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SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND THE FEROCIOUS BEASTS !

After the passing away of his Master, Sri Ramakrishna, the young Vivekananda took to wandering across India to carry the message of his Master to the people.

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One day, he was walking along a lonely path near Varanasi, when a troop of monkeys, quite aggressive, rushed towards him from behind. Vivekananda took to his heels. But could he give the slip to the swift monkeys?

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The distance between him and the monkeys was becoming narrower and narrower and he was getting rather panicky. Suddenly he heard a voice of exhortation. A Sadhu or a holy man seated beside the road called out to him:

"Don't run away. Face the brutes!"

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Vivekananda stopped at once.

He turned and dared the monkeys to come near him. Taken aback, the monkeys stopped. As Vivekananda stared at them, they slowly dispersed.

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Later, recounting the incident before an audience in New York, Swami Vivekananda said to this effect: "That was indeed a great lesson; face the danger, face it boldly. Like the monkeys, the problems stop harassing us when we stop escaping from them.

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If we have to find liberation, we have to conquer our nature. We have to face fear and troubles and ignorance boldly, for cowards never achieve anything".