

The Monkey and the Dragon



The monkey is often times placed on your back! You know what I mean. You are in a meeting and one person has a problem with an employee or project design, and who ends up with the problem? YOU! That is the best example of having the monkey placed on your back.

As a CEO, director or manager in a corporate environment, you need to know when to get the monkey off your back and how to avoid ever having it placed there in the first place.

Tools to Avoid Having the Monkey on Your Back:

- **Fire Dragon the Monkey** – when an employee presents you with a problem that has nothing to do with you, fire away (in a professional manner) and explain why you see this problem as an isolated issue and one they must try to resolve prior to bringing it to your attention. The dragon analogy is quick and concise, and it sends a message that you mean business and they need to get to work.
- **Hold the Monkey** – gently inform the employee who is trying to place the monkey in your office, “I see the challenge before you, and I am most confident you can handle the situation [monkey]. Let me know how you make out with this challenge.” This puts the monkey back in their hands.

- **Smile at the Monkey** – let them know you acknowledge the problem and, yes, it is a situation, but you are not able to accept the challenge [monkey] at this time because your present workload precludes you from doing so.

Recap:

- Fire dragon the monkey sets a tone for how you operate in the future.
- Hold the monkey but always give it back.
- Smile when you first see the monkey – but do not hold it. The monkey is not yours!