

THE OLDEST PROFESSION

A physician, an engineer, and an attorney were discussing who among them belonged to the oldest of the three professions represented. The physician said, "Remember, on the sixth day God took a rib from Adam and fashioned Eve, making him the first surgeon. Therefore, medicine is the oldest profession." The engineer replied, "But, before that, God created the heavens and earth from chaos and confusion, and thus he was the first engineer. Therefore, engineering is an older profession than medicine." Then, the lawyer spoke up. "Yes," he said, "But who do you think created all of the chaos and confusion?"



Monkeying around in Monkey beach

MURLI MENON

LANDING at Kuala Lumpur International Airport is an experience in itself. The polished granite floor, the large number of western tourists waiting for transit flights and the brightly lit shopping malls. The ride to Kuala Lumpur Central Station from the airport by Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Express is smooth but uneventful. One changes into the LRT (Light Rail Transit) at Central station and alights at Pasar Sini station which is a few stops away. Puduraya Inter State Bus Station is a five minute walk from Pasar Sini LRT station. One boards the non-stop express bus to Penang which departs



Penang 's Monkey Beach

every hour. The taxi ride from the bus station to town costs 20 RM. One enters one's name and nationality at the gate of the National Park and enters the lush tropical rainforests for a three hour trek to Monkey Beach.

Monkey Beach is a quaint secluded beach which is devoid of tourists owing to its inaccessibility. Every step of one's trek through thick rainforests is filled with adventure.

Thousands of dried leaves of all shapes and sizes, in various hues of bronze lie on the forest floor. One steps barefooted on the leaves, inching closer to monkey beach. One treks along bridle paths, forest paths and rocks. The greenery around is soothing balm for one's tired eyes. The view from monkey

beach is a deeply spiritual experience. Miles and miles of foam soaked and sun drenched, silvery beach stretching as far as the eye can see.

(The writer is a globe-trotting astrologer)