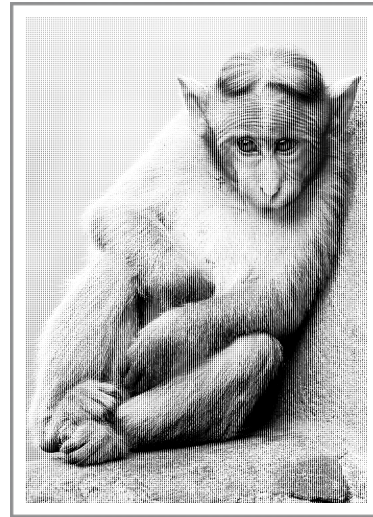


The Monkey and the Owl

By Joshua Noble

One day a monkey was traveling in a desert. As he walked, he came to a lush oasis with a pond, palm trees, and banana trees. He was very thirsty so he went to the pond and got a drink; then he searched for a ripe banana to eat. He saw a ripe bunch of banana off the path a little way into the trees. He climbed the tree, pulled off some bananas, and sat down to eat. Once he was done eating, he got up to resume his journey. He looked around but could not see the path he was traveling on. He started meandering through the oasis in search of the trail, but even after a long time of searching he still could



not find the path. Discouraged, the monkey sat down on the ground beside a bush to cry. Suddenly he heard a voice say to him, “Why are you so sad?” The monkey looked up and saw an owl in a tree.

The monkey replied, “I was traveling on the path, and I lost my way.”

“Don’t be discouraged,” the owl said, “The path is on the other side of the bush that you are sitting against.”

The monkey went around the bush and there was the path! “Oh thank you wise owl!” the monkey exclaimed.

“You’re welcome,” responded the owl. “Do not be so hasty to leave the path next time.” With these words in mind, the monkey continued his trek across the desert.

Think before you act. Or

Sometimes you need someone else to point out what is right in front of you.