

Straight from the Heart

 *Written and Illustrated by Crooked Arrow*

Straight From the Heart

The story of Karua

By

Crooked Arrow

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About the Author:

Now let me properly introduce myself. My name given to me by my great grandfather is Crooked Arrow. I am mixed blood with the blood of all 4 races of humankind. I grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and spent most of my younger years with my great grandfather, and my grandmother and grandfather. When they passed away I spent a lot of summers in New Jersey with aunts and lots of cousins. Those who knew me growing up knew I loved to be around the elderly and listen to all the old ways.

I grew up during a time of great recession so many families made do with what was around us. That meant I learned to eat a lot of wild things because we basically ate almost everything that grew in our yards and even in the near by parks. You didn't go to the doctors unless you were almost dieing or you had a broken bone or your tonsils swelled up so bad that you almost couldn't breathe. So most of your doctoring in those days was done by your parent or even your neighbor if they saw you get hurt.

Even as a small child I loved helping people because that was the kind of neighborhood I grew up in. People helped each other out of the goodness of their hearts. They didn't care what color or race or religion you were. The entire neighborhood was one big family and I called all the elders either aunt or uncle and the very old were given the title of grandmother or pop with their last name added to it. I spent most of my adult life trying to do the same because it just felt good to help others. I am now wife, mother and grandmother of three grown grandchildren and one just becoming a teenager this month. I only have the two children who have gone through all kinds of hell in life but still remain

loving giving individuals. My daughter started her own "Caring Neighbor" program in 2000 and every year she helps low income families get food, clothing and sometime furniture. She even helps get **toys** for kids at christmas and things for the homeless. My son, for years has helped many elderly people with small repairs they couldn't do to help them save money. He and his wife have also helped me for years hand out sandwiches and blankets to the homeless at Christmas time and even sometimes buying large amounts of school supplies to send to the Lakota and Mohawk reservations.

I am a traditional tribal medicine woman who was groomed at age 2 to take my great grandfathers place as the family medicine person. I started out in College to be a Biologist but as I watched the changes in food and peoples health I pushed forward and got a Master's degree in Herbology and a Ph.D. in natural nutrition along with many certificates in massage therapies, polarity therapy, aroma therapy and even was a chiropractic assistant. I even taught many massage therapist because I developed a unique massage that helped the colon. I've done body scans since I was a child allowing me to pick up on conditions that sometimes are not noticed at first by doctors but once the person ask for further testing the test confirm what I was able to pick up on. I have been a spiritual and health counsel for hundreds of people for the past 40 plus years

"My Gift to Everyone in the World"

Several times I've written about how important it is to come from the heart. The heart though it is a large muscle is the pumping organ that we associate with our greatest emotion which is love. Small children show unconditional love to everyone no matter what their age, color, religion, sex or nationality might be. This is because we all come into this world full of positive energy and with a positive out look on life until we begin to learn the negative side of emotions that cause our nature to change. Not every one allows the negative side of things to keep them down as they know it just feels so much better to come from the heart with unconditional love. Since negative emotions and behavioral patterns are learned they can be unlearned, if, as individuals we desire to make that type of change. For those who live in a positive moment each and every day of their life, always reaching out a helping hand to give to another, know that it just feels so powerfully wonderful to be a giver in life.

Since I've had the pleasure to meet so many wonderful individuals throughout the years, I've decided that this year I would write a story to give as my special Christmas gift to everyone. It doesn't matter if you believe in Christmas or some other holiday. Being able to come from my heart to yours doesn't mean it is from a religion. It just means it comes from that special place deep within my heart where unconditional love for all of God's creatures is stored. If you think about the stories of the past and the great flood that was recorded in many places, the survivors were of one family, the human family and speaking in one tongue. Since then we have many languages around the world and many religions and many nationalities but most importantly we still have the one family that is the family of the human race and if anyone disagrees with me, I guess you are not human. (smile)

This story is my special gift to everyone in the world. There is no way that I can reach every person who lives in the world and give them a copy of the story as my gift to them. Instead as I share this

story with each of you, I ask that you print it out and give it to others, email it to your friends and together we can bring it to the eyes of everyone in the world. Let this be our joint holiday effort to get this story to travel as far as we can. Write a comment on this blog telling everyone just how far you were able to help spread this Holiday joy. Let us all see if we can bring the world together for one mission this holiday season. Let this be the start of a change for our world. A change for the better that will allow everyone the chance to feel the joy of being part of one great family the human race.

May each of you feel the positive energy that flowed as I wrote and illustrated this story, for it is my gift from the heart to your heart that I share with you with love.

