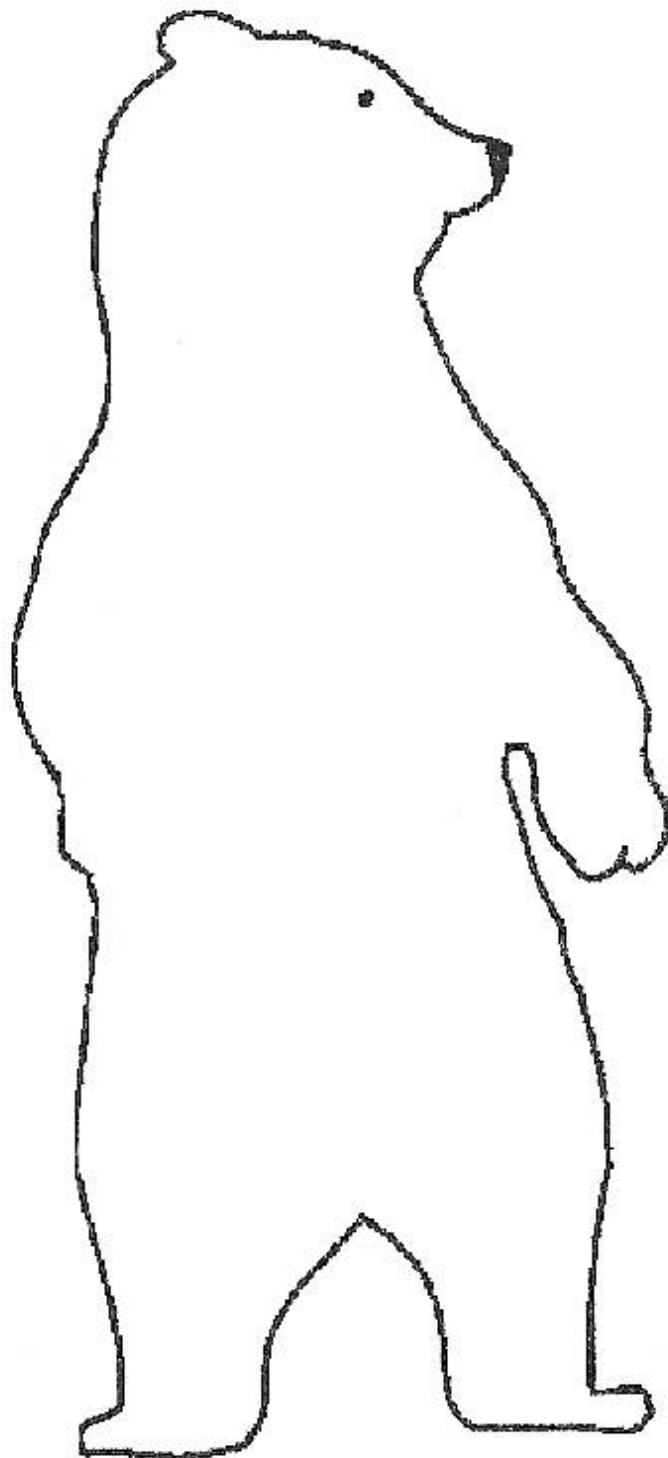


*Mother Rytasha's Animal Tails*  
*Little Blue Monkey*



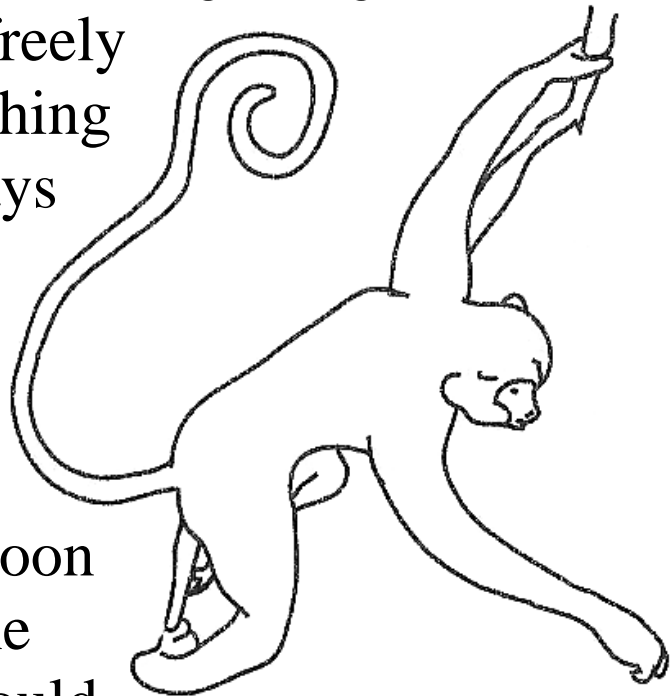
*Written & Illustrated by Mother Rytasha*  
*Produced by Razzaque Khan*

**B**ig Brown Bear  
was furious



"Who does that little Blue Monkey think he is?" he fumed. Ever since that little upstart had moved to the village, all the animals had started flocking to him. Why everyone knew Big Brown had always been the leader. He was the biggest, the strongest and the animals had always followed him, though perhaps more out of fear than love, as Big Brown could sometimes be a bit bossy. Big Brown wouldn't admit it to himself, but he was jealous of Blue Monkey.

