

Young . . . Authors' Club

JUNIOR DAY

JUNGLE PEOPLE

Original by Philip Dick

In the middle of a big green jungle there lived a tribe of monkeys. The part of the jungle that they lived in was very rich in fruits and nuts, and the monkeys grew fat and lazy. Now these monkeys (they were the Chimpanzees) were very intelligent, but having everything easy they spent all their energy trying to see who could get the most berries.

There were several other tribes of monkeys living in the jungle. There was a group that owned a big part of the jungle; they were the Orang Utans. They were a bit slow, always checking twice before they did anything. They, like the Chimps, grew smug and satisfied in their wealth.

Another tribe was the Baboons. They were very unsatisfied, the more they got the more they wanted. They watched the Chimps and the Orangs with jealousy, and planned to destroy them. The Baboons had a corner of the jungle which was far away from most of the other tribes, and no one cared much what they did. In fact the Chimps and the Orangs thought that the Baboons were all mouth. But secretly the Baboons were building up an army which no one knew about.

All the baby Baboons were taught to hate the Chimps. They were told that the jungle the Chimps owned belonged to the Baboon tribe, and that some day they would fight the Chimps and take their land back. Hundreds of Baboons went to the land of the Chimpanzees and learned all about how they acted. Then they went back to their country and told their ruler all about Chimpanzees.

There was another tribe of monkeys that was also very important. They were the Barbary Apes, and they lived right near the Orangs. Often the Barbaries thought of fighting the Orangs, and once did, but the Chimps got in and licked them hard. And after that the Barbaries shut up.

But the ape who ruled the Barbaries thought of fighting the Chimps and the Orangs again. So he made a lot of speeches to his monkeys, and got them to hate the Chimps and Orangs again. And one day, sure enough, the Orangs and the Barbaries were at war.

Now if the Chimps had jumped in then, they would have licked the Barbaries right away, but they said:

"Why, the war is none of our business."

At least most of them said that,

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but the monkey who governed the Chimps wasn't so sure.

Pretty soon the Chimps began sending foods and things to the Orangs, and the Barbaries thought how nice it would be if the Baboons would fight the Chimps so that so more aid would reach the Orangs. But in order to get the Baboons to do this they had to say that they would fight the Chimps, too.

The Chimps didn't believe that the Baboons would dare attack them. They scoffed and said:

"Why we can lick them in three weeks!"

Pretty soon the Baboons began to get ready to fight the Chimps, but to cover up their dirty work they sent two very crafty Baboons to Chimpanzeeland to beg and whine for peace. And no one suspected. But the merik who governed the Chimps was suspicious, and he sent a message to the two Chimps who were in charge of guarding the jungle near Baboonland. The message said that he thought the Baboons might attack.

But the two Chimps laughed, and didn't take the message seriously.

And one Sunday morning, bright and early, hundreds of Baboons came swanging through the trees, dropping coconuts on every Chimp and Orang they could find. And all the Jungle people were at war.

(I wonder how many Young Authors have happened to read the fables of George Ade. They were once famous. This is very much in his style. This is smoothly written, timely, well-organized. The reader is sure it was not just "dashed off," but that it was painstakingly prepared. The result speaks for itself.)

CREDIT LINE Seven credits for Philip Dick, Feb. 17, 1942.