live, light, love,
Crooked Arrow



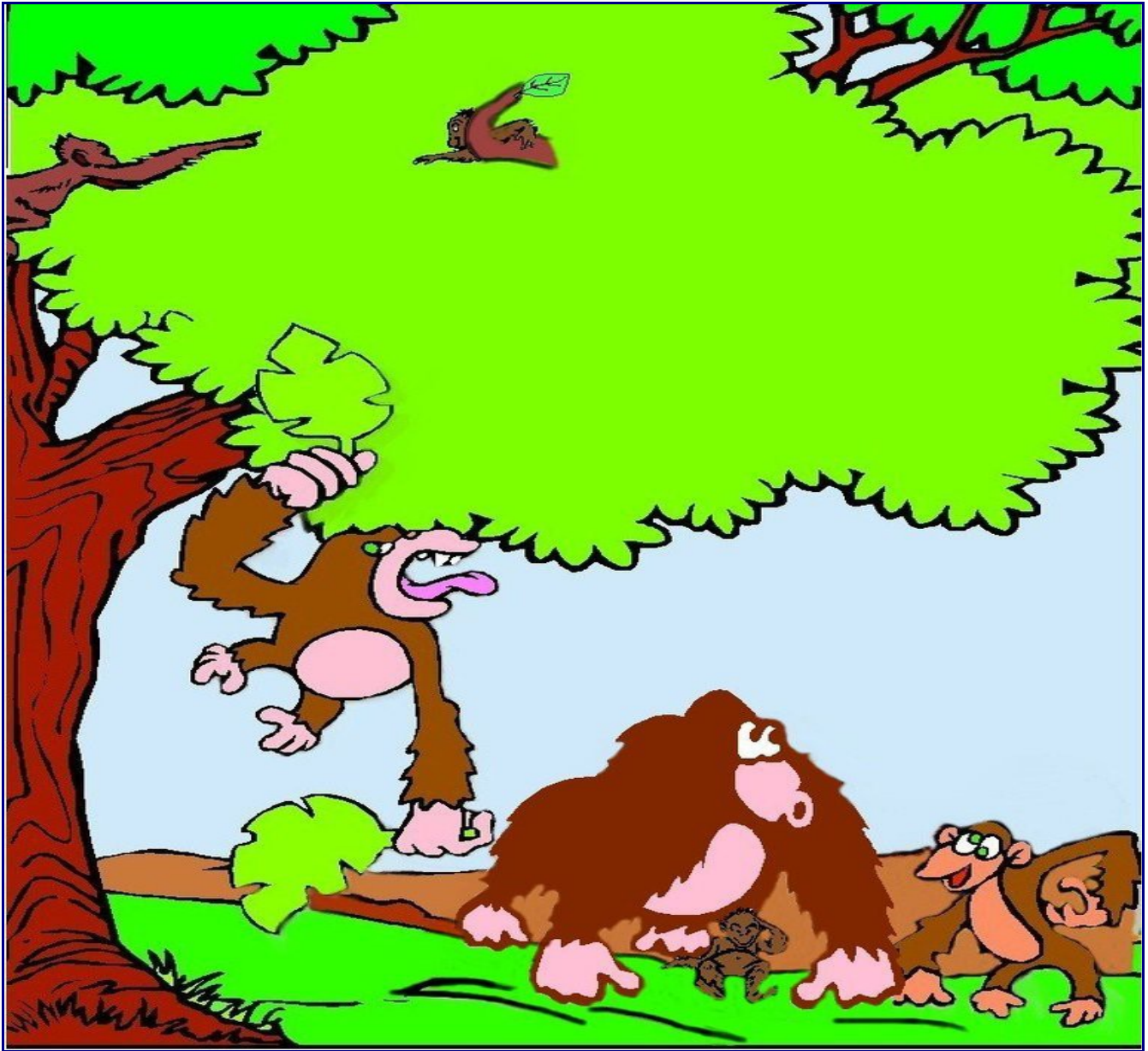
Not that long ago in one of the oldest zoo's in the world there was the awaited birth of several gorilla babies. These babies would be the first group of babies that would get to grow up in a gorilla enclosed environment that was close to natural as the zoo could afford to build. Most other gorillas of the time that were born in zoos lived behind cages that had break proof glass around them. They were very cold unfriendly conditions for any animal to survive in.



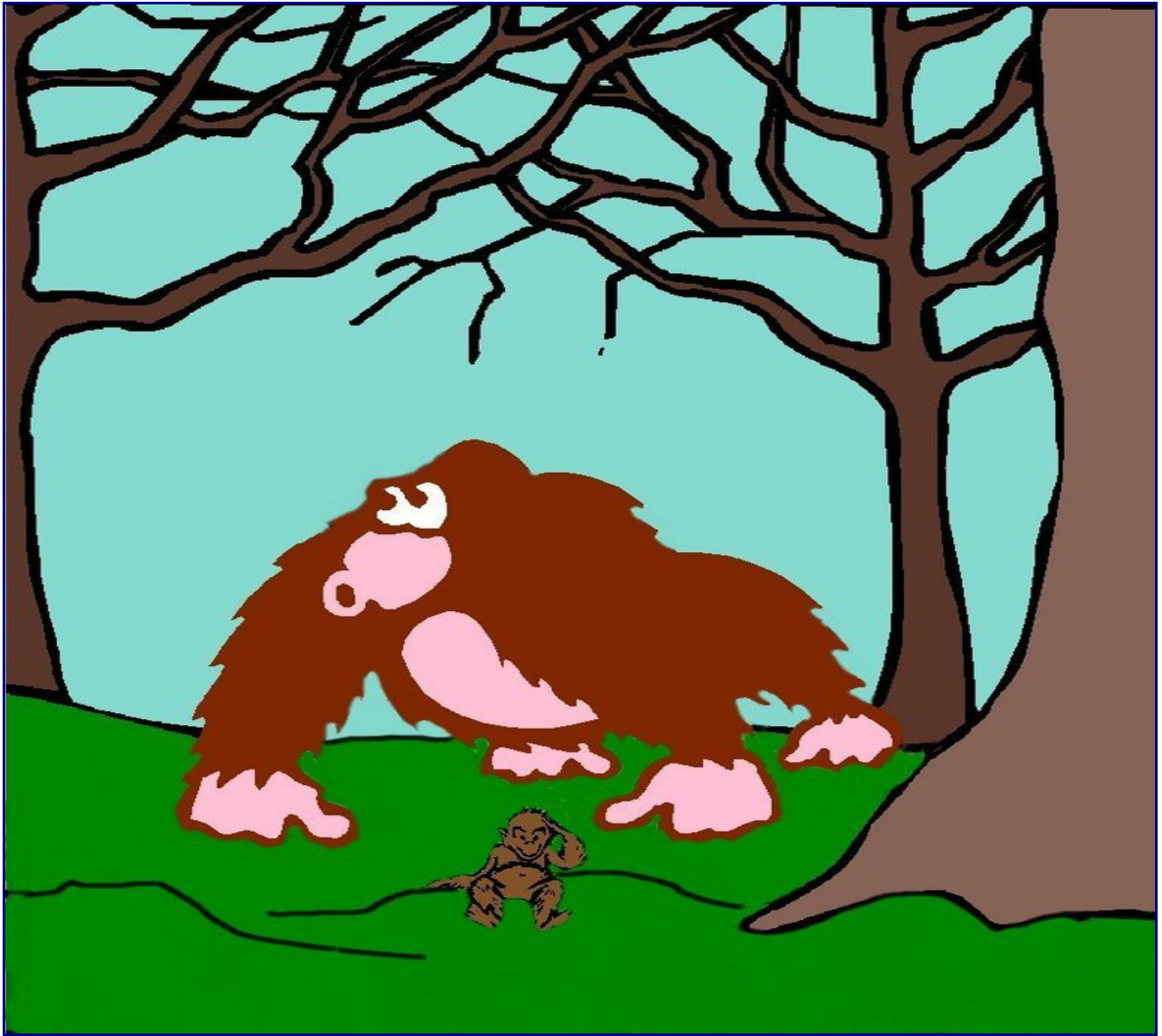
In the great ape habitat area was born several baby apes and among them was a very tiny female ape named Karua. This creature, for an ape, seemed to be very different than the other babies. It was not only her tiny size that made her different, but her quiet, gentle personality that seemed to just catch the viewer's eye.



