saw the donkey. "This donkey is fat," he whispered to himself.

Immediately he went to the lion who was very sick, he could not hunt, even though he was the king of the jungle. They made a deal. "I shall bring her, and you will kill her for me. Then we will share the meal equally between us." Lion agreed.

The hare visited the washerman's donkey. "Hello Hare, how may I help you?" "I am sent to ask you for a hand in marriage."

And who sent you

The lion

"Wow, this is a lifespan offer, let's go." Without further ado, the donkey packed and they made their way to the lion's cave. "Move closer to your bride, oh, oh! Sorry guys, I have some private business to attend to. I guess I will see you later." The hare spoke.

The lion told the donkey to hug him. The donkey agreed. The lion scratched the donkey's neck, but she replied with a kick that sent the lion rolling down the rocks in his cave. The donkey fled as fast as she could and vowed never to return.

Two months later, the lion recovered. They made a deal once again with the hare. "If you manage to bring her again the donkey to me, I will leave the whole of the meat to

you except the ears and the heart, those two are mine." Lion requested. "Okay." The hare went once again to see the donkey. He greeted her. "What is the news?" The donkey asked. "I am sent for your hand in marriage." the hare asked. "The way the lion's claws scratched me, I won't go." The donkey responded. "Well, that is how lions greet people whom they love the most." The donkey was happy, and immediately agreed. This time, the lion was strong, he killed the donkey and told the hare to prepare the meat.

The next day, the lion came to hare for his share. "If the donkey had ears and a heart, she would have not returned to you." The hare confidently replied. The lion agreed reluctantly.

"You want to make me a stupid, lazy and unassertive washerman's donkey?" I am not ready. The monkey replied, gripping a branch and playing her tail above the head of the crocodile.

Moral of the story

