

## (1) The Clever Monkey Story

Once, long ago in the jungle, some animals were gathered around the watering hole. They were sad because a new lion had come to live in their part of the jungle. This lion was a terrible bully. He tied the elephant's trunk in a knot and put fruits on the rhino's horn. He even played connect the dots with the giraffe's spots and made funny pictures.

The animals met to see how they could get rid of the lion. Above them on a tree, a monkey was listening. He started laughing. "Why are you laughing?" asked the animals. "I am laughing because you all are scared of the lion. I am not afraid of him. He has been working for me for years," said the monkey.

This thought of the monkey making the lion work for him made the animals laugh. The lion walked up to the animals and roared, "Why are you laughing?" They told the lion what the monkey had said. "Where is that monkey?" asked the lion. The animals pointed to the tree where the monkey had been sitting but he was gone.

The lion stormed off to find the monkey. When he saw the monkey, he ran up to him and growled, "The animals told me that you were not afraid of me and that I worked for you!"

"That is not true! I told them I am afraid of you and I wish I could work for you," replied the monkey.

"Let's go see those silly animals and make sure they know the truth," said the monkey. Together, they started down the path toward the watering hole. They had only gone a few steps down the path when the monkey grabbed his leg and cried.

"What is wrong with you?" growled the lion. "I stepped on a sharp rock. I can't

walk,” said the monkey. “You have to tell all the animals that you really are afraid of me,” said the lion. “I could make it if you would let me ride on your back,” said the monkey. So the lion let the monkey get on his back.

They had only gone a few steps when the monkey cried out. “What is wrong?” asked the lion. “It’s too bumpy sitting on your back. It would help if I had a saddle,” said the monkey. The lion made a saddle out of palm leaves. “This is much better!” the monkey said, “Let’s go!”

They had gone a few more steps when the monkey again cried out. “What is it now?” said the lion. “I’m falling out of the saddle. It would help if I had something to hold,” cried the monkey. The lion tied some vines around his neck. The monkey held the vines and said “This is much better! Let’s go!”

As the monkey and the lion got close to the watering hole, the monkey sat up high in the saddle, grabbed the vines, and yelled, “YEAH!” The lion started to run. “Come on you lazy lion, it’s no time to rest!” yelled the monkey. The lion ran so fast that the monkey swung off the lion’s back and into the trees.

All the animals laughed. The laughter rang in the lion’s ears as he ran down the path. He knew he had been fooled by the monkey. He felt embarrassed and never went back to that part of the jungle again.