Meanwhile in another part of the village a little Blue Monkey was feeling very happy. He had recently moved to this part of the jungle and was very anxious to make friends with his neighbors. He was by nature a very sociable little monkey and loved doing things for others and because he gave freely and didn't expect anything in return, he was always happy... and it must be said, that he was an absolutely fantastic dancer!

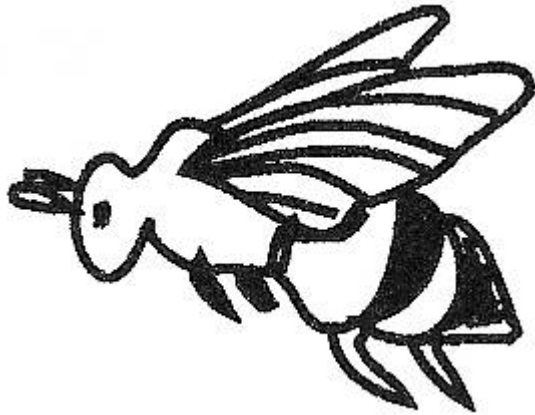


Every Saturday afternoon he gave a party. On the Monday before, he would write out the invitations on banana leaves.

**- A Dancing Party - Refreshments Served -**

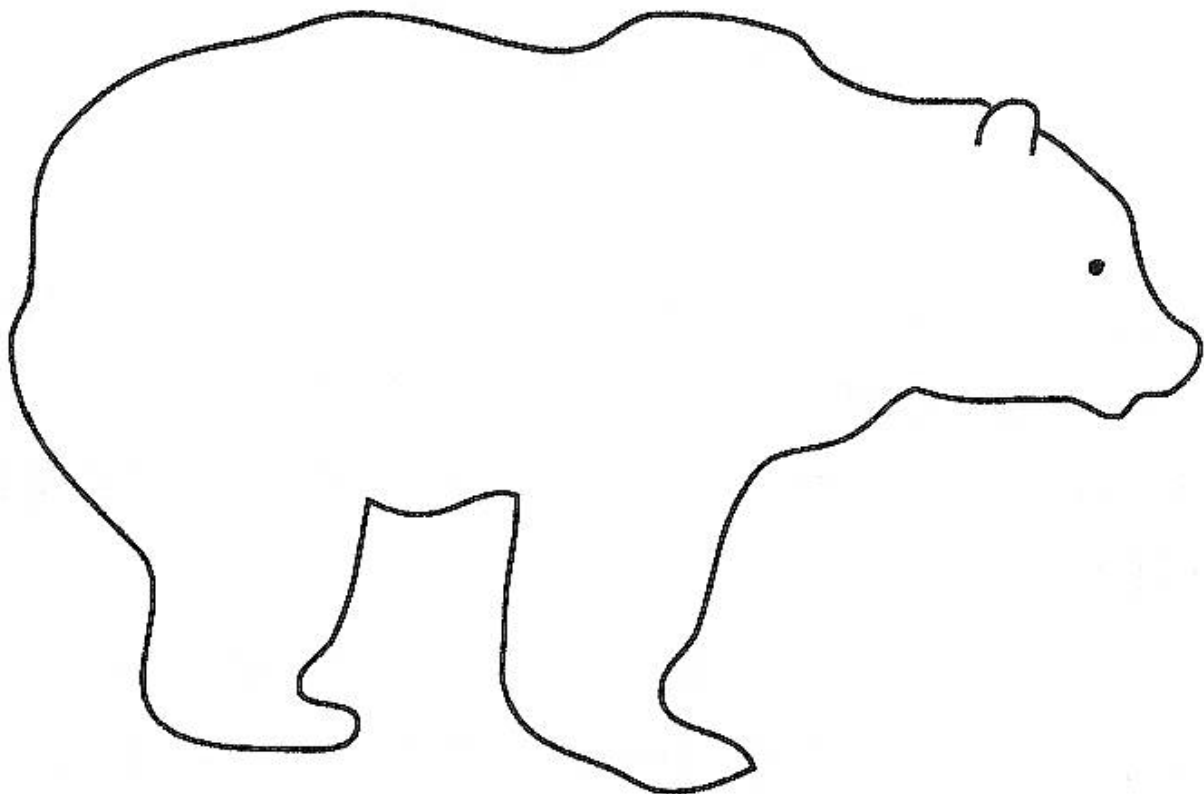
And everyone was invited as he felt everyone was his friend. There would be games and prizes and of course the dancing which everyone loved and which Blue Monkey had introduced.

