

The Ungrateful Crocodile



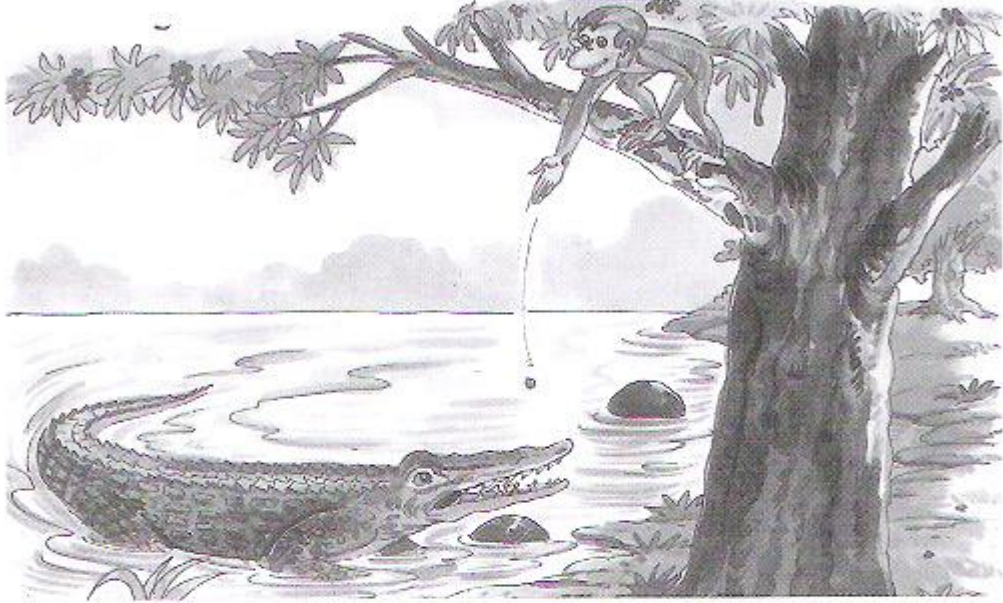
Once there lived a young and wise monkey called Vanar on a fruit tree by a riverside. He spent his days frolicking from branch to branch eating the sweet fruits and drinking the cool water of the river.

One day a crocodile named Magar, came to the banks of the river. On the bank he saw some sweet fruit lying on the ground and tasted those fruits. He looked up and saw Vanar sitting on the fruit tree.

Spotting Magar, Vanar said, "Welcome , friend. You are a guest on the bank of the river. Since you are here by my tree, I must treat you as my

guest. Here, have some more fruits." So saying he threw some fruits on the ground for Magar to eat.

Vanar and Magar became friends. Every morning Magar would visit Vanar, eat the sweet fruits, talk about different topics, share jokes and then go home to his wife.



One day Magar took some fruits home for his wife. Magar's wife tasted the sweet fruits and said "Oh, such sweet fruits! Where did you get them from?"

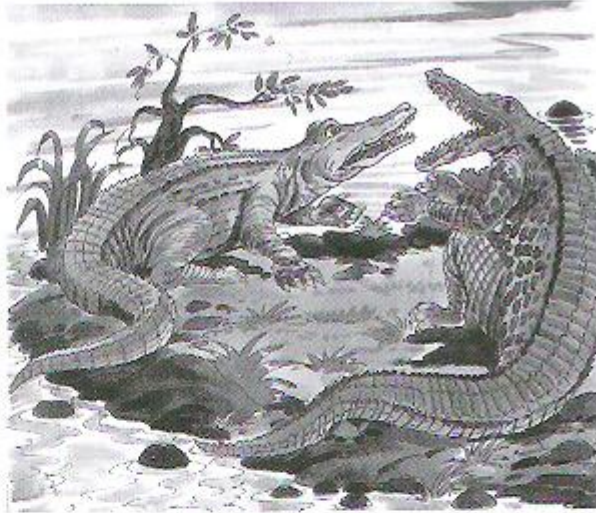
Magar told her about Vanar and his friendship with him.

Magar's wife said, "Ah, I see. So Vanar eats these sweet fruits every day! His heart must have grown sweet from eating these fruits for so many years. Dear, why don't you invite Vanar to our house? Then we can kill him and eat his sweet heart?"

Magar said, "Oh, no my dear! I dare not bring such cruel thoughts in my mind because Vanar is a good friend of mine." However, Magar's wife insisted and later goaded him to agree to her plans.

The next day Magar went as usual to meet Vanar. He said "Dear friend,

I have been accepting your hospitality for so many days. It is time for me to pay back in kind. My wife and I would like you to come to our house and have lunch. I'll take you on my back as I swim on the river's surface. You need not worry about swimming."



Vanar agreed to his friend's invitation. He sat on Magar's back and Magar swam toward his home. Once in the middle of the deep river, Magar felt a pinprick on his conscience. So he told Vanar, "My friend, I have deceived your trust and friendship. I am not taking you home for a party with us, but we are going to have your heart for lunch after killing you."

At this disclosure, Vanar was shocked, but as Vanar was a wise monkey, he replied, "My friend Magar, do not be distressed. Why did you not trust the bond of our friendship? You should have told me about your desire on the



riverbank itself. Then I would not have left my heart on the tree. We monkeys never take our hearts along with us. Come now, what is a heart for, if it causes resentment in our friendship? Swim back to the tree and I will fetch my heart and give it to you for your wife's lunch."

At this, Magar quickly turned and swam back to the



riverbank. As soon as he touched the sand, Vanar jumped down from Magar's back and went up to the highest branch of the fruit tree. From there he called out to Magar, " You ungrateful fool, don't you know that no animal can live without its heart? How could I leave behind my heart and go out? As for your ungrateful and cheating act, I hereby sever the bonds of love and friendship that held our hearts close."

Thus, ungrateful Magar paid for his foolish act by losing Vanar's friendship. A selfish friend is never to be trusted. Take care when choosing your friends..

