

## THE DESCENT OF MAN

Three monkeys sat on a coconut tree,  
Discussing things as they're said to be;  
Said one to the others;"Now listen, you two  
There's a certain rumour that can't be true  
That man descended from our noble race:  
The very idea is a big disgrace.  
No monkey ever deserted his wife  
Starved her babies and ruined her life;  
And you've never known a mother-monk  
To leave her babies with others to bunk,  
Or pass them on from one to another  
Till they scarcely know who was their mother;  
And another thing you'll never see  
A monk building a fence around a coconut tree  
And let the coconuts go to waste  
Forbidding all other monks to taste;  
Why, if I'd put a fence round the tree  
Starvation would force you to steal from me;  
Here's another thing a monk won't do  
Go out at night and get on the stew  
Or use a gun or club or knife  
To take some other monkey's life.  
Yes, man DESCENDED - with all his fuss,  
But, brothers, he didn't descent from US!"

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This piece of verse, attributed to OGDEN NASH, brings out, as only a sense of humour can, things that show that man could not possibly have evolved from the animals below him. For as it "turns out" man, made a little less than the angels, generally tends to indulge in behaviour that is a lot lower than the rest of the animals. Human history is not a pretty picture. As the pagan Aristotle is reported to have noted, man can fall to a state much worse than the lowest animal. We need then to look for a different explanation for the Descent of Man.