

## **The Two Monkeys**

**By Bhargav Talajia**

Deep in the Amazon rainforest, two monkeys named Andrew and Bob were talking about their lives. They knew quite a bit about other creatures, particularly humans. To see what Andrew thought about humans, Bob asked him, “What do you think about the human race? I think they are cruel and do not understand the pain of other creatures, and the world would be better off without them. They may have intellect, but they never use it in the correct place.”

“How can you say that?” Andrew replied. “Human beings are exceedingly kind and use their brains for worthy causes. If you want proof, look at my legs. After that jaguar bit them off, I thought I would surely die. But then some humans came and saved me by shooting the jaguar and taking me to a place that I heard them call a hospital and there, they stopped the bleeding and gave me new legs that are much stronger than my old ones and now my life is better than ever.”

“What about our tribe?” Bob countered. “Half of them died of starvation because there are very few fruit trees left, and each day more die. They have built things which can cut down trees within a moment. They cut down so many trees, not caring about all the life and food that is lost with the chopping of it. So that is why I believe human beings are cruel.”

Just then two big men with axes came to their tree. They told the monkeys, “We are going to cut the tree down. Get from it if you value your life.”

The men raised their axes, but the monkeys screamed, “Stop! Don’t cut this down! We will die and lose our home. Please go cut some other trees, not this one.”

“We don’t have a choice. We are being forced to do this. At least we have been kind enough to warn you before cutting.”

Saying this, the humans raised their axes again, and this time cut the tree off, with the monkeys jumping off moments before the tree crashed. Both got the proof they wanted and quickly left the scene, with their opinions about the human race having been changed forever.

*The human intellect is a double-edged sword.*