**B**lue Monkey stood back and admired his handy work. In the clearing he had set up tables loaded with refreshments, the trees were festooned with streamers and at each place was a small gift. He was not a rich monkey so most of the things he had he either found or made himself. There was an acorn for Squirrel, a carrot for Rabbit and if

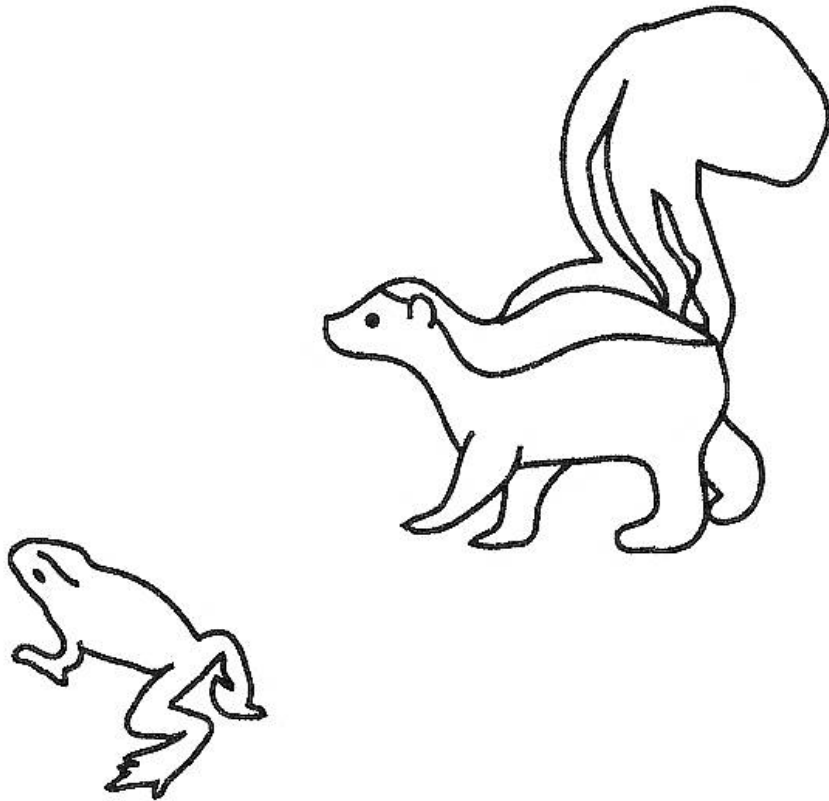


Big Brown Bear came, there was a piece of honey comb he had spent half a morning bargaining with Buster Bee for. He had practiced his dancing and worked out a new routine to entertain his guest.

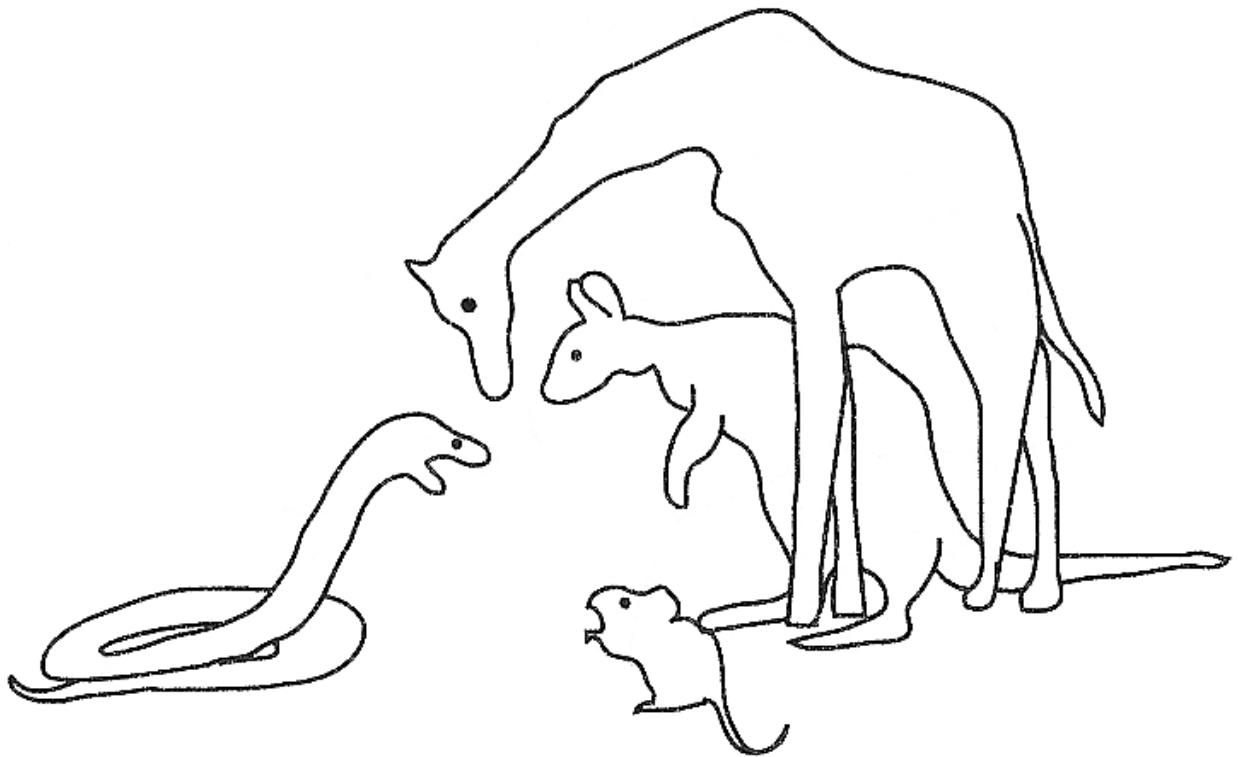
All the while Blue Monkey was planning and preparing. Big Brown was also planning and preparing. His jealousy had grown so big that it could no longer be contained inside his head and one afternoon it popped - "oops"- right out of his mouth. "All those blue monkeys are bad!" he told the animals. "Everyone knows monkeys are supposed to be brown! Brown is beautiful - like me!"



