



The Clever Monkey and the Crocodile

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In a lush green forest beside a sparkling river, a clever monkey named Kapi lived atop a tall jamun tree. The tree was famous for its sweet, purple fruits, and Kapi spent his days happily swinging through the branches and enjoying the view.



One sunny afternoon, Kapi noticed a tired crocodile named Makara resting near the riverbank. Noticing the crocodile looked hungry and weak, the kind-hearted monkey offered him some of the ripe, juicy jamuns from his tree.



A wonderful friendship began as Makara started visiting Kapi every single day. They spent hours talking about their lives and sharing stories, while Kapi always made sure his friend had plenty of the sweetest fruits to eat.



One evening, Makara took some fruits home to his wife, who found them incredibly delicious. However, her heart grew greedy, and she told Makara that if the fruits were so sweet, the heart of the monkey who ate them must be the sweetest treat of all.



Makara was shocked and refused to hurt his friend, but his wife grew stubborn and insisted she would not eat until she had the monkey's heart. Feeling pressured and torn between his wife and his friend, the crocodile eventually gave in to her demands.



The next morning, Makara approached Kapi with a forced smile and invited him to his home for a special feast. Since Kapi could not swim, Makara offered to carry him across the wide, deep river on his sturdy back.



As they reached the middle of the river where the water was deep and the current strong, Makara began to sink lower. He sadly confessed the truth to Kapi, explaining that his wife wanted to eat the monkey's heart.



Kapi's heart raced with fear, but he didn't panic and instead thought of a clever plan. He told Makara that he had left his heart safely in a hollow of the jamun tree and that they must go back to get it.



The simple-minded Makara believed Kapi and quickly turned around, swimming back to the riverbank as fast as he could. As soon as they reached the shore, Kapi leaped off the crocodile's back and scrambled high into the safety of the jamun tree.



From the safety of the high branches, Kapi told Makara that a heart is never kept outside the body and that their friendship was over. Makara swam away in deep shame, while Kapi lived on, knowing that true friends never betray one another.