Autobiography of Chief Korung My name is Chief Korung. If glanced at in the passing, I may pass off as a man living in a house in a town or city but I was a wild monkey, a citizen of the jungle. I was strong and a very good leader. I had a patchy and scarred coat, the medals of many fights I had won. I don’t mean to be bragging but I was the strongest chief the monkeys had ever had. You may think of me as a cantankerous old fellow but I was really a very kind animal. I loved my home and I was very happy to be me. I didn’t just live in any jungle; I lived in ‘the enchanted jungle’.

This jungles name was Ambornath which means ‘where all life exists’ in the local language. In this jungle, children used to live with us and so did Latrommi, a paranormal pillar from the stars which had unlimited power. Of all the incidents in my life, saving the jungle from the man animal with other animals and children was the biggest incident. The war started when two greedy men Bhask and his son Rhask came to cut down the jungle for money along with Varang who wanted Latrommi’s magical power to rule the world. Varang was very cunning and evil.

Latrommi gave the children of the jungle the gift of languages and the gift of invisibilty. The children could understand the language of not only the animals and birds but also of the trees and insects. They could also mingle with the humans without being seen. Varang is the villain of this story and Coolclear is the hero. Coolclear is one of the children of the jungle. One day while my tribe and I were travelling we heard the birds cry, warning calls but not the ones warning us from predators, something telling us about greater danger.

At first I thought it was a false alarm and led my tribe ahead but then I sensed some evil intent in the air. I along with a few children and Sahoom the elephant went to the river bank to investigate. That time I was scared but very excited. We overheard the humans talking about destroying the jungle and Varang (though we didn’t yet know it was her) wanting the children and a metal (Latrommi). We heard about the human animal’s plans to destroy the jungle.

After hearing this news everyone went deep in thought but I wanted action not long thought-filled, plodding silence. I always won against all my challengers. I was quick, fast and ferocious, and never gave my opponents a chance although right now, I was perched high on a branch scared of Big Head the tiger who was pacing below. Eventually we planned a meeting for the next day to which everyone was invited. Everyone had also planned to go and hear what the animals and children had to say to the rest of us. With that announcement we all went to our own territories in the jungle. I hated being away from my tribe for too long in case a usurper took my place.

Then I would have another fight on my hands! The next day we had the meeting and few representatives from all species had come to attend it. We planned to attack the humans as they came into the jungle. With Latrommi’s help we were going to delay the attack by spoiling the machines. Coolclear was going with the chips Latrommi had given him. I sent my nephew Kotung with him. They came back successful from the mission. Bhask very soon started cutting down the jungle. I and my tribe had collected big stones to throw at the men. In the attack all the man animals were killed but so were my nephew Kotung and few others. I always knew my nephew would defeat me and become leader but still I was upset about his death. That time my feelings were mixed, I was glad we won but upset that some of us died.

I had killed a few people and the children hurt somebody for the first time. Then Coolclear started the machines so that people think there are men at work. I didn’t know what happened next but knew my jungle was safe. We were never disturbed again.