"And just look at those parties he gives - Dog and Cat dancing together - Snake and Mongoose doing the tango up and down the path. Everyone knows they are not supposed to be friends! What next?" "Yes," sniffed Skunk, "is there no limit?" (No one had danced with Skunk) "Those Blue Monkeys always push their way in where they are not wanted," snapped Frog.



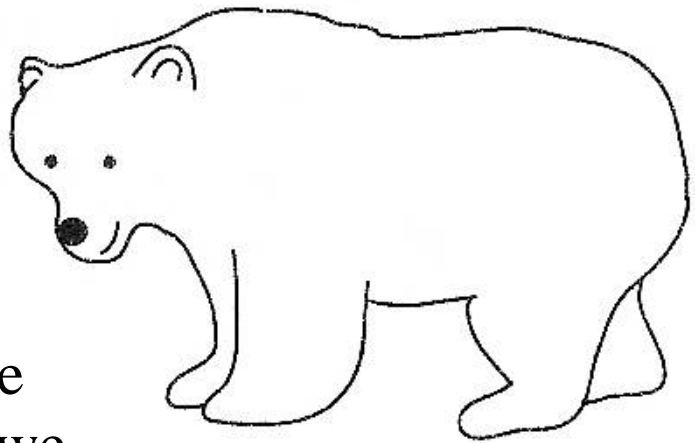
**B**ig Brown went around the village making mischief with any of the animals who cared to listen. As in any community, there are always those ready to gossip and spread stories, and as they spread, the stories got bigger. "He really said that!" said the animals, wide eyed. "And worse," said snake. "Oh twice as bad! Ten times as bad! A million times as bad! But don't tell anyone I told you," said Snake.



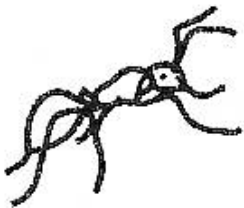


Some of the animals used the opportunity to get in good with Big Brown Bear. I'm speaking particularly of Ant, an obnoxious character and local troublemaker. Ant didn't really care about Blue Monkey, didn't even know him, but he was fed up with being pushed around. "Everyone steps on me," he complained, "and when I go to a picnic nobody wants to know. They think because I'm small they can walk all over me."

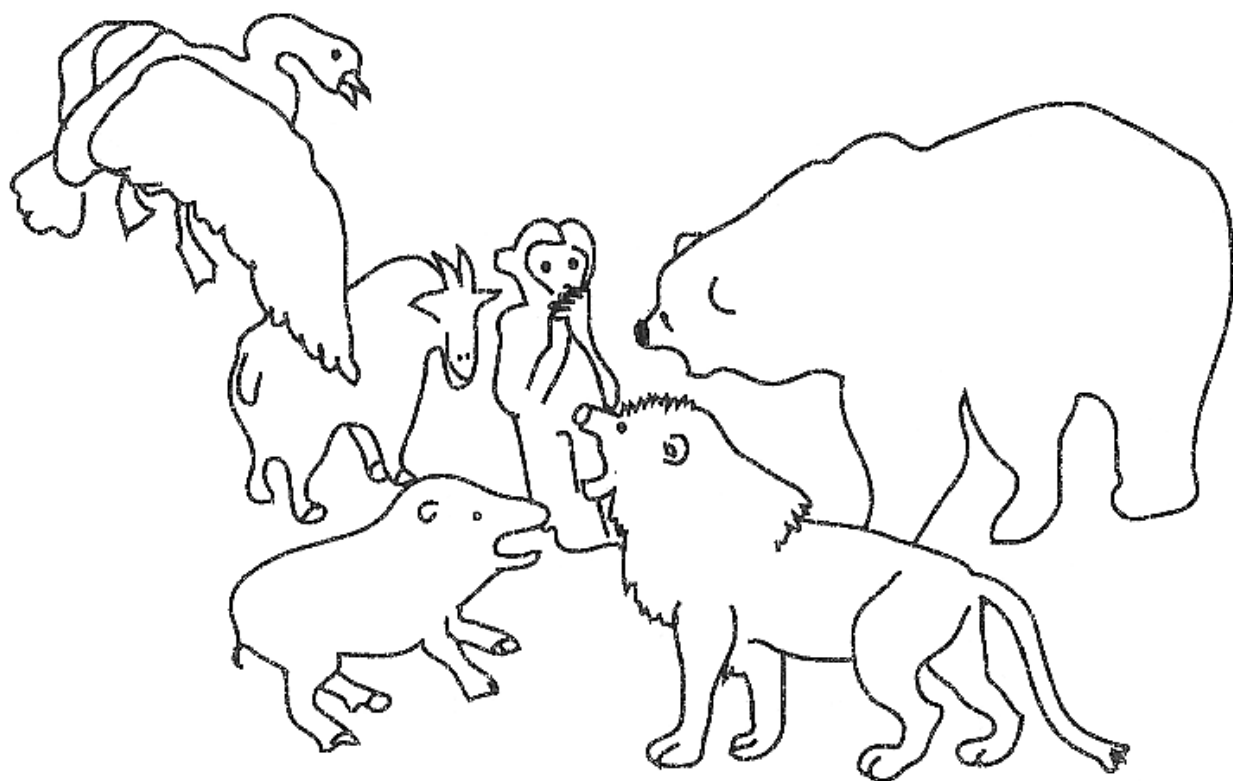
But now here was Big Brown, Big Brown who when he was his usual self, would never have given Ant the time of day - asking for his help. "We Ants may be small, but there are an army of us and we



