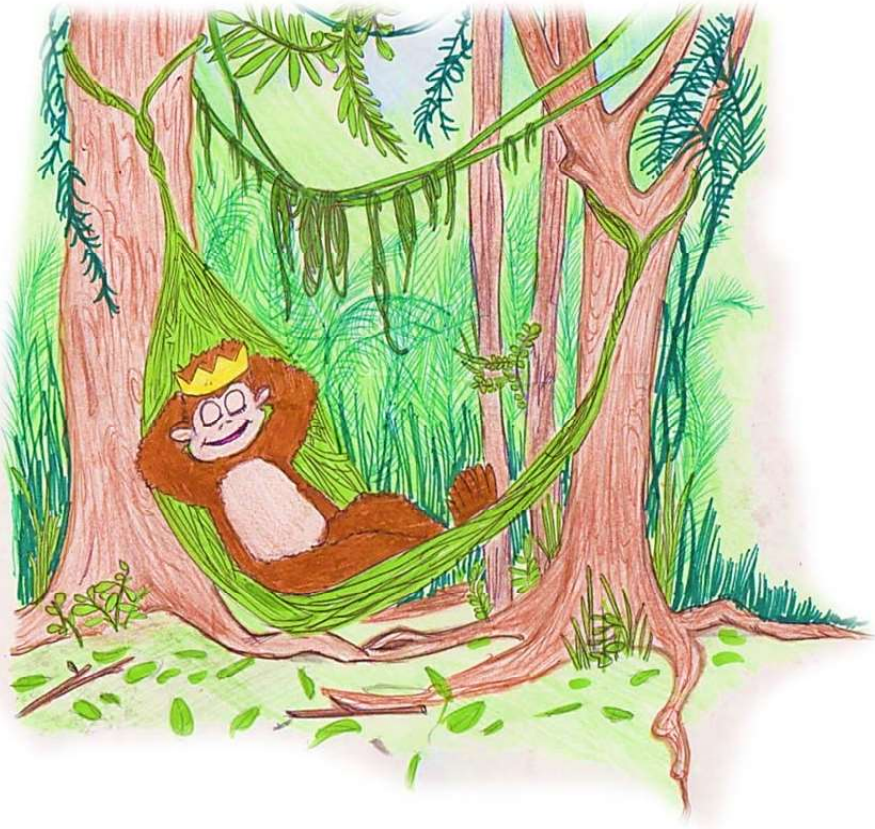


The Monkey & Brother Tiger

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Once upon a time, there was a very lazy monkey. He was so lazy that all the other animals laughed at him. They called him "No-good monkey."



The only animal who didn't call him "no-good monkey" was his mother, the Queen Monkey.

"You are my son," she would say, whenever she caught him napping, "And you are very lazy. But you are not 'no-good.' You have a clever tongue and a clever mind."

Then, she would sigh, with the sigh that all mothers seem to have. "If only you weren't so lazy."

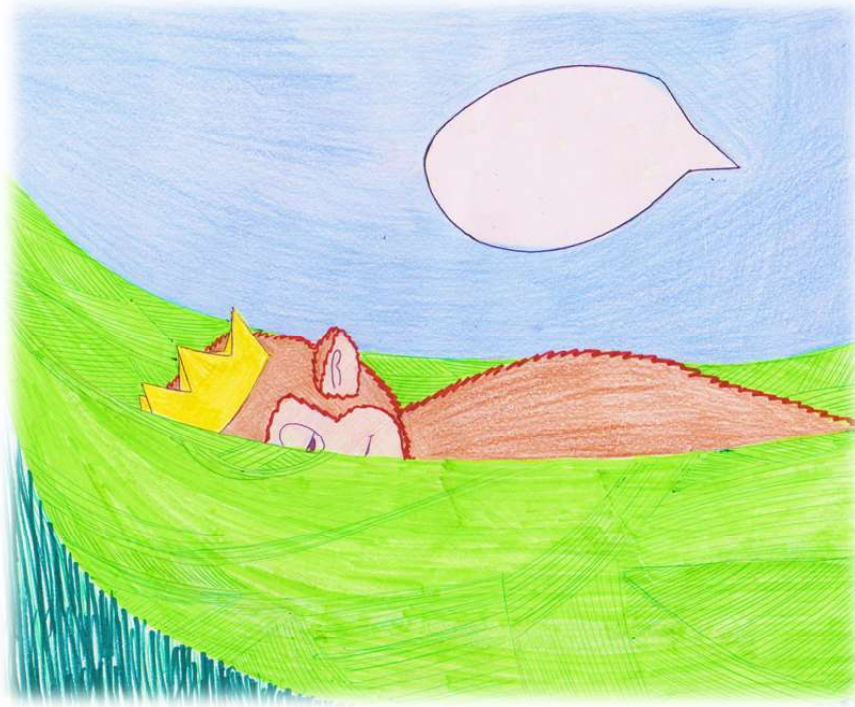


But Monkey *was* lazy. Each day he napped in the trees. He only woke up when he was hungry, or thirsty, or when his mother came to scold him.



