rent that swept away the terrified brown monkey, but not before the other animals heard his cries. Parrot, perched aloft, saw the river rising, saw Irraweke being swept away, and gave the alarm; and the animals cried out, "O Man, save us, save us."

Man saw what was happening. He knew that he was in peril and all the animals with him, so he led them to the top of a high hill, on which grew coconut trees, tall and deeply rooted.

"Climb the coconut trees," cried man. "Climb the trees quickly before the flood sweeps you away."

For five days all the animals and man lived in the top of the coconut trees, where the green branches spring from the trunk and the nuts grow. The rain fell and the water rose until no land could be seen. The sky was blanketed with dark clouds, and thick mist hid the world.

Now a strange thing happened. While the flood was rising, all the animals were frightened, and man also, but the baboon was more terrified than any other animal. In those days his voice was shrill, his throat small, but at the sound of the rising water lapping around the trunk of the coconut tree his shrill cries became hoarse shouts, his shouting became a loud roaring, and his throat grew to twice its former size. To this day all baboons have huge throats and the loudest voices in the forest.

Of a sudden, on the fifth night, there came stillness. The thunder and the lightning ceased. The rain stopped. The animals began to move from their places of refuge among the boughs of the coconut trees, but man bade them stay where they were, saying that they should wait until the day dawned. On the morning of the tenth day the sun rose, but mist still covered the earth, and from below the trees came the sound of lapping water. Man dropped a coconut, and listened. In a moment there was a great splash. The animals knew that the water was still high.

Each day man dropped a coconut and all the animals listened. At first, the sound of splashing was close below them. Two days later it seemed more distant. On the following day there was no sound of splashing, only a dull thud. The listening animals eagerly made ready to climb down from the trees, but man told them to stay where they were. He would climb down first to make sure that all was safe.

The trumpeter bird did not do as man bade. Tired of sitting on the boughs of the coconut tree, and proud of his long legs, he climbed down, while man shouted to him, "Be careful, be careful, come back; you do not know what lies below."

The trumpeter bird paid no heed. Climbing down quickly, he stepped into a nest of large ants that had buried themselves deep down within the earth while the rains were falling. Now they had come out of their hiding-place in search of food. Fierce with hunger, they bit at the long legs of the