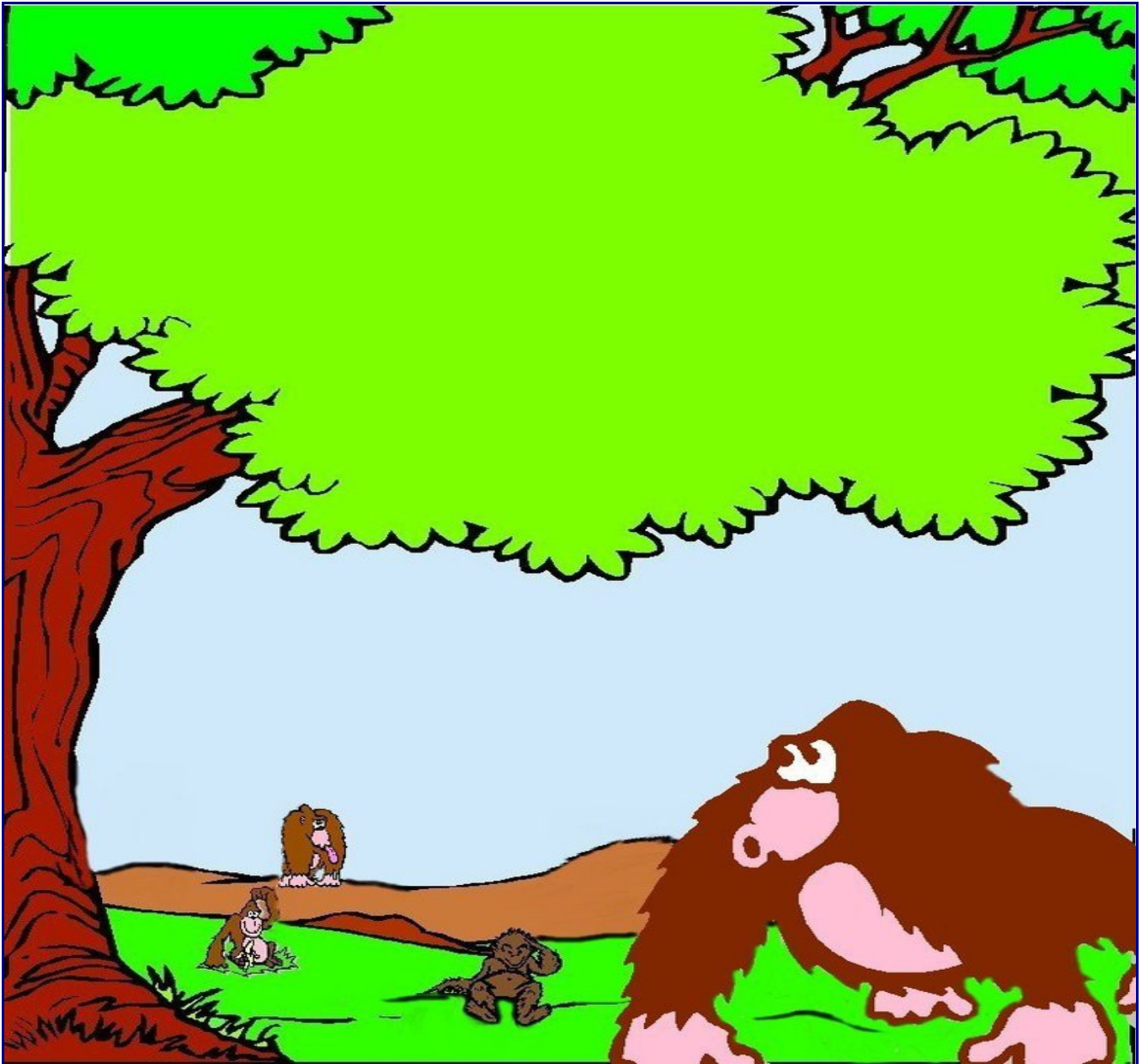
As all the little animals in the zoo grew, the day came when they were old enough to leave their mothers side for brief moments at a time to play with each other. Karua never ventured to far from her mother's side.



