

# Critique of Capitalism for Kidz!

## Volume 2: Reaganomics



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# Reagconomics

**T**here once was a troop of monkeys.

**As is natural with monkeys, the biggest and strongest of them ruled over the others. And, as was therefore his right, he took a greater share of the available food— the biggest cut, and required that the regular old monkeys bring it to him.**

**He had many fancy titles, including "Captain of Industry," "Chief Executive Officer," and "Chairman of the Board." His favorite was "Job Creator;" but mostly they just called him The Man.**

**Well, that's the way things were and always had been.**

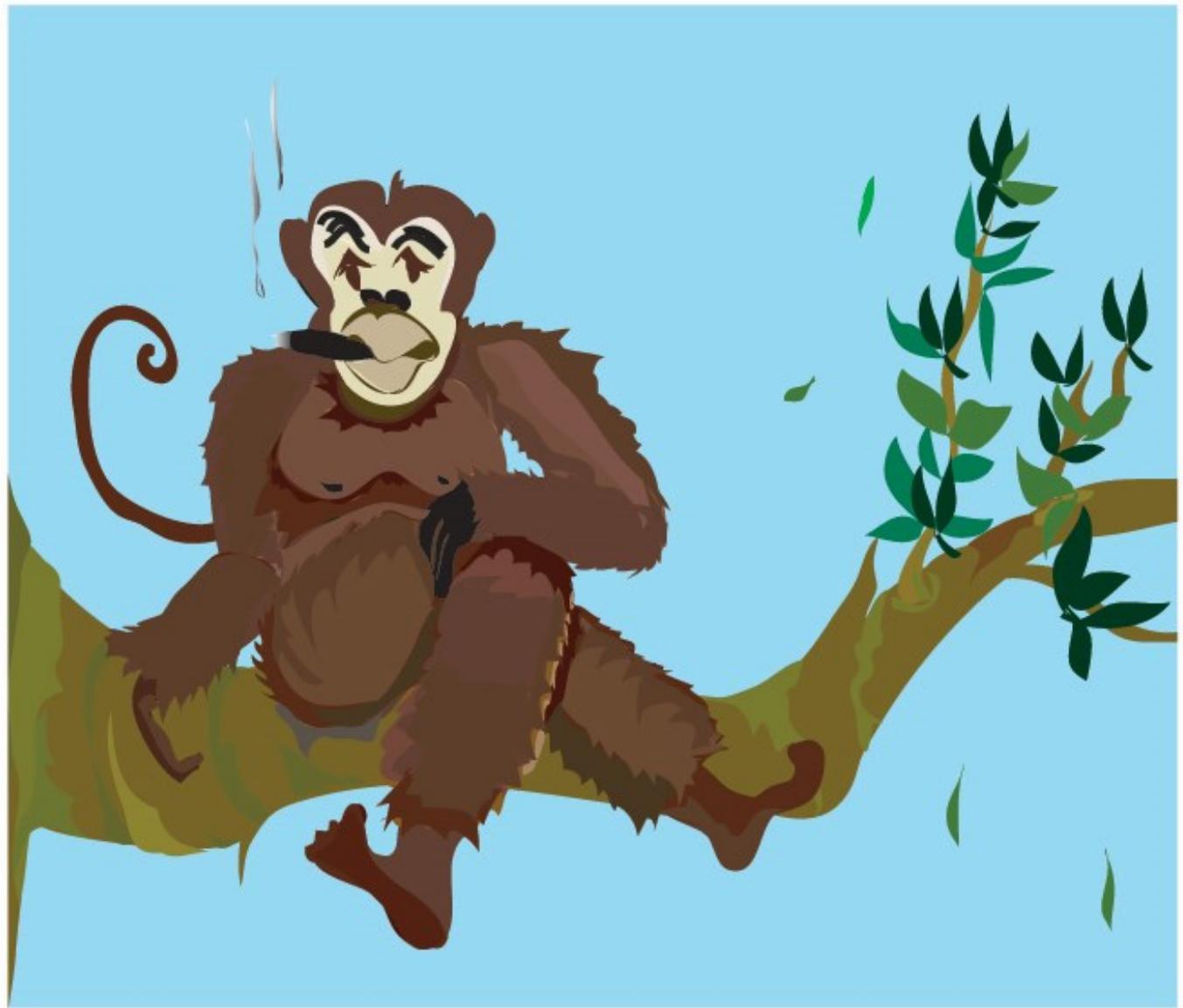


**There came a time, though, when The Man's sedentary lifestyle and the abundance of food brought to him by the other monkeys caused him to grow fat. Very fat. Enormously fat. And the fatter he grew, the more food— the bigger cut— he demanded.**

**Eventually there just wasn't enough food. The Man still got all he wanted. And his sons were all right. And their wives and children. But the many, many regular old monkeys grew lean and hungry.**