can bite if we have to, and I can enlist the Hornet Air Force and the Fifth Cockroach Battalion." If no one had paid any attention to Ant before, well, they would certainly pay attention to him after Saturday!



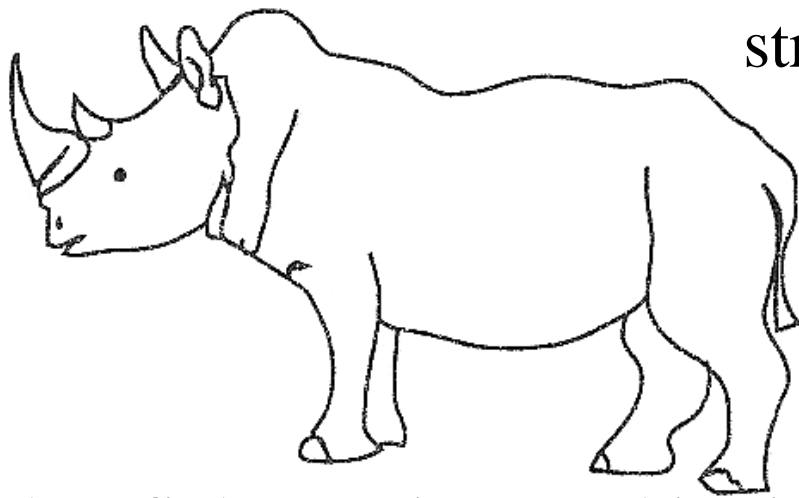
Saturday came and the Blooze Boys Bongo Band had just launched into their third number and the party was in full swing when the surprise attack began. In marched the Insect Army led by Ant and Big Brown. And as they marched



they chanted - "Blue - Blue - belongs in a zoo -  
Blue - Blue - belongs in a zoo."

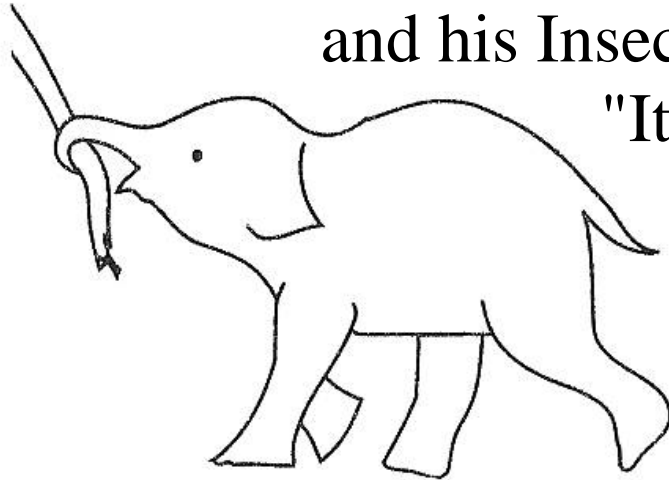
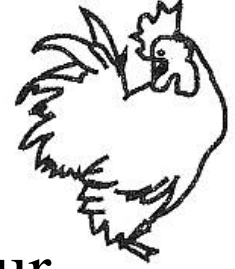
The Hornet Air Force buzzed angrily overhead and the Fifth Cockroach Battalion broke rank and scuttled among the frightened animals. Pandemonium broke out as the Hornets dive bombed and stung and the Ants bit. The animals ran this way and that, bumping into each other and falling over.

"This is all because of Blue Monkey," they said. "We never had any trouble before he came." Nobody remembered who had thrown the first stone or pushed over the refreshment table, or torn down the



streamers. Rhino, who always liked to throw his weight around, waded his way into the fight saying, "This is all the Blue Monkey's fault."

Some of the animals knew it was wrong to blame blue Monkey, but they were afraid to tangle with Big Brown and his Insect Army.



"It's none of our business," said Hathi's mother as she pulled a reluctant Hathi

away. "We don't want any trouble," said Chicken. Many of the animals turned a blind eye and didn't come to Blue Monkey's defense; or ran away: and some, it must be admitted, swept up in the excitement of the moment acted very badly indeed. Piggy carried off a whole cake and before anyone could stop him, Crow had taken the harmonica that was to be the surprise gift for the best dancer.



