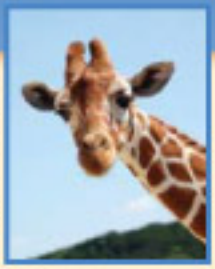

The
Giraffe
who
COULDN'T
reach

A story from India



There was once a giraffe that was taller than all his brothers. He was the tallest giraffe that anyone had ever seen!

"Look at me!"

"I'm the tallest!"

"I'm the best!"

But, he was also the proudest giraffe! "Look at me!" he was always saying, "I'm the tallest! I'm the smartest! I'm the best giraffe of all!"

His brothers were used to him so they ignored him. But the monkeys were annoyed. One day one young monkey decided to teach the giraffe a lesson.

He said to the tallest giraffe, **"I saw some big juicy fruit growing on a tree not far from here. But you won't be able to reach it."**

"Yes, I can. Show it to me," said the giraffe.

"Follow me," said the monkey. He ran away into the trees. The giraffe went loping after him. Soon the monkey stopped.

"There it is," he said. **"I know you can't reach it."**

"Oh, yes, I can!" said the giraffe. **"Just watch me!"**

He stretched out his long neck. He stretched out his long tongue. But the fruit was just out of reach. He stretched and stretched, but he couldn't get it.



"I knew you couldn't reach it," said the monkey. **"But I can!"**

"You?" laughed the tallest giraffe.

"Watch me!" said the monkey.

He jumped on to the giraffe's back. He scrambled up his neck. Then he stretched out his long arm and picked the fruit.

Next he did a very kind thing. He gave the fruit to the giraffe. **"Here,"** he said. **"I helped you. We did it together."**

After that, the tallest giraffe didn't boast any more. He and the monkey were best friends.

Many people are like the giraffe. We think we can do everything. We can do

it by ourselves. We don't think we need help with anything. We are proud!

We might even think we can go to heaven by our own trying. We work and work to please God. We do the very best we can.



God gave us a book that we call the Bible. It tells us what He wants us to know about Himself and about His home, heaven. God is perfect and nothing bad can be in heaven.

The Bible says,

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Romans 3:23 NKJV.

That means no one can be perfect. We all sin (do things we should not do, things that are bad). We can not live the way God lives.

We need help. We need help from God. God knows that we need Him. He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for us. Jesus paid for all our sin. The Bible says that we do not go to heaven by what we do.

"It is the gift of God, not of works" Ephesians 2:8, 9.

We need to trust God and believe in His Son, Jesus. That is how we can go to heaven. The Bible says,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" Proverbs 3:5.

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