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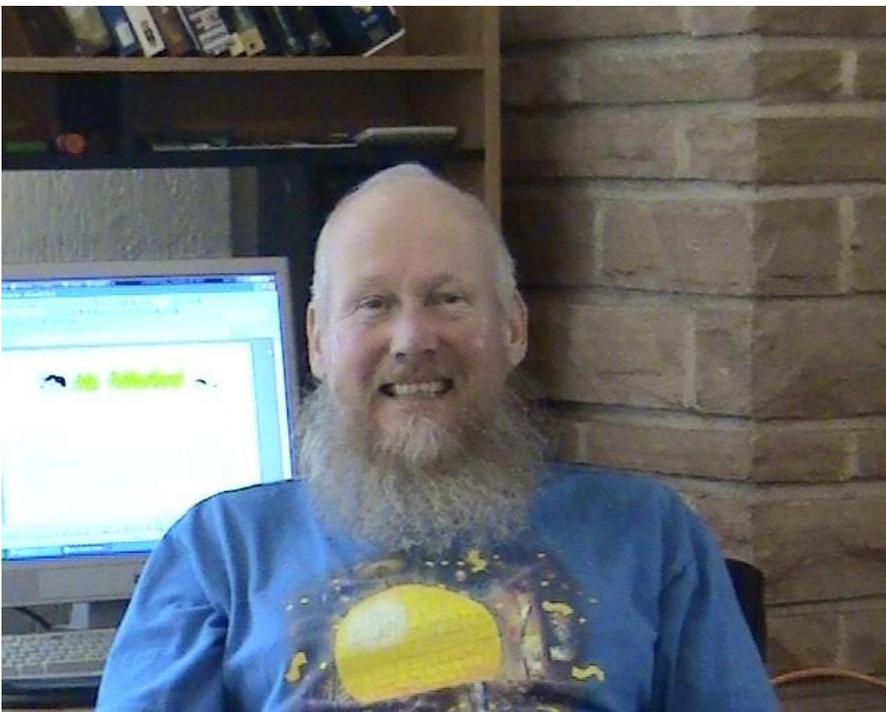
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## The Legend of Ubuntu

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Hi! I'm Ken Koskinen. Feel free to visit my website:  
<http://antspub.com> .

You can get free copies of my e-book, poetry and other essays.

I wrote “The Legend of Ubuntu” (pronounced “you-bun-two”) for children; but also for older monkeys, like me, who are kids at heart! I hope you have fun reading it to the younger ones and to yourself.

# The Legend of Ubuntu

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Ubuntu was born in the jungle in Africa. You might want to know which country, but monkeys do not care about such things. They simply want to eat, sleep and enjoy life in the trees,



playing and swinging on branches and vines. Mona was Ubuntu's mother and she cared for and specially protected him, as he was a weakly runt. He constantly clung to her chest and was full of fear whenever she left him alone. The other young monkeys would pick on him and taunt him. Mona would rush back and pick him up. The others kept on harassing Ubuntu whenever they could, as he was so little. They were bullies.

One day Ubuntu's grandfather Rufus came to speak to Mona. He said, **"Mona you just have to stop being overprotective of Ubuntu. He has to learn to protect himself or he will never survive in the jungle."** Mona nodded as she knew Rufus was right. He used to be the leader of the tribe but now he was old and Kinko was the alpha male. The others still respected Rufus even though he was much slower and weaker than he used to be. He was very wise. Mona knew that having to leave Ubuntu to fend for himself, would be very hard; but she kept her feelings inside. It was the law of the jungle. Ubuntu was afraid to play with others. He also had



a fear of heights and whenever he tried to climb a tree he would get dizzy and come down. He couldn't climb to get the good fruit and had to pick up whatever he could from the ground. The other young monkeys mocked him and laughed! They would zoom around the trees, jumping, leaping and swinging on the vines and grabbed all the fruit they saw. Ubuntu could only look on with envy and he wished that someday he too could do what the other monkeys did.

The day came when Rufus got sick and was very weak. Ubuntu went to see him. He told Ubuntu, **"Trust your nature!"** But he did not understand his grandfather. A few days later Rufus died and Ubuntu was very sad. He had been very kind to him even though he had been strict.

Mona would climb high up in trees to get fruit. She was usually very careful but once she didn't see a giant snake, as it was hiding amongst the leaves and limbs. She was shocked when

it appeared and slowly moved towards her. In her haste to flee, she got caught up in the limbs and vines and couldn't get free. She let out a cry of fear; all the monkeys knew she was in trouble. The mighty Kinko and others climbed rapidly up the tree but when they saw the great snake all they could do is cry out.



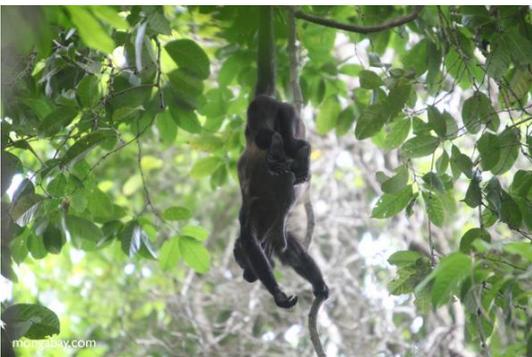
Ubuntu was on the ground and had heard his mom and the cry of others; but he was frozen with fear. Then suddenly in-a-flash he thought he saw Rufus and heard him say, **“Ubuntu, trust your nature!”** Something inside him ignited! Without even thinking he rapidly scampered up to the top of a nearby tree. It was taller than the one where Mona was stuck and he could see her. The snake was closing in and he instinctively knew it would kill her. He fearlessly

jumped into the air and soared with open hands towards them. Just before the snake was about to strike, he grabbed it with his left hand and bit down on its head. His teeth went deep into the snake. All of the monkeys cheered but Ubuntu fell with the clenched snake.

Somehow in the nick-of-time, he managed to grab a vine with his right hand and instantly let go of the snake. Ubuntu swung and leaped to a safe branch. The snake dropped to its death. Kinko and the others freed Mona and when they climbed down all the monkeys celebrated. Ubuntu had saved Mona!



No one ever picked on Ubuntu after that day. He had learned to trust his nature. He flew from tree to tree like no other monkey ever had. He would fearlessly jump from great heights, grab limbs or vines and swing. He grew to be very big and his muscles were very strong. Whenever a snake or jungle cat came to threaten them he would quickly swing and strike and then rapidly retreat. Sometimes he would throw things like stones or fruit at a predator and the others even joined in. All the monkeys were amazed by what he could do and some tried to mimic him.



Ubuntu learned where the best fruit was and led others to it. He even made sure the weaker and older monkeys got a share. He was very protective of his mom, Mona. No one would mess with her, as they knew Ubuntu would attack. It didn't matter how big or strong they were. She lived happily in peace for a long time and was very proud of her son.

In time Ubuntu became the alpha male monkey and he ruled the tribe; but he had a good

heart. He was always fair and taught that the stronger ones should protect the weaker ones. The tribe prospered under his leadership.

Many times he wondered whether Rufus had really come back on that fateful day or perhaps he simply imagined it. He decided it didn't matter, as he had well learned what his grandfather taught. He realized that it was his turn to teach others to be brave and to trust their nature.

Ubuntu became a very great leader of the largest tribe of monkeys that had ever been. He lived to be very old and wise like Rufus. Today he is a legend in the monkey world. His name is admired and many stories of his feats and deeds are often told. The adults tell the young ones, "Be like Ubuntu. Good monkeys like him are very special."



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Jarmo "Ken" Koskinen 06/16/2017