Everyone was upset and frightened and they focused in on Blue Monkey as the cause. The little Blue Monkey stood in the center of the angry crowd, still wearing his party hat.

"Blue -

Blue - belongs  
in a zoo," they  
chanted, led by  
Big Brown and

Ant. "What did I

do?" cried Blue. "Your  
different!" screeched Parrot

"Your blue!" "Blue Blue"

- they taunted - and then

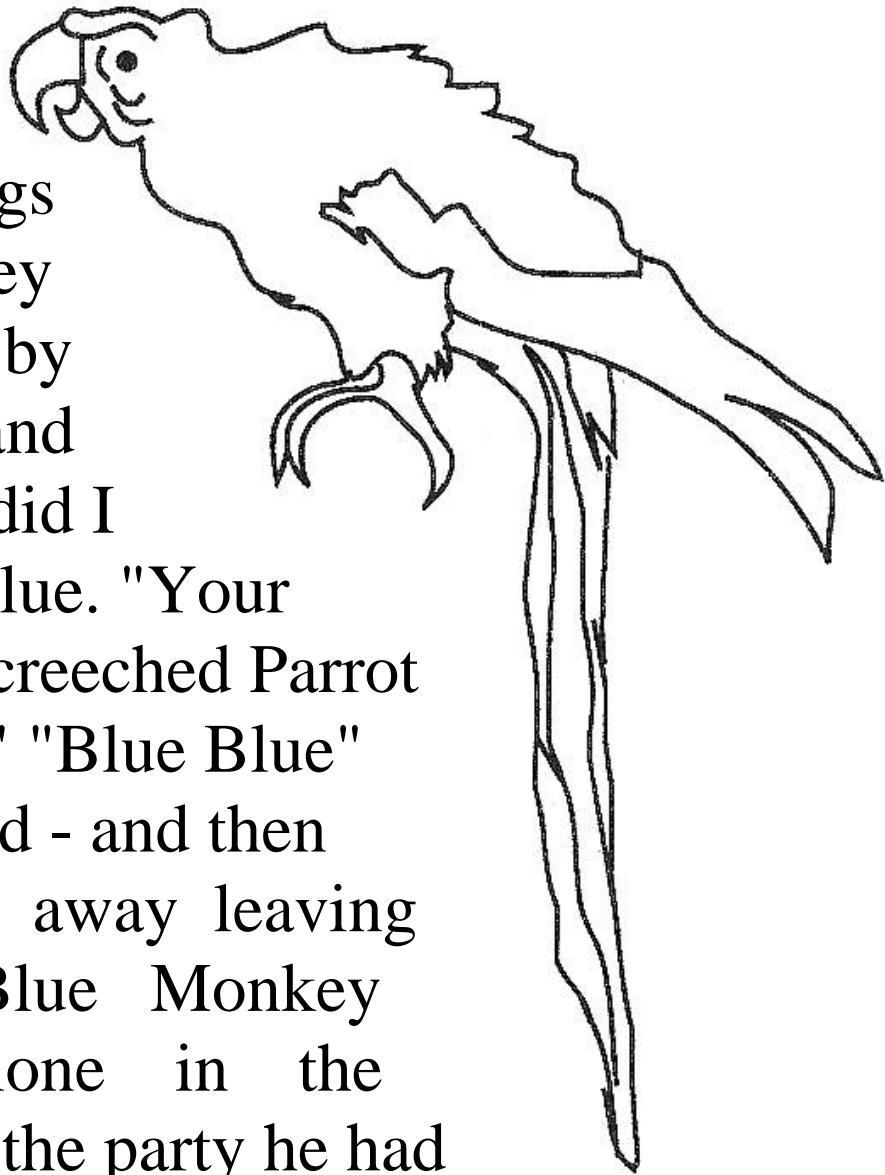
they all ran away leaving

the little Blue Monkey

standing alone in the

shambles of the party he had

planned so carefully.



**S**lowly he took off his party hat. It was battered and the gold cockade was torn, but it could be fixed. He smoothed out the crumbled edges straightening the seams and as he worked, tears fell onto the paper hat. "Different," he said to himself, "different." He never thought of himself as blue till today, just as one of the animals. He lifted his little face to the heavens. "Oh, why wasn't I born brown!" he cried.



After that Blue Monkey kept to himself. "Better we stick with our own kind!" Big Brown told the animals. "He's not really our kind. He's a trouble maker."

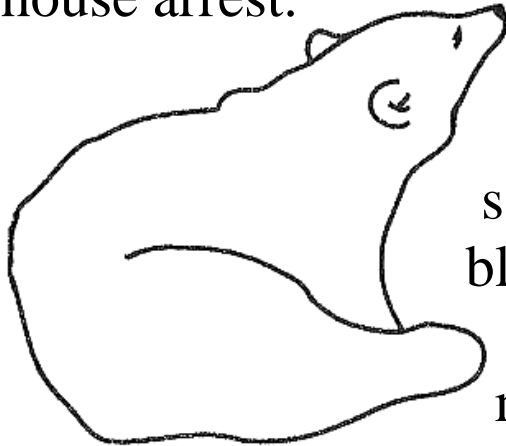
Soon all sorts of stories grew up about the Blues.

