

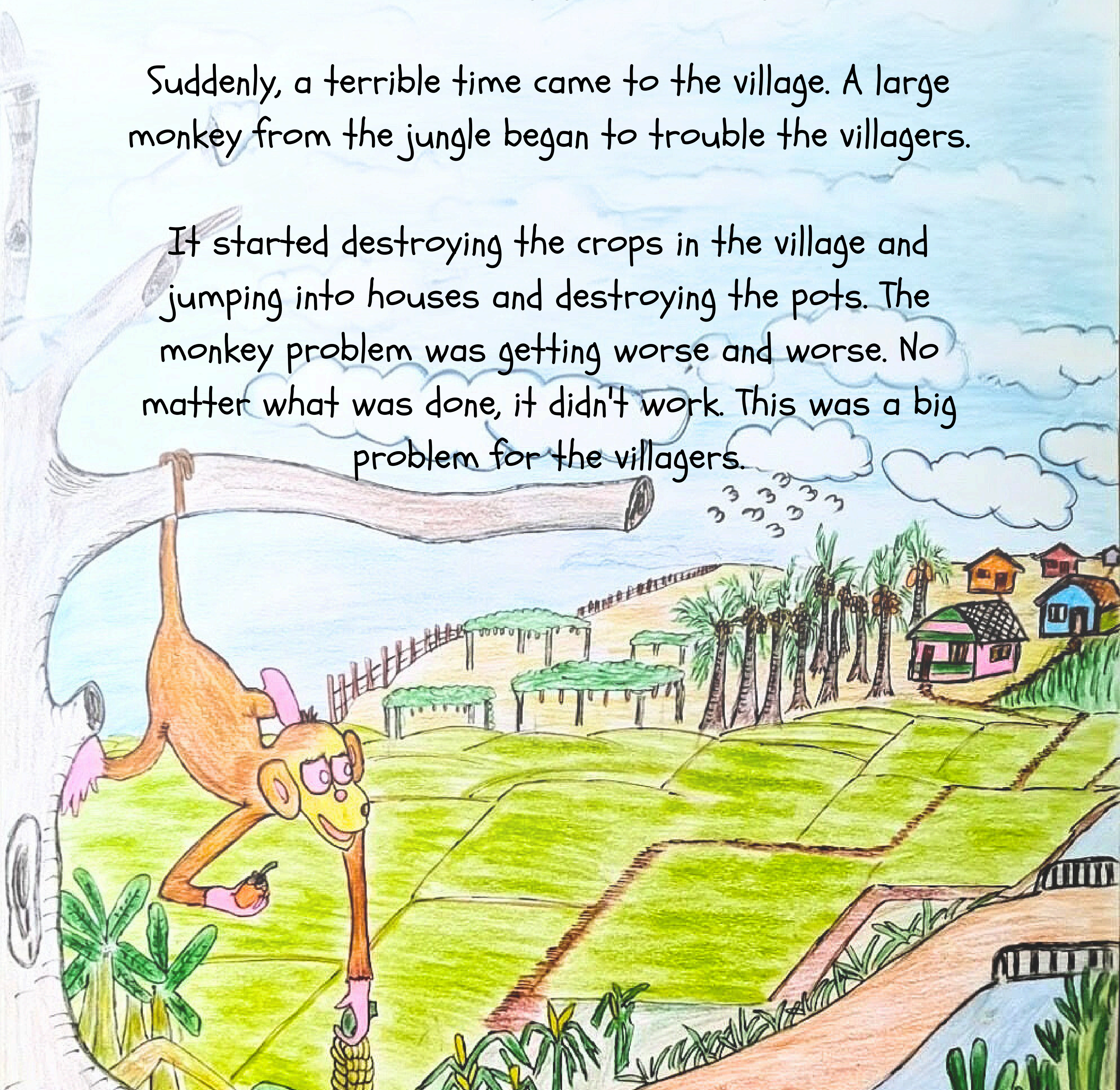
# Poor Monkey

Story and illustrations by Lasantha de Silva

There was a very beautiful village a little way from the city. The people of this village lived very happily. Most of them were engaged in farming.

Suddenly, a terrible time came to the village. A large monkey from the jungle began to trouble the villagers.

It started destroying the crops in the village and jumping into houses and destroying the pots. The monkey problem was getting worse and worse. No matter what was done, it didn't work. This was a big problem for the villagers.

