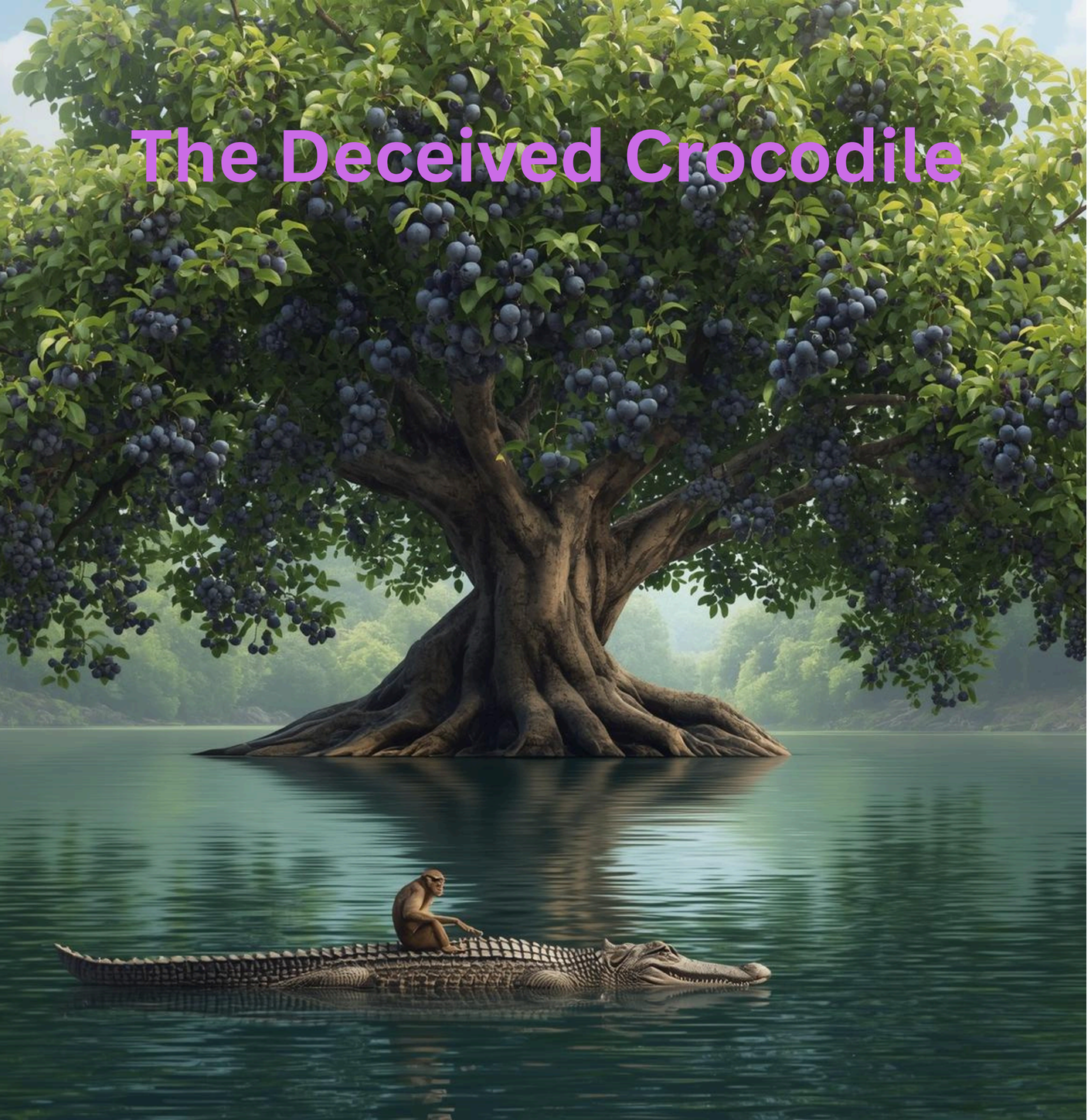


The Deceived Crocodile

On the bank of a river stood a huge jamun (black plum) tree. The tree was full of ripe, clustered jamun fruits. A monkey climbed the tree and plucked and ate the fruit. Just then, a crocodile came swimming in the river and stopped beneath the tree, looking up.

Seeing the crocodile, the monkey plucked two fruits and threw them down. The crocodile ate them and found them very tasty. After a lifetime of eating frogs, water snakes, and fish, its tongue was dull until it finally tasted fruit.

The crocodile begged the monkey for two more fruits. The monkey picked and dropped more fruit. In this way, the monkey and the crocodile became friends. The crocodile came every day and ate the jamun fruits.

One day, the crocodile took four fruits home and gave them to his wife. She found the jamun fruits extremely delicious. She asked her husband where he got them and wanted to know the whole story. The crocodile narrated everything in detail and praised his friend, the monkey. Then the crocodile's wife said, "If the jamun fruits eaten daily by that monkey are so tasty, imagine how tasty the monkey's heart must be! You must bring me the monkey's heart." She stubbornly insisted. Though the crocodile tried to reason with her in many ways, she refused to listen and even threatened to jump into a ruined well and die. The crocodile agreed but questioned how to obtain the monkey's heart from the treetop.The wife suggested a plan: "Invite the monkey to our house for a feast." The next day, the crocodile went to invite the

monkey. He said, “You give me fruits every day, but what have I given you in return? Today, my wife has invited you to our house for a meal. Come with me.”
The monkey replied, “I do not know how to swim, and your house must be under the water. How can I come?” The crocodile said, “Do not worry about that. Sit on my back. Our house is not far; it is on a small island.”Trusting him, the monkey jumped onto the crocodile’s back, and the crocodile began to swim. When they reached the middle of the river, the crocodile said, “I am not taking you for a meal. Wife wants to eat your heart.” The monkey thought, “I have been deceived! What should I do now?” Then he cleverly said to the crocodile, “Oh no! You should have told me earlier that you wanted my heart. I left my heart on the tree.”
Hearing this, the crocodile said, “Then let us go back and get it.” They turned back. As soon as they reached the tree, the monkey quickly jumped onto the branches and waved goodbye to the crocodile, saying, “From now on, you go your way, and I’ll go mine.”
Moral:
In times of danger, it is our intelligence that saves us.