Where there was a problem, it was blamed on the Blues. When there was water shortage in July, it was blamed on the Blues. "Everyone knows the Blues control the rains," the animals said. Anything that anyone did wrong was

immediately blamed on the Blues. If Rat was selfish, it was Blues influence. Mothers even told their naughty little ones that if they misbehaved the Blues would get them... and eat them!



The insect army was now in control of the village. They were certainly important and feared, for if anyone suggested that what they had done was wrong they were quickly stung into retreat and called "a dirty Blue lover." Ant was running the village and when Big Brown Bear protested over his treatment of the animals he found himself under house arrest.



"I've created a monster, and all because I was jealous," said Bear. "It was easier to blame someone else for my faults than to admit them to myself, because then I would have to do something about it. Well," said Brown, "I had better do something about it and right away." An animal court was convened and Brown turned himself in, giving evidence against Ant and saying how he himself had spread the lies, that he was jealous and a mischief maker and that the little Blue Monkey was innocent and how ashamed he felt.

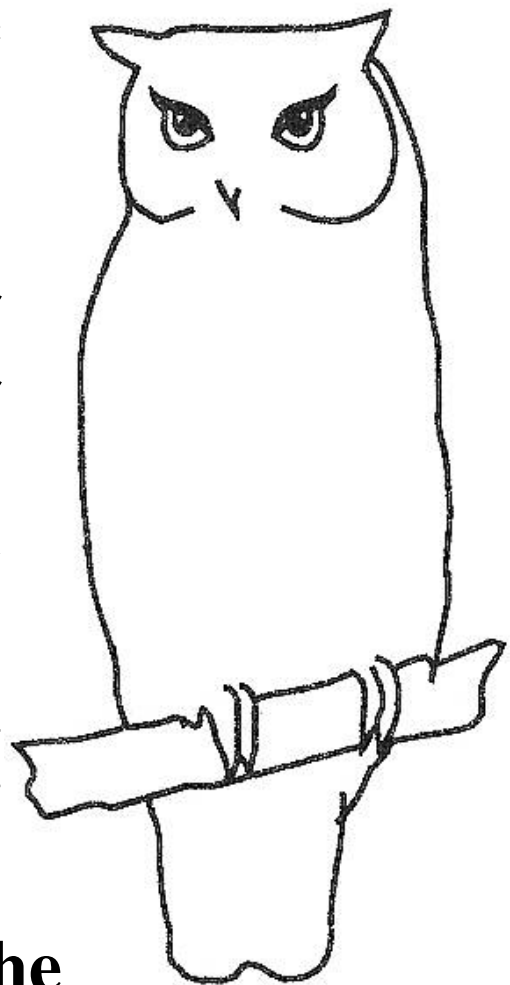
Big Brown Bear got off with a light sentence because he had been honest with himself and told the truth. No honey for a year and a day.



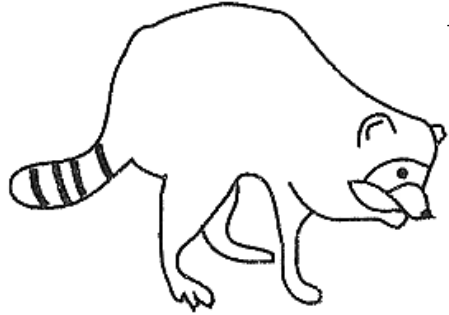
**W**ise judge Owl told all the animals, "You have asked me for a judgment in this case, but all of you had already judged the little Blue Monkey and you judged wrongly.

**Only fools judge someone by his color, or by what he looks like and certainly not because he's different from you.**

**You judge someone by how he speaks, how he acts and most importantly by what is in his heart," and he added, "the ones who knew better and were silent are just as bad."**



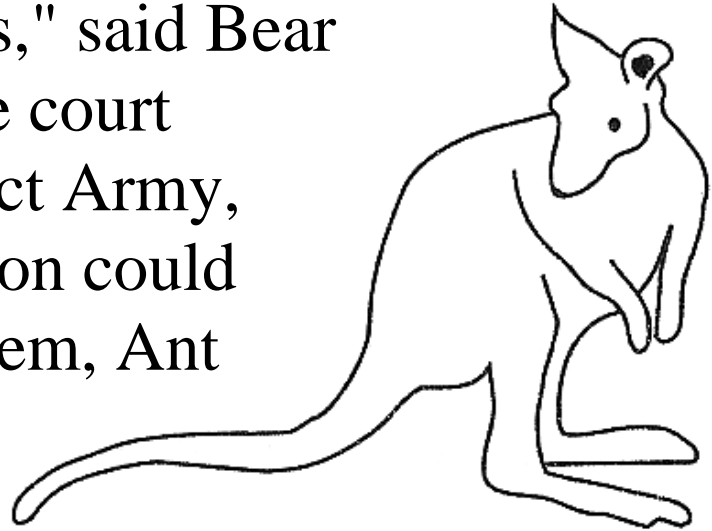
The animals were ashamed.