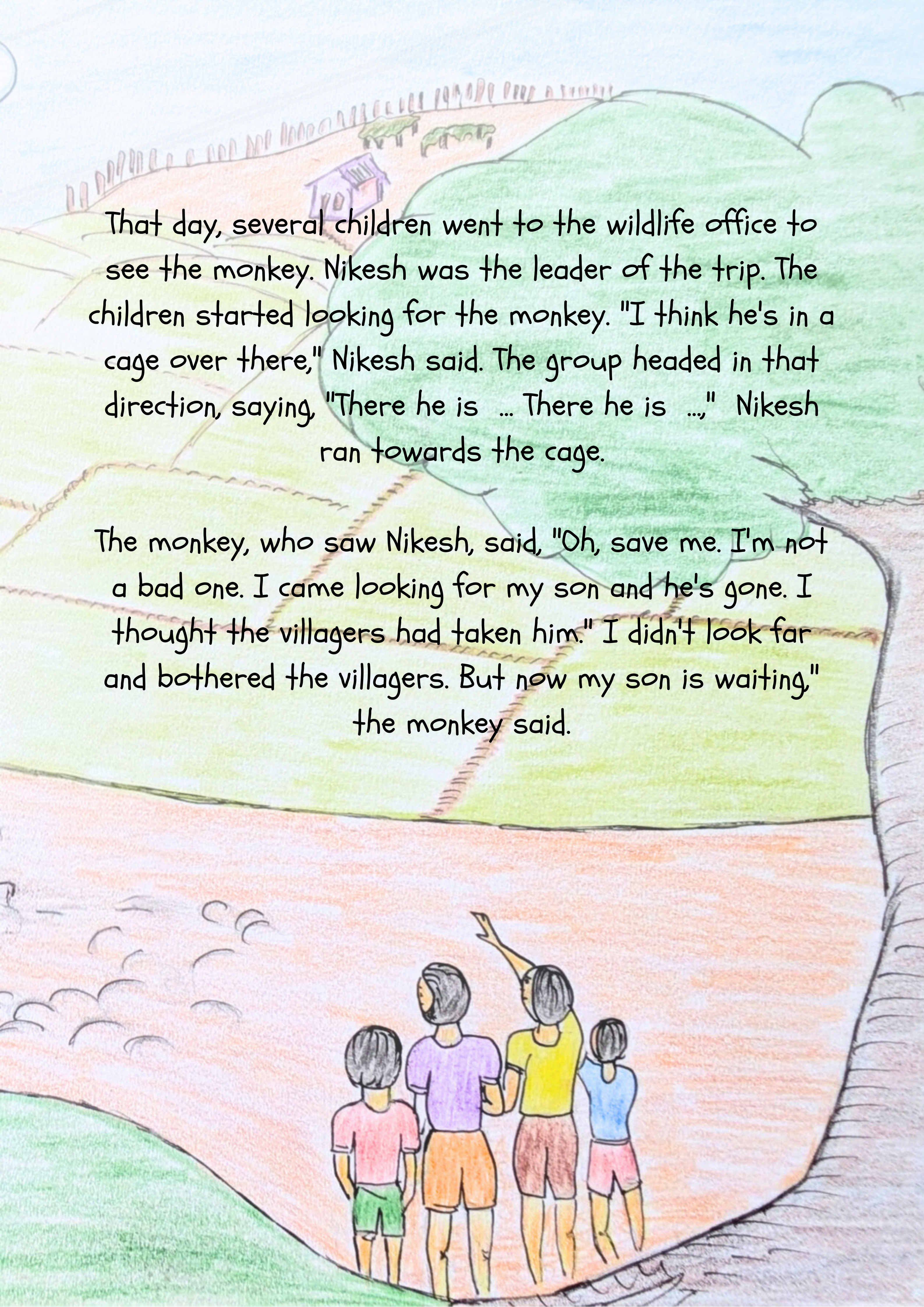


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That day, several children went to the wildlife office to see the monkey. Nikesh was the leader of the trip. The children started looking for the monkey. "I think he's in a cage over there," Nikesh said. The group headed in that direction, saying, "There he is ... There he is ...," Nikesh ran towards the cage.

The monkey, who saw Nikesh, said, "Oh, save me. I'm not a bad one. I came looking for my son and he's gone. I thought the villagers had taken him." I didn't look far and bothered the villagers. But now my son is waiting," the monkey said.



"Where is he?" Nikesh asked. "There he is." Nikesh turned around and saw a baby monkey looking very sadly at the tree. Nikesh felt really sad. He told the wildlife officials about this and saved the monkey. The monkey was so happy that he couldn't express it. He thanked everyone and took the baby monkey and went into the forest.



"Have you seen, son, the trouble that can happen when you work without thinking ahead?" a wildlife officer told the children.

**-THE END!-**