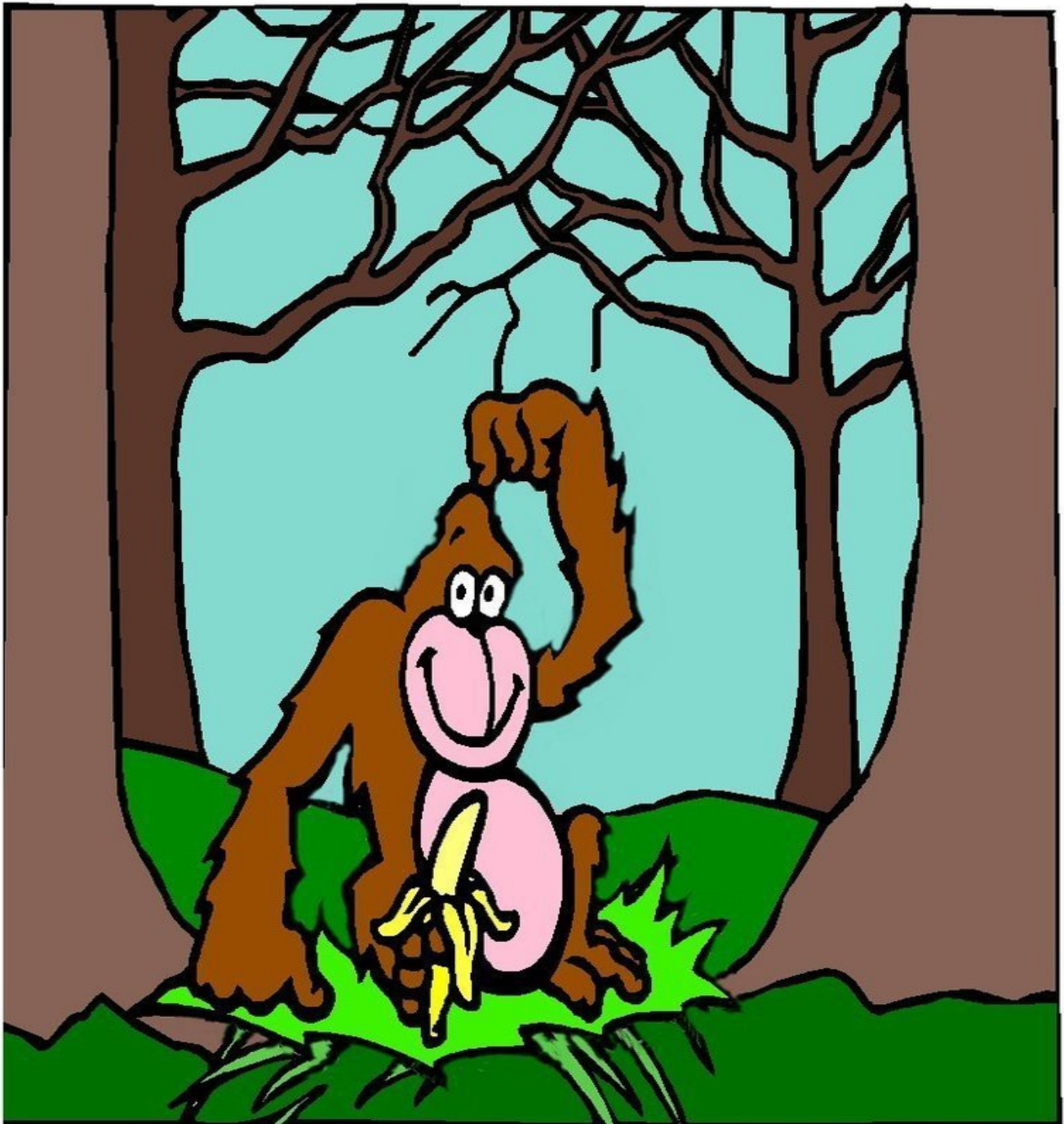
Karua's mom was an extremely protective gorilla. Most young apes at this tender age began moving more away from their mothers as their curiosity impelled them to explore their environment while they played.



Karua's didn't want to play. Instead she just sat and observed everything and everyone. She carefully studied the other animals in the zoo and the humans that interacted with them while they cared for them. She even watched the humans of all ages that came to visit the zoo and look at the animals.



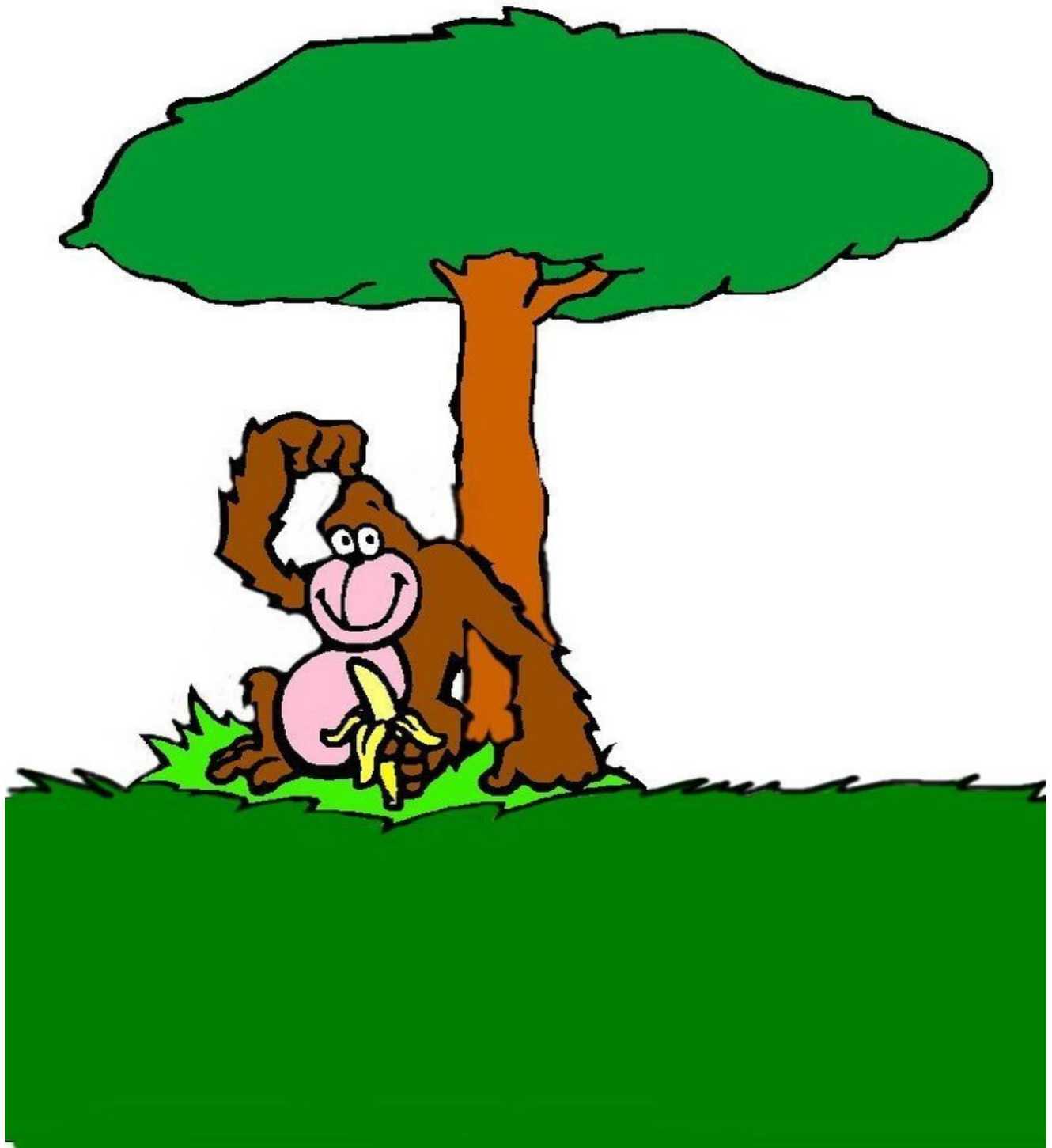
Karua observed that whenever babies were born in the zoo the humans fussed over them and cared deeply about their well being. That was one reason why they kept the mothers and babies away from the public peering eyes until they were sure the young one was going to survive.



