

## **The Monkeys and the Ape**

**By Robert Gardner**

Once there was an area of many monkeys. As the smartest of the animals in the jungle, they would make the decisions. The abundance of monkeys would strive for peace and harmony in the jungle. They were led by the strong Ape, who was powerful.

“Monkeys, listen here!” said Ape loudly one day. The monkeys stopped to listen to their leader. “I have an idea! The lions who roam the nearby area are strong and powerful. They could be dangerous, and though we have never been threatened, we must join together for our safety!” The Ape talked with such power. Leadership was in his voice. The monkeys cheered. They were smart animals who cared about others. They would soon be safe. Some monkeys questioned and disagreed with the idea. The Ape accused them of disloyalty, so they remained silent.

The monkeys and the Ape joined that night, silently. They attacked the sleeping lions and fought them. The lions were surprised by the sudden attack from the monkeys, for many years ago, they had made next a truce never to fight each other. The lions admired the monkeys for their wisdom and their care for all animals. The next day, all the lions, innocent as they were, were gone.

*Never forget your morals, and don't blindly follow poor leadership.*

