

The Monkey and the Crocodile

Once a monkey lived alone in a tree on a river bank. The tree was laden with fruit. The monkey ate the fruit of his choice to his fill. The monkey was happy but his happiness was not complete. He missed a friend to talk to and share the fruits with. One day a crocodile happened to come there. The monkey offered him fruit to eat.

The crocodile found the fruit delicious. He visited the monkey regularly and ate the fruits. Both of them became close friends. The crocodile ate the fruits himself. He also carried some of them for his wife too. The two friends talked about birds and animals. They talked about the villagers nearby and their difficulty in raising good crops for lack of rain.

One day the crocodile's wife asked him about his friend. The crocodile told her that his friend was a nice monkey who sent fruits for her everyday. The crocodile's wife expressed her desire to eat the monkey's heart. She ordered him to bring the monkey. The crocodile refused. This annoyed her much. Still the crocodile was unwilling to invite his friend home. He loved the monkey much and did not want to see him killed.

In the end the crocodile gave way to his wife's wish. He reached the river bank. He told the monkey that his (crocodile's) wife had invited him (the monkey) over for a meal. The monkey accepted the invitation. He rode the crocodile's back and reached the middle of the river. There the crocodile told the monkey that his wife would eat his heart. The monkey asked the crocodile to carry him back to bring his heart from the tree. The crocodile got trapped. He swam back and reached the river bank.

The monkey jumped on to the tree. He bade the crocodile goodbye for ever. The crocodile was sad on losing a friend. He shed real tears.