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## Nature: Barrels of monkeys and kettles of fish: Truth, lies, and the hundredth monkey phenomenon

**Lifted Brow, The**  
**Issue 17 (Apr 2013)**

**Boyle, Rhianna**

**Abstract:** The story of the Hundredth Monkey Phenomenon goes like this: In 1952, on the Japanese island of Koshima, scientists began providing sweet potatoes to a wild

colony of Japanese macaques. A young female macaque called Imo accidentally discovered that the taste of the sweet potatoes could be improved by washing them in a stream before eating, to remove sand and grit. Imo taught this trick to her mother and other young monkeys in the colony, so that by 1958 all the juveniles, and those adults who had managed to learn from their children, were washing their food.



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