

# Deer & Monkey

## A Traditional Balinese Children's Tale

as told by Dewa Alit

For the last few days, deer keeps remembering the banana trees he planted with monkey six months ago. He is thinking that those two trees will produce a lot of delicious fruit. Too bad deer can't remember exactly where they planted those banana trees. He goes to look for monkey to ask for where they planted the trees. Alas, monkey can't remember either. They worry for a while, then deer has an idea. He says to monkey "Lets tell all the animals in the forest that we planted a poisonous banana tree, and if they find it, make sure not to eat any fruit, because it's very dangerous, and could make them really sick, maybe even kill them."

Now all the animals are angry with deer and monkey for planting this dangerous thing, but they agree to help them find it. A few days later, just by accident they find the banana trees. The one planted by deer has a lot of fruit, much of it perfectly ripe. The tree monkey planted is nearly dead, and has no fruit at all.

"Don't be sad monkey," says deer. "You are my friend, and I will share my bananas with you. Also, I am not able to have this fruit without your help, because you know I cannot climb the tree. When he heard that, the monkey is very happy, and right away jumps up climbs the tree. From the top, monkey says, "I will count all the bananas. You will have half, and I will have half." Monkey starts to count. After a minute he says, "Okay, 40 bananas are here, 20 for you, 20 for me. "

"Oh," continues monkey, "I see some fruits are little rotten. I'll eat the bad bananas, and we'll only divide the good ones."

Monkey starts eating, and throws the skins down to deer. Deer looks at those banana skins and realizes they are fine, not rotten at all.



“Hey,” says deer, “I think you are eating good bananas, not rotten ones like you said.” When monkey hears this he starts laughing. “Ha, ha, ha, ha, I think you are very stupid animal deer, not smart like everyone thinks. Sorry, but you will get the skin, and I will get the bananas. That is half and half.” And monkey laughs and laughs.

Now deer’s feelings are hurt, and then he gets angry at monkey. Of course, deer really is clever, and he says to monkey, “You are a very bad friend, and from this second on, we are no longer friends. Also, you are ugly. Yes, you are terrible to look at.” Now monkey gets angry. He keeps throwing banana skins down on deer, trying to hit him. Deer laughs, and says, “That doesn’t hurt at all. You are very weak, as well as ugly.” Monkey is really mad now, and starts hurling whole bananas down on deer. And, of course, deer is very happy about this, because now he finally gets to eat some bananas.

Monkey keeps throwing bananas at deer till they are all gone. Suddenly monkey realize what he has done. Deer has eaten most of the bananas, and monkey just a few. Deer is full now and says, “Bye monkey, thanks for feeding me.” And he walks back into the forest. Monkey is up in the tree, still very hungry, and he has lost his best friend.

*This story is telling people to be honest, and not to hurt each other. If you are greedy, you will lose everything.*

-D.A.



Dewa Alit lives in Bali, Indonesia, where he is married and has two young children. He earns his living as a guide and driver, taking visitors to beautiful and little known parts of the island. Dewa is a kind, cheerful man, fond of telling stories, and given to philosophizing while behind the wheel. Reach him at [sari\\_bamboo@hotmail.com](mailto:sari_bamboo@hotmail.com).