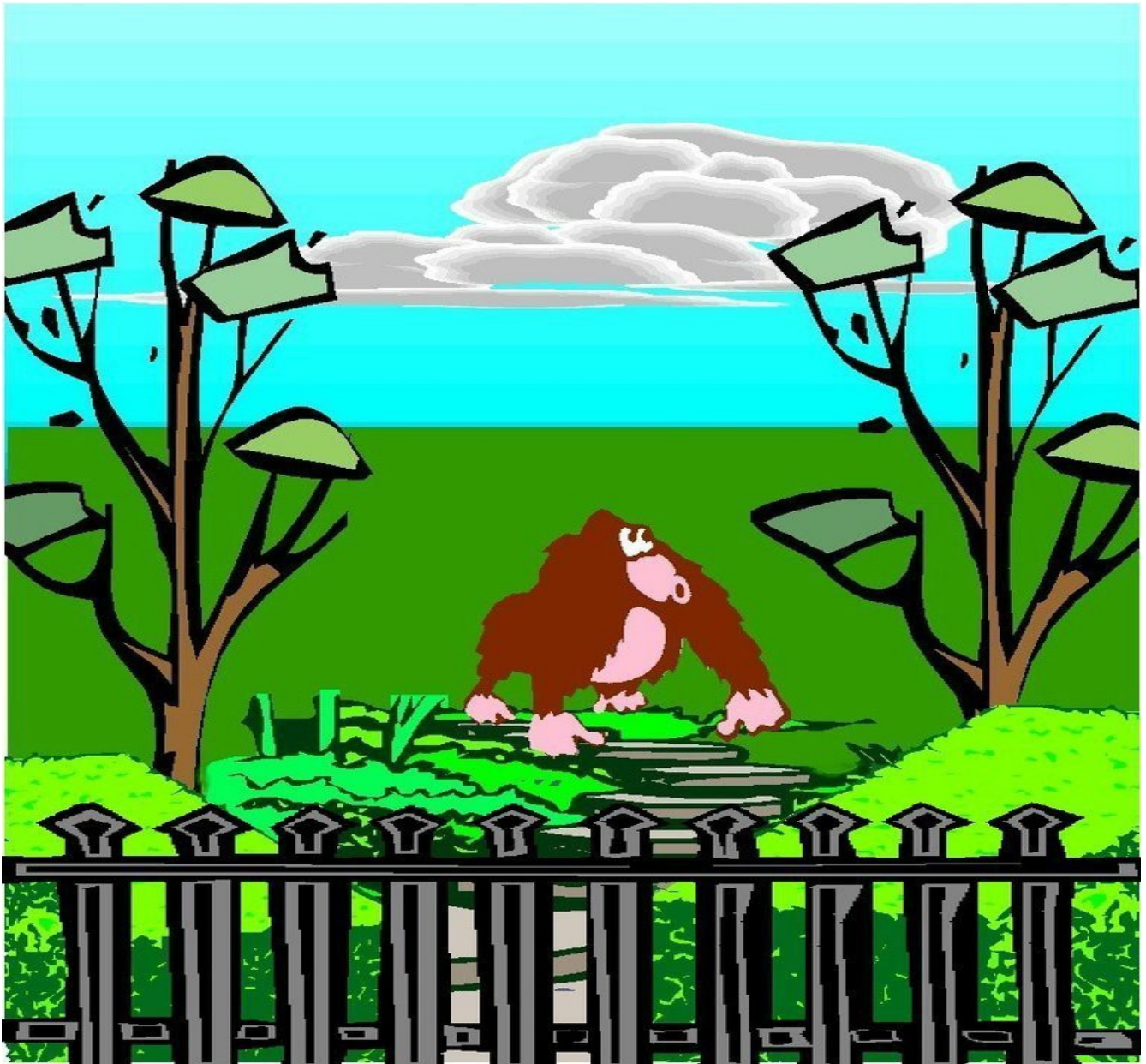
Karua was still a very delicate creature who did not interact much with the other young apes because they were very rough with their play and much bigger than she was. So as time went by and she grew, Karua still spent most of her time observing things and everyone as if she was making a mental diary of all life and how they interacted with each other.



By the time Karua had reached the age of that compared to a teenager, her mother and some other adult animals were being transferred to live at other zoos. This brought great sadness to Karua, for she would never see her mother again.



