

## The Monkey Mangoes and the Crocodile Dilemma



Once upon a time, in a lush, emerald forest bordered by a wide, shimmering river, there lived a clever monkey named Kavi. He swung joyfully between trees, feasting on ripe, golden mangoes that grew on the tallest branch of his favorite tree, which leaned gracefully over the riverbank.

In the river lived a crocodile named Jalraj, a solitary creature who spent his days floating aimlessly in the cool waters. One day, Jalraj swam close to Kavi's tree and saw the monkey nibbling on a mango juice dripping down his furry chin.



"Hello there!" Jalraj called. His voice was deep and resonant, startling Kavi.

"Who speaks?" Kavi asked, peering down.

"It's me, Jalraj," the crocodile replied. "I couldn't help but notice those mangoes look delicious. Would you be willing to share?"

Kavi, though cautious, decided to be kind. "Catch this, Jalraj!" he said, tossing a mango down.

Jalraj snapped it up mid-air. This is the most delicious mango I've ever had. Thank you, Kavi!



From that day on, Kavi and Jalraj became friends. Each day, the crocodile would visit the tree, and Kavi would share mangoes, regaling Jalraj with tales of the forest's wonders. Jalraj, in return, spoke of the mysteries of the river and the world beyond.

### **A Dangerous Request**

One day, Jalraj arrived with a troubled expression. "Kavi," he began hesitantly, "my wife is unwell. She desires to eat the heart of a monkey to heal. She believes it holds magical properties."

Kavi's heart raced, but he maintained his composure. "Oh, Jalraj," he said with a forced smile, "if your wife's health depends on it, I must help. But my heart is not here with me."

Jalraj blinked, confused. "Not with you? How is that possible?"

"Monkeys, you see," Kavi explained, "leave their hearts in their homes for safekeeping. Mine is in my tree hollow. If you take me back there, I can retrieve it for you."

Jalraj, though puzzled by this strange revelation, agreed. Kavi climbed onto his back, and they set off toward the mango tree.



### **The Clever Escape**

As they approached the riverbank, Kavi chuckled. "Oh, Jalraj, you're too gullible!"

"What do you mean?" Jalraj asked, turning his massive head.

"My heart has always been within me," Kavi admitted, leaping nimbly onto a branch. I was merely outsmarting you to save my life.

Jalraj's jaws snapped shut in frustration. "You tricked me!"



"Indeed, I did," Kavi said, looking down with a mixture of sadness and triumph. "You sought to betray our friendship, Jalraj. True friends do not harm each other."

### **A Lesson Learned**

Jalraj remained silent, staring at the river's surface. He felt both shame and regret. "You're right, Kavi. I was wrong. My greed and desperation blinded me to the value of our bond."

Kavi, though wary, softened at Jalraj's admission. "Perhaps you can redeem yourself, Jalraj. Friendship, once broken, can be mended with honesty and effort."



From that day forward, Jalraj vowed never to let deceit or selfishness guide his actions. While their friendship remained cautious, it endured, serving as a testament to the power of trust and the lessons learned from mistakes.

### **Moral of the Story**

Friendship is built on trust and loyalty. Greed and betrayal can destroy even the strongest bonds, but with genuine remorse and effort, mistakes can sometimes be forgiven.