One day he woke for a different reason. The forest was filled with moaning.

Monkey tried to ignore it, but the moans continued. He couldn't fall back asleep.



Finally, Monkey got up. He slowly climbed down from his tree.



He hadn't walked far when he met Mr. Peacock. Now, Mr. Peacock was the vainest creature in the forest. He usually spent his days admiring his tail.



"Oh, no!" he moaned, "Oh, no! The river is poisoned and we have no water to drink. When we are weak, Brother Tiger will eat us up. Then nobody will be left to admire my beautiful tail!"

“What?” Monkey asked. “What do you mean?”

Mr. Peacock saw him, and laughed. “Why, it’s the no-good monkey!” he said, “Better run while you can. For what can a no-good monkey do against Brother Tiger?”



Monkey kept walking. Soon he ran into Ms. Python. Ms. Python was almost as vain as Mr. Peacock. . She was especially proud of how long she could stretch.



But today, Ms. Python was curled up. “Oh, no!” she moaned, “Oh, no! The river is poisoned and we have no water to drink. When we are weak, Brother Tiger will eat us up. Then nobody will be left to admire how long I am.”



“You’re as long as the longest log,” Monkey said.

“I am!” Ms. Python agreed.

“So what makes you curl up?” Monkey asked.

“Poison,” Ms. Python moaned, “Brother Tiger pooped in the river, and now the river is poisoned.”



She opened her eyes, and saw Monkey. Even though she was very weak, she laughed.

“Why, it’s the no-good monkey,” she said. “Better run while you can. For what can a no-good monkey do against Brother Tiger?”

By now Monkey was very tired. He thought of his tree. He needed a nap! Why did he care if the river was poisoned, or if Brother Tiger came?

As he was headed back to his tree, he heard a familiar voice.

“Oh, no!” Queen Monkey moaned. “Oh, no! The river is poisoned and we have no water to drink. When we are weak, Brother Tiger will eat us up. Then what will become of my son?”

Monkey knelt close to her.



When Queen Monkey looked at him, she did not laugh. She spoke very seriously, "My son," she said, "Brother Tiger has stolen a water filter. Now he poops in the river. He knows that the water filter cleans the water he drinks. That way the poison in his poop will not get him sick. He is waiting until all the animals are sick. Then he will come and eat us all."

"Well, somebody should trick him and get that water filter," Monkey said.



"You are right," the Monkey Queen replied.

"Who can do it?" Monkey asked.

"You are the only animal in the jungle who is not sick. It is up to you."

"But mother," Monkey said, and hung his head, "I am just a 'no-good monkey.' What can a no-good monkey do against Brother Tiger?"

The Queen Monkey looked at him, and smiled. "You are not a 'no-good,'" she said. "You have a clever tongue and a clever mind. And now, at last, you are not being lazy. What can Brother Tiger do against a monkey like you?"

Brother Tiger was the strongest creature in the forest. The only thing sharper than his big claws were his even bigger teeth.

Today, he was feeling very clever, for he also had a shiny water filter.

Then, suddenly, he heard a voice. "Why, it's Brother Tiger!"

Brother Tiger looked up and saw Monkey.



"Is it true," Monkey asked, "that you're the strongest creature in the forest?"

Brother Tiger swelled with pride. "Yes," he growled. "And I am hungry. Come down so I may hear you better."

Monkey shivered. Even from high above, he could see the sharp points of Brother Tiger's teeth.



"You look quite strong to me," he said, "But the other animals in the forest disagree. They say you are weak."

"What?" Brother Tiger roared. "Who dares to say that? I will tear them apart!"

"Well," Monkey said, "They say that you are afraid to drink from the river. After all, the water looks clean and smells clean. Why would Brother Tiger need a water filter unless he was very weak?"

Brother Tiger hesitated... He knew the river was dirty—he'd pooped in it himself.

Tiger looked at the river. Monkey was right. It didn't look dirty.

Tiger smelled the river.



Monkey was right again. It did not smell dirty.

Slowly, tiger lowered his great head, and drank. The water did not taste dirty either!

Brother Tiger took a huge mouthful and swallowed. "I am the strongest creature in the forest," he roared. "See how easily I drink?"

Soon, however, Brother Tiger felt different. His stomach hurt, and he felt very sick. He had to run behind a tree!



Monkey waited until Brother Tiger was moaning.

Then Monkey quickly jumped down. He grabbed the water filter and dashed away.



Monkey brought some of the filtered water to Queen Monkey. Then Ms. Python, then Mr. Peacock.



It was a lot of work, and Monkey soon grew tired. But Monkey kept going until all the animals had healthy water.

That day, all the animals apologized for calling him a “no-good monkey.”

Late that night Monkey finally returned to his tree. Queen Monkey was already there.

She smiled when she saw him. "It seems that my 'no-good' son is not so lazy."

Monkey smiled back at her. And then he lay down for a well-deserved sleep.