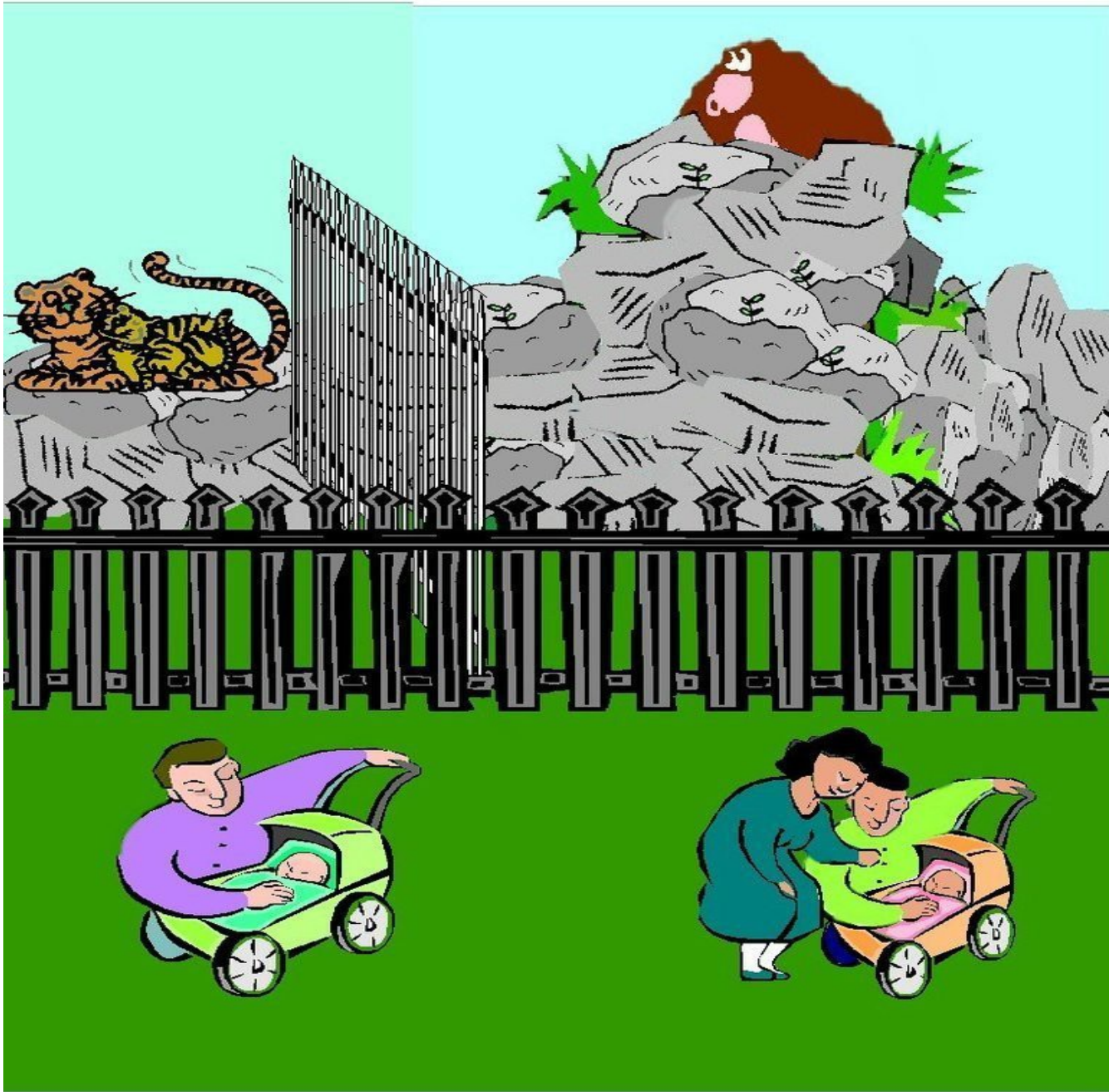
Karua was still a very small ape for her age. By now she was still no bigger than a human teenager. Because of her size the other apes would not interact with her. The zoo keepers were afraid that the larger gorillas might some day harm her because she no longer had her mother around to protect her from them.



The zoo keepers decided to move Karua to her own small habitant area. An area where they use to put sick pregnant apes while they awaited the arrival of their new born. This would now become Karua's private home. The area use to have protective glass around it. They removed the glass and put up a fence so that it would be a more natural environment.



With no other creature but the zoo keeper to interact with, Karua would climb to the highest point of her habitat and from there she would continue her observation of everything. Her main interest now was totally devoted to observing humans.



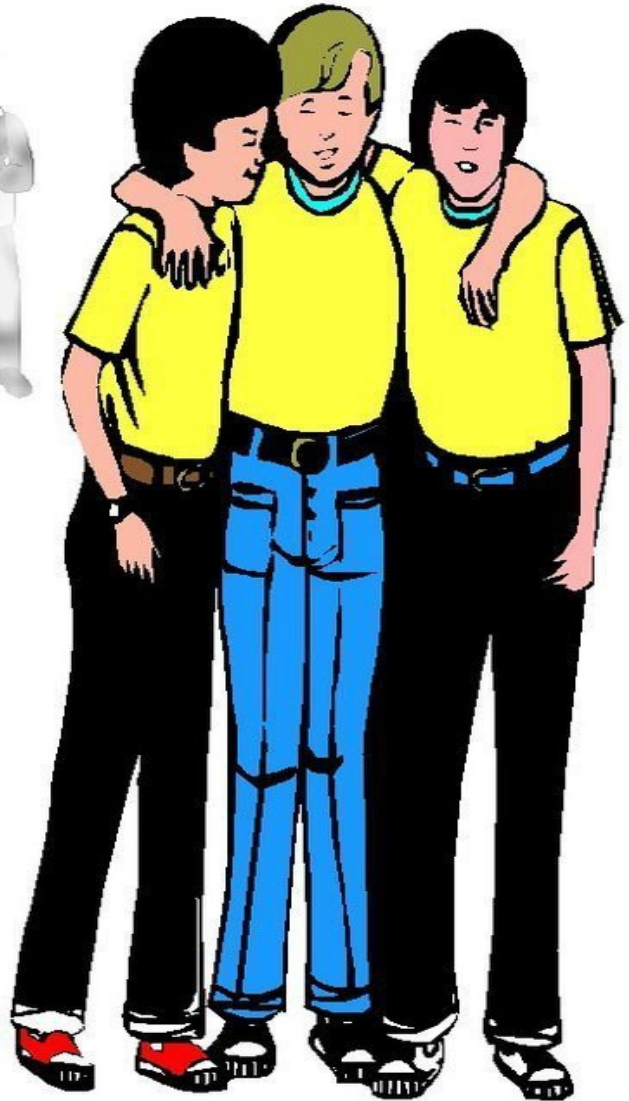
Karua keenly observed how both very young animals and young humans radiated with this immense glow of unconditional love, willing to share with each other no matter who they were. They seemed to love everything and everyone. They did not distinguish or judge like the older creatures. People reacted different towards babies and so did the animals. Their unconditional love seemed to be infectious.



