The Cap Seller and the Monkeys

✍️ **Shreevalli Rai Martell**



A man went from village to village selling caps to earn money. One hot summer day, he walked for a long time and became very tired. He lay down under a big banyan tree to rest and soon fell asleep.

When he woke up, he was surprised to see that all the caps were gone from his basket. “Oh no! What happened? If thieves had taken them, would they have left the basket here?” he thought as he looked all around. He could not see anyone. Then he looked up and saw something amazing: the tree was full of monkeys, and each monkey had a cap on its head.

He folded his hands and said, “Please give me back my caps.” The monkeys copied him and folded their hands too. He tossed a few stones to frighten them, but the monkeys broke off little branches and threw them back. Upset, he jumped about and shouted, while the monkeys swung from branch to branch and chattered at him.

At last, he became so annoyed that he snatched the cap off his own head and threw it to the ground. Right away, caps began to fall like rain. Every monkey pulled off its cap and tossed it down too. The cap seller quickly picked them all up, tied them into a bundle, and went on to the next village. The story could have ended there, but there is more.

Many years passed. The cap-selling work was handed down from grandfather to father, and then from father to son. It became the family's trade.

One day, the grandson rested under a tree with his bundle of caps beside him. After a short nap, he woke to find the basket still there, but the caps were gone. At once, he remembered the story his grandfather had told him. He looked up and saw the monkeys wearing the caps.

Without waiting a second, he took off his own cap and threw it to the ground. But this time, a little monkey jumped down in a flash, grabbed the cap, popped it onto its head, and scampered back up the tree. You see, that little monkey did not get a cap the first time.

"Oh dear! What happened now?" the grandson cried, holding his head in surprise. Just then, an old monkey, the leader of the troop climbed down, came up to him, and gave him a quick tap on the cheek. Then it said:

"Do you think only your grandfather told stories? Don't we have grandfathers too? We may have been tricked once, but not twice! What do you think we are humans?"-