

The Monkey Fist

The monkey fist knot has traditionally been used on sailing ships. It is used to tie on the end of rigging so when the rope comes to the end of a pulley the monkey fist stops the rope from coming off the end. Another use is as a heaving line. It is used on the end of a rope to throw to shore to safely bring the ship to harbor. This heaving line with the monkey fist tied on the end is also used to help when someone gets washed overboard. When the seas get rough and the storms rage, one has to act fast to save friends. As you can imagine in the middle of the ocean the water can be very cold. If someone would be thrown a rope, even in a matter of seconds, you can lose all your gripping power and the single rope can easily slide through your hand; you lose all your strength. With the monkey fist knot at the end of a rope you can keep your grip on the rope and be safely towed back on board the ship.



This monkey fist knot is analogous to a lifeline in this mortal existence. It is our lifeline back to Heavenly Father. Our Father has given us helps to safely return to him. Each of the monkey fist turns, as it completes the knot, also represents something our Father has given us to help save each of us. Each turn can be attributed to things like prayer, scriptures, church, families, good friends, scout troop, baptism, faith, repentance, the Holy Ghost, missions, temples, etc