through her constant observation of humans she noticed that different changes were taking place as humans grew older. Many times this change had an affect on the other creatures, as if an invisible silent signal went out and just changed the mood of animals as they were in the area of where angry humans were. The more this hostile vibration went out from humans, the more violent the animals became as the vibration seemed to irritate them.



Karua's habitat was designed to allow her to have a view of the entire zoo along with the neighborhood outside the zoo walls. Because of her high rocky areas it was a good place to sit and just watch everything. This was not normal activity for an ape but Karua was really fascinated by the many behavioral changes she saw in humans.



Karua spent a lot of time observing this one group of boys. From her look out on her high cliff she watched as 3 small joyful babies slowly developed. As young children she noticed that they still were caring individuals who still enjoyed helping others. Time passed and the boys were now young teenagers. She watched as they somehow lost that wonderful loving quality as they began to allow all kinds of things to influence them. They became the neighborhood bullies with no care for anyone or anything. They became a very prejudice little angry group.



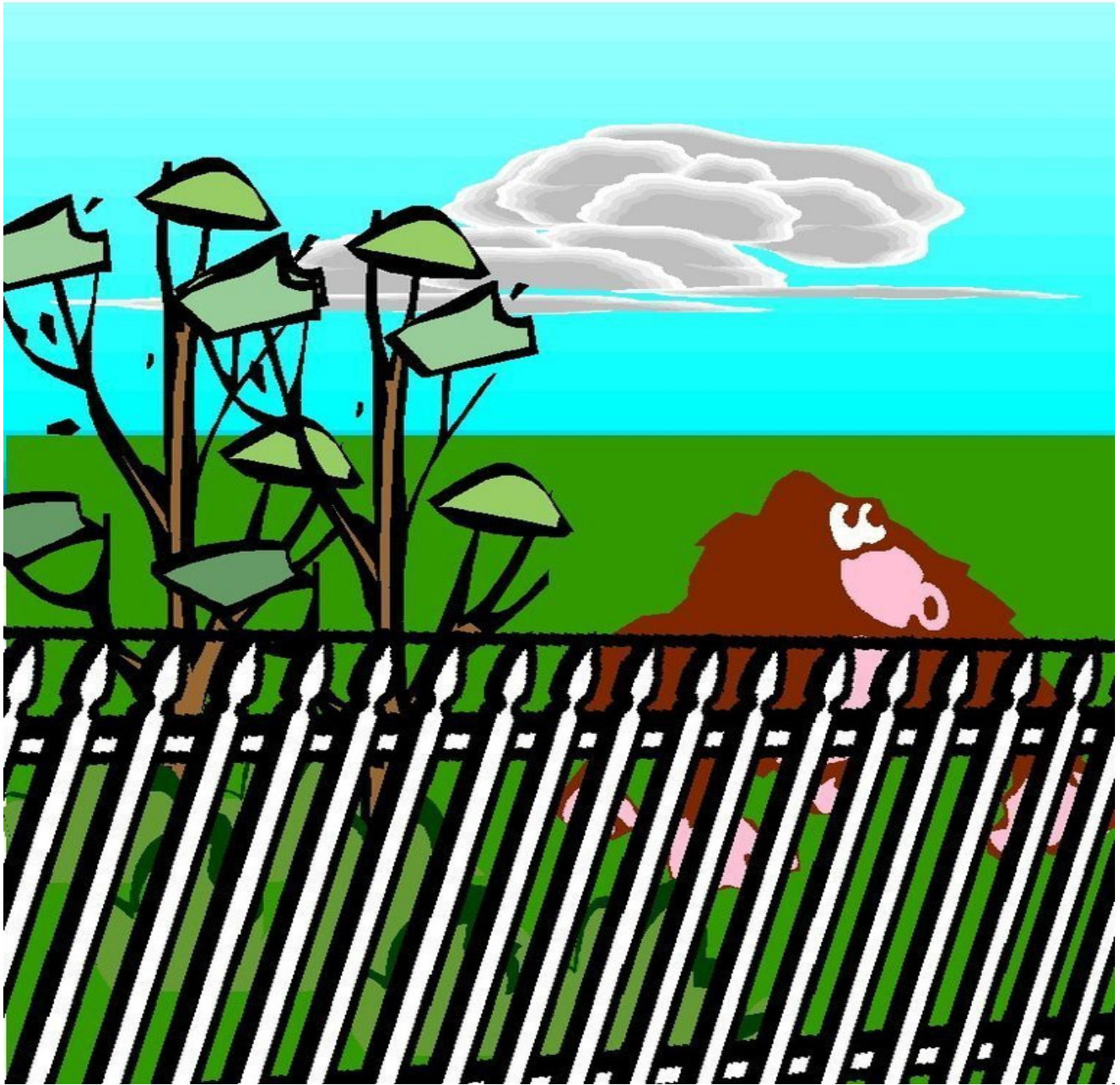
One day while she sat and observed the teenage bullies, she saw a small puppy come near where they were talking. Next thing you know these boys started throwing stones at the little creature, as he tried desperately to get away from them.



