THE MONKEY FESTIVAL

by Nick Winston

PART ONE

I am at one of the most unusual festivals in the world – the Monkey Festival in Lopburi, Thailand. People are getting ready for the festival, so I finally have some time to write about my adventures.

Everybody in town gets together and the entire town goes a little crazy on this day! Many people are dressed like monkeys, and the festival has live performances and dances.

The first thing you notice when you look around town are the monkeys. They are everywhere! I can see a few of them right now. They are gathered together on the street corner, playing with each other and making loud noises.

They may look cute, but you have to be careful. These monkeys can cause major trouble. They like to take things from people, especially food and drinks, and even valuable things, like handbags and sunglasses.

This is an annual festival, and people look forward to it all year. Early in the morning, people prepare huge plates of fruit and put them on long tables. The tables look beautiful, but they aren't going to stay that way. The best part of the festival is when thousands of excited monkeys jump on the tables and eat as much fruit as they possibly can. I heard that sometimes the monkeys even have food fights! I hope they have one today. What a crazy festival!

Click here to download more information about the festival.

PART TWO

I also noticed the way the people of Lopburi treat the monkeys. They are kind to them and make sure that they are not hungry. In the beginning, I found this attitude[1] a bit strange. Why would these people care so much about the monkeys? After all[2], they are quite scary and they often steal things.

I asked my friend Aroon, who owns a small business in the center of town. He explained that the people of Lopburi admire the monkeys because of a famous story that happened many centuries ago. It is about Prince Rama and it tells how monkeys helped him save[3] his wife from a horrible monster.

They take care of the monkeys and once a year, every November, they honor[4] them by having a monkey festival. They believe that these monkeys will bring them good luck, like they did for Prince Rama.

[1]attitude גישה / موقف
[2]after all אחרי הכול / في النهاية
[3]save להציל / ينقذ
[4]honor נותנים כבוד / تحية من

Part One

1. Choose which sentence is NOT true. Then correct it.
   a. The festival takes place once a year.
   b. All the people in Lopburi go a little crazy on the festival.
   c. The first thing you notice in town are the monkeys.

   _____

2. What does the writer say about the monkeys? Write one positive (חיובי / إيجابيّ) thing and one

   _____

   _____

3. What is special about the festival? Choose the correct answer.
   a. They have it once a year.
   b. They prepare food especially for monkeys.
   c. They put food on long tables.
   d. It is in the city of Lopburi.

   _____

4. The writer says "I hope they have one today". What does he hope to see?

   _____

Part Two

5. What was the writer's opinion about monkeys before he spoke to Aroon?
   a. He didn't understand why people were kind to them.
   b. He thought they bring good luck.
   c. He thought they were amazing.
   d. He thought they were funny.

   _____

6. Complete the sentence.
   Aroon told the writer the story of Prince Rama to explain why _____

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