**Now you'd think that the regular old monkeys would get together and tell The Man he'd better go on a diet.**

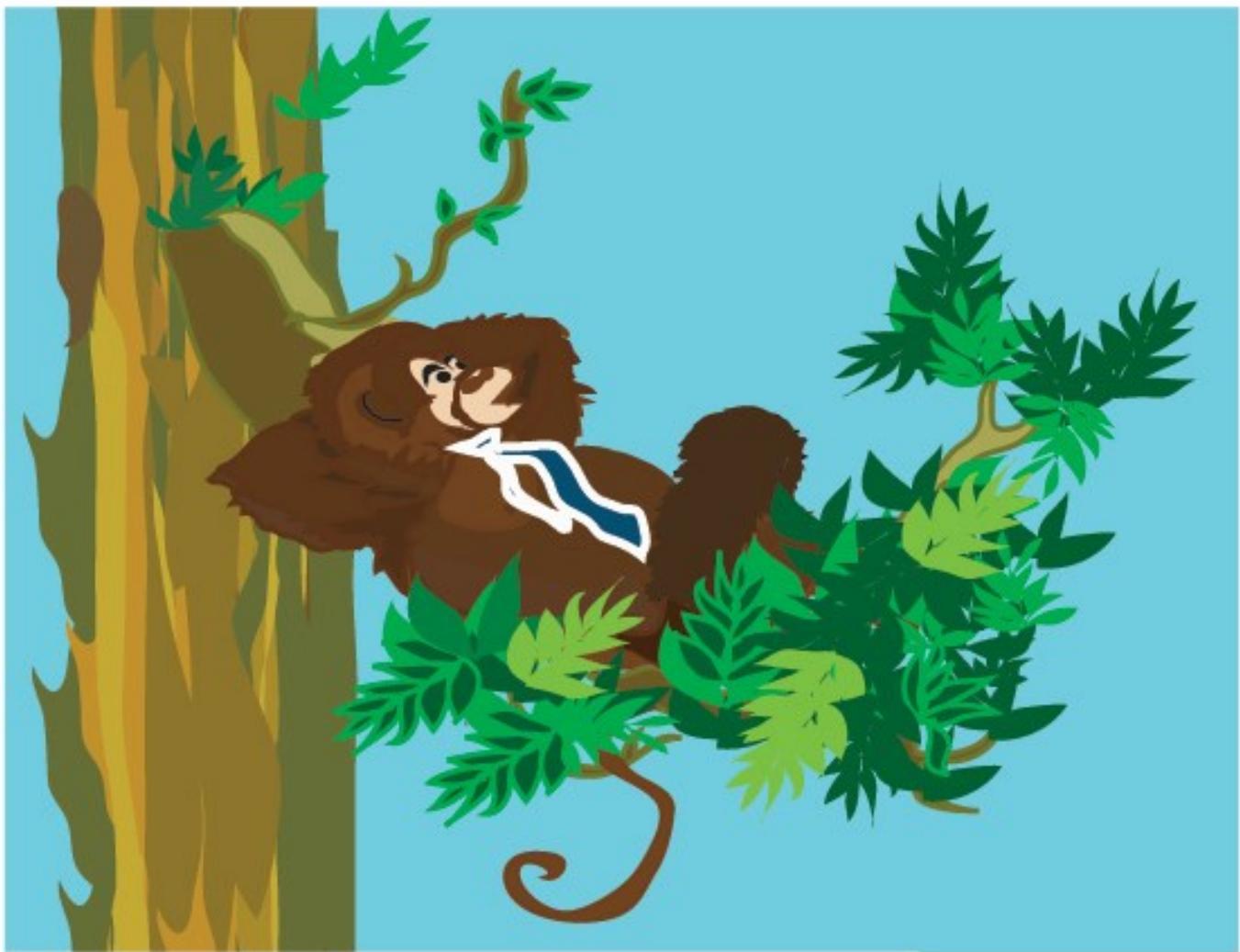
**But let me tell you about his sons. You see, The Man had many sons, and he employed them shrewdly.**



