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OUR GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND US – RIGHT
NOW

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Our Great Leap Forward and Us – Right Now

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**“The flow’rs that bloom in the spring, tra-la, have nothing to do with the
case.**

I’ve got to take under me wing, tra-la,

A most unattractive old thing, tra-la,

With a caricature of a face...”

*Ko-Ko, understandably declining Nanki-Poo’s kind invitation to see the bright
side of a lifetime with Katisha: The Mikado, by W.S. Gilbert and A.
Sullivan.*

We stood face to face barely three feet apart, the big adult male and I. Slightly taller, his arm spread was twice mine and musculature probably four-fold. His jaws carried formidable weaponry and we both knew that in combat I would last scarcely two seconds. Meeting gaze for several seconds left me a whiff of sullen dislike. Then suddenly bored, he abruptly turned and ambled on feet and knuckles out of sight, my last glimpse large testes swinging free and unheeded. Naked and unaware.

Beside the two inches of toughened glass, what was it that separated us?

Genetically, surprisingly little. He was a common chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes*; with

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