"Yes ," admitted Raccoon, "I guess I always wanted to dance like Blue Monkey."

"I wanted to give parties like Blue," said Kangaroo.

"I was a coward," sighed Chicken. "And I wanted to be boss," said Bear in a low voice. The court disbanded the Insect Army, but before any action could be taken against them, Ant and some of the other animals -



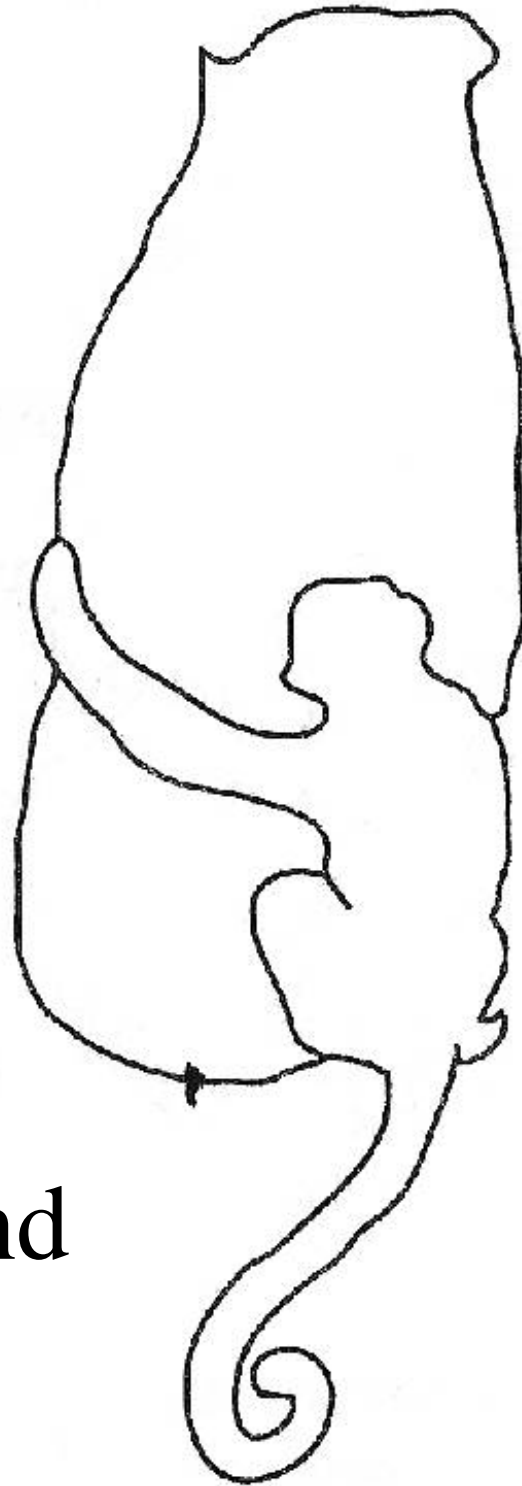
Piggy, Rhino, and Crow ran away, and it was later said - started the same trouble in another village.

It's a sad fact of life that not everyone can listen and learn.

A delegation was sent to Blue Monkey with flowers and a humble apology - and a party was given in his honor.

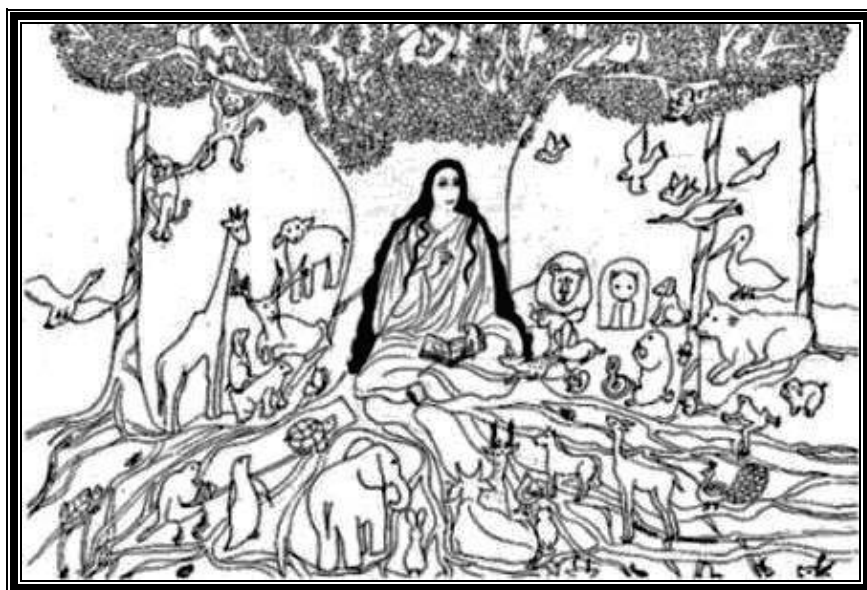
**- A Dancing Party - With Refreshments –**  
and Big Brown Bear learned to dance and the little Blue Monkey got to wear his party hat once again.





The End

# *Mother Rytasha's Animal Tails*



*Produced*  
*by*  
*Rarraque Khan*

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