

# **The Monkey Who Asked the Wrong Questions**



**Stop Chasing Answers in Life That  
Don't Set You Free**





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Digital eBook: 978-981-94-3723-8

Paperback Book: 978-981-94-3722-1

Published by Kyle Neo Design

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## Foreword

There's something deeply about human wanting answers — to life, to suffering, to why things are the way they are. We ask: Where did we come from? Where are we going? Why is there pain? But sometimes, in the search for answers, we forget to ask whether those questions are helping us now in this moment, where suffering lives and where peace could be found.

The Buddha, in his great wisdom, once refused to answer sixteen such questions. Not out of secrecy or indifference, but out of deep compassion. He knew that certain questions especially those rooted in speculation or ego only confuse the mind and entangle the heart. Instead, he guided people back to what truly matters: ending suffering, and living with clarity, kindness, and wisdom.

As he said in the Sallattha Sutta: **"The uninstructed person feels two kinds of pain – physical and mental. But the wise, feeling the physical, avoid multiplying it with unnecessary suffering."**

This story of Kaipu was inspired by those 16 questions (SOLASAPANHA), the mischievous monkey who begins to question the world around him, is a playful yet profound exploration of that teaching. Like many of us, Kaipu wants answers but what he finds instead is something greater. The freedom from needing to know everything.

May this story softly remind you that some questions are better left unanswered and that true peace arrives when we rest in the present moment, content with not knowing, rather than endlessly digging for answers that only lead us deeper into darkness.



Once, in a lush jungle, there lived a mischievous monkey named Kaipu.

He spent his days swinging from trees, stealing mangoes, and playing tricks on other animals. His only goal?

To have as much fun as possible!  
But one evening, as he sat alone on a branch, a strange thought struck him:

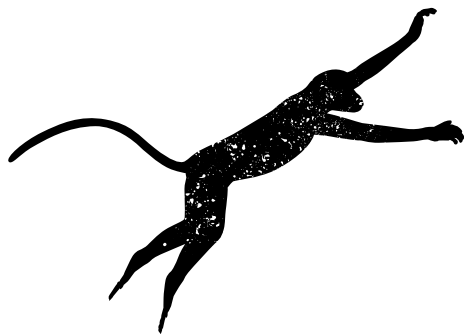
"Why am I born as a monkey?" "Did my parents make me this way?"  
What's the point of being a monkey?"





No matter how many fruits he ate  
or games he played, the questions  
within him never went away.

Kaipu decided to ask his animal  
friends in the jungle:



Kaipu asked the old and wise  
Tortoise whom he had lived for a long  
time. What is your purpose in life?

"Life is about staying safe and living  
long," he said.

But Kaipu thought, "What good is a  
long life if I don't know where my  
existence comes from?"



Kaipu asked the same question to  
the beautiful and graceful  
Peacock.

"Life is about beauty and being  
admired!"

But Kapi's fur was messy, and he  
has never care much for his vanity.





Kaipu asked again, this time to the busy Ant Queen whom seems very fulfilling.

"Life is about hard work and storing food!"

But Kapi hated routines. I was not born to work hard. He wanted answer that can satisfy him.

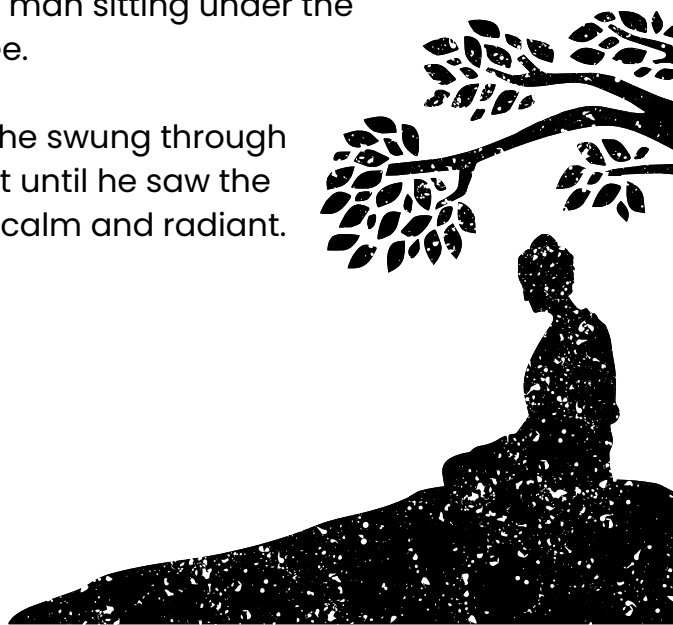


No one seems to be able to  
provide him a fulfilling answer.  
"I must be weird"

He said to himself.

One day, Kaipu heard whispers  
of a wise man sitting under the  
Bodhi tree.

Curious, he swung through  
the forest until he saw the  
Buddha, calm and radiant.



Exhausted, Kaipu stumbled  
upon the Buddha sitting beneath  
the Bodhi tree.

*I have so many questions for you!*  
*said Kaipu.*

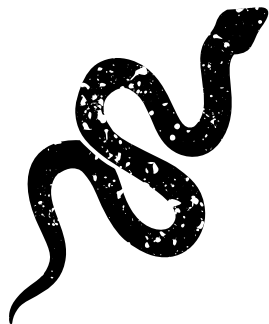


The Buddha remained silent.  
Kaipu huffed. "Why won't you  
answer?!"

The Buddha picked up a fallen  
mango. "Little one, if you were bitten  
by a snake, would you demand to  
know its age before seeking help?"

"No! I'd get the venom out!"

"Just so," said the Buddha. "Your  
questions are like the snake's age —  
interesting, but irrelevant  
to survival."





**"What if the questions  
keeping you up at night  
are the very ones you  
should stop asking?"**

In this enchanting and insightful tale inspired by the Buddha's unanswered questions (Solasapanha), queer Buddhist writer Kyle Neo introduces us to Kaipu, a restless monkey on a quest to solve life's greatest mysteries. But what begins as a search for answers becomes a surprising discovery: the questions themselves may be the chains that bind him.

Through vivid jungle parables and gentle wisdom, this book explores: **Why we obsess over unanswerable questions — and how to let them go.**

The Buddhist art of finding peace in not knowing. Blending playful storytelling with profound Dharma insights, Kyle Neo — a voice at the intersection of queer identity and contemplative practice — invites readers to release the weight of endless searching and discover the joy of being fully, imperfectly present.