The poor frightened creature ran out into the street just as a car came speeding down the street. The poor puppy was hit by the car as the car kept on going. The boys who watched stood there and laughed at what took place. This showed Karua that these boys no longer had it in them to show unconditional love, for their hearts were bitter cold.



The small creature desperately hobbled to its feet, but one leg was hurt really bad. As it limped across the street towards the zoo, the puppy looked back and saw that one of the boys was yelling and making his way towards him. The boy wanted to torment the puppy some more.



Karua' s heart went out to the poor creature as she hurried down from her cliff. When she got to the fence she saw that the boys were in hot pursuit behind the puppy. Sticking her arm through the fence she motioned to the puppy to come to her, while making kissing sounds with her mouth.



The boys were now in front of Karua's home as they began shouting for her to release the puppy. Karua hid the puppy and then climbed to the top of some rocks where she beat her chest and made loud noises which frightened the boys away.



Once Karua knew the boys were gone she came down from the rocks and brought the puppy out of its hiding. Karua then gently cuddled the puppy as she rocked it to sleep in her arms. At that moment everyone that was watching saw for the first time a special radiant glow about the gorilla, as she showed all of them what unconditional love was all about.



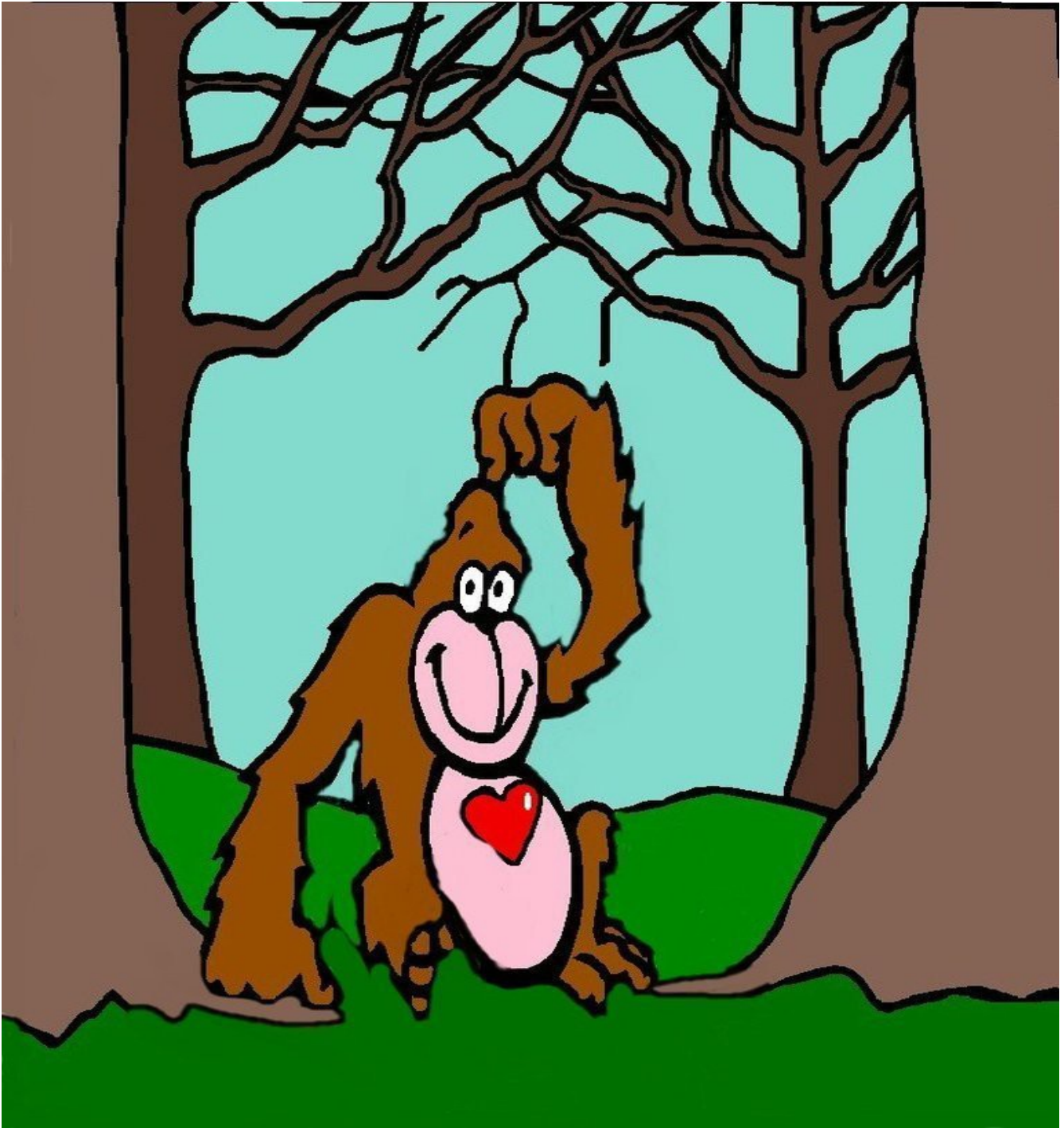
After that day everyone came to see Karua and her little friend. She slowly nursed the puppy back to health and from her heart she shared everything with him. Soon the word got out to the newspapers and everyone was talking about the ape and the dog.



The newspaper story about Karua brought more visitors to the zoo, wanting the chance to see her and the puppy. The vibration of unconditional love that poured out from Karua's heart seemed to radiate to all who visited her area, as they watched her and the puppy play together.



People started talking about how the energy that came from watching Karua seemed to help change their lives for the better. Even the 3 boys began visiting Karua on regular bases. Slowly her influence on them helped change them into wonderful, loving adults. One boy became a firefighter, another became an animal doctor while the third one became an animal photographer who shared his work with school children, helping to teach them about coming from the heart.



The puppy grew up and spent many loving years with Karua. It died many years ago, but at the ripe old age of 61 Karua has been one of the best gifts to the world. She still is a great example for everyone on how to keep the positive vibration of unconditional love going around the world by coming straight from your heart.

THE END