



THE MONKEY AND THE TURTLE

One sunny afternoon, a turtle was resting on the riverbank when she saw something floating downstream. She took another look and saw that it was a banana tree. She jumped into the water, caught the tree, and brought it to the bank. When she wanted to pull it out, she realized it was too heavy. She left it in the water and went to find help.

She met a monkey on the way.

“Hello, monkey, would you please help me pull a banana tree out of the water? I’d like to plant it in my garden,” asked the turtle.

“Sure, but I want half the tree in return,” said the monkey.

The turtle agreed and so, together they pulled the tree to the turtle’s garden.

“Alright, let’s plant the tree and when there are bananas on it, we will divide them as we agreed,” suggested the turtle.

But the monkey didn’t want to wait for his share. He demanded that the turtle give him his half of the tree right now. The turtle reluctantly divided the tree in half. The monkey took the upper green part and left the lower part with no branches to the turtle. She didn’t feel like arguing with the cunning monkey, so she just planted the rest of the tree in her garden and waited for some leaves to sprout. It wasn’t long before the green part that the monkey took started wilting. The leaves fell off and there was only a dry trunk.

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The turtle was a lot more successful. She watered her part regularly and the tree grew its first little leaves soon. After a while, it even grew some bananas!

But as the fruit was getting ripe, the turtle realized that it was too far up, and she couldn't pick it. She went to the monkey to ask for his help harvesting the tree.

"For your work, you can take a few bananas," the turtle promised the monkey.

He climbed up the tree easily, sat on the branch and started eating one banana after another. The turtle begged him to throw her some.

"You fooled me by taking the better part of the tree. That is why all these bananas belong to me," said the monkey sitting on the tree.

The turtle pleaded with him, but the monkey only threw down the banana peels.

Then the turtle got very angry, so she decided to get even. She went to the forest and picked some thorns and thistle and spread it all around the banana tree.

When the monkey was finished with all the bananas, he wanted to go home.

But he had no other option than to jump right into the thistle and the thorns all around. He screamed and yelled so loud! The monkey was yowling in pain and with every step, as a new thorn pricked his foot.

The turtle was standing by, giggling. When the monkey freed himself from the thistle, he ran to the turtle and flipped her onto her shell. That was the end for the turtle – she couldn't move an inch.

"Haha, gotcha! Did you think you could fool me again! Serves you right!" shouted the angry monkey.

"Shall I beat you with a bat or a stone? Your choice!" he threatened the turtle.

The turtle knew that if she wanted to survive, she needed to come up with something quickly. Then she got an idea. She said: "Please, do anything, just don't throw me in the water."

The monkey's eyes sparkled with glee and he laughed: "Not into the water, you say?"

He took the turtle to the river and threw her as far as he could. When the turtle disappeared under the surface, the monkey thought he had his vengeance. But his joy didn't last.

In a moment, the turtle came back from the water and waved at the monkey:

"Thank you for that kindness. You see, I live in the water."