A group of scientists placed 5 monkeys in a cage, and in the middle, a ladder with bananas on top.

Every time a monkey went up the ladder, the scientists soaked the rest of the monkeys with cold water.

After a while, every time a monkey went up the ladder, the other ones beat up the one on the ladder.

After some time, no monkey dare go up the ladder regardless of the temptation.

Scientists then decided to substitute one of the monkeys, the first thing this new monkey did was to go up the ladder. Immediately, the other monkeys beat him up.

After several beatings, the new member learned not to climb the ladder even though never knew why.

The second monkey was substituted and the same occurred. The first monkey participated on the beating for the second monkey. A third monkey was changed and the same was repeated. The fourth was substituted, and the beating was repeated, and finally the fifth monkey was replaced.

What was left was a group of 5 monkeys that even though never received a cold shower, continued to beat up any monkey who attempted to climb the ladder.

If it was possible to ask the monkeys why they would beat up all those who attempted to go up the ladder, I bet their answer would be:

“I don’t know, that’s how things are done around here.”