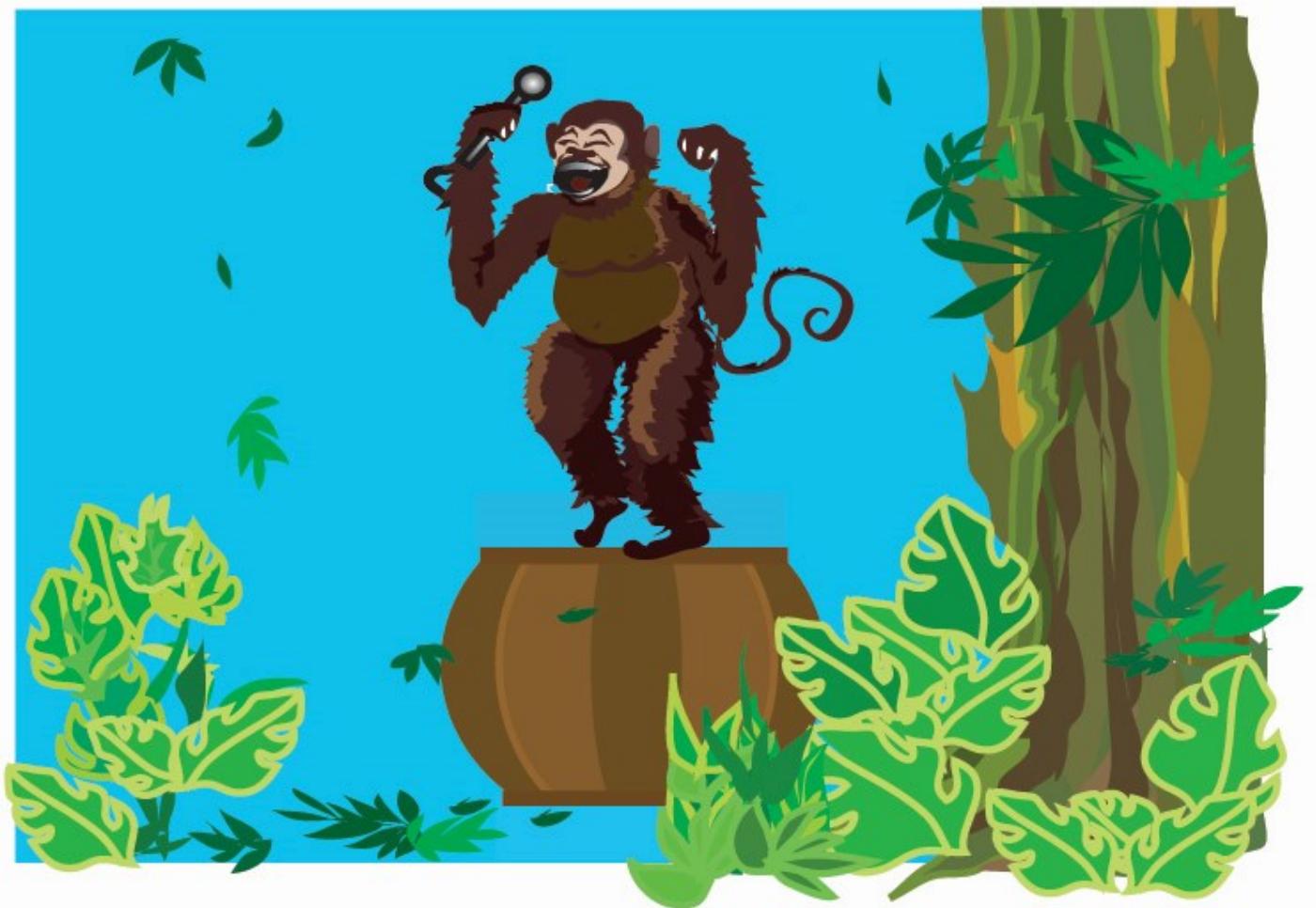
**The Man had a son whose job it was to explain patiently to anyone who would listen that the solution-- no matter what the problem-- was an even bigger cut for The Man. It turns out that the ways to do this are many and varied for the creative individual. And his first son became very good at them. He had snappy little metaphors like, "A rising tide lifts all boats..." and even though regular old monkeys don't have boats, they were swayed by the thought that one day they might. And he waved around pieces of white paper covered with small black formulas that he claimed were scientific proof based on irrefutable logic that the solution to all that hunger was a bigger cut for The Man.**



**The Man had a second son whose job it was to convince the regular old monkeys that if they were hungry, then there was something wrong with them: perhaps they hadn't worked hard enough; perhaps they weren't clever enough; perhaps they should pursue vocational training; perhaps they were just envious of their betters-- that sort of thing. He was even more effective than the first son.**



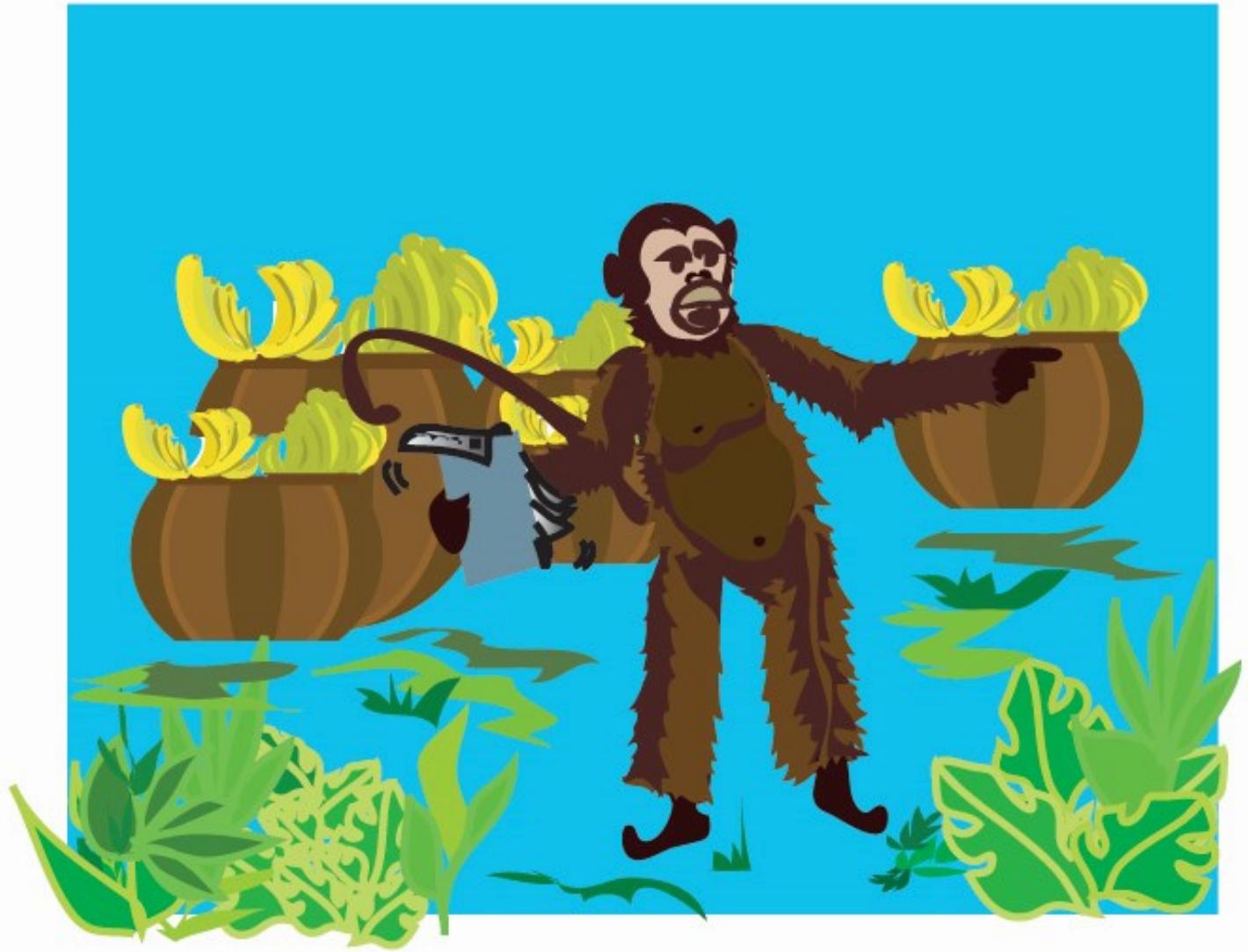
**The Man had a third son whose job it was to advise the regular old monkeys that though they were hungry, there wasn't a thing that could be done about it: it was the way of the world. He carried with him some very old books that he insisted backed him up in this opinion. Perhaps he had an easier job than his older brothers, but he still pursued it with energy and enthusiasm.**



**The Man had a fourth son whose job it was to tell outrageous lies to selected groups of regular old monkeys about how some other group of regular old monkeys was to blame for there not being enough food to go around. He would tell the old monkeys it was the fault of the young monkeys, the young it was the fault of the old, males it was the fault of females, females it was the fault of males.**

**And so on. Height, eye color, religion, nation of origin, union membership, pre-operative condition-- you name it. No group of regular old monkeys was without some other group of regular old monkeys to lay the blame on.**

**This son, too, was good at his job, and seemed ready and able to talk and whisper endlessly.**



**Finally, The Man had a fifth son whose job it was to vilify or somehow delegitimize anyone who disagreed with any of the first four sons and to promote anyone who agreed with them. He was the best of all at his job, and over time all the hungry regular old monkeys blamed themselves, fate, or some other group of regular old monkeys for the hunger, and no monkeys blamed The Man. And a surprising number of regular old monkeys believed the solution to their hunger problem was-- you guessed it-- a bigger cut for The Man.**



**Well, that's the story so far. Last I heard the regular old monkeys were still getting hungrier and The Man was still asking for a bigger cut. Hopefully The Man will realize he's got to go on a diet before the regular old monkeys get so weak with hunger that they can't bring him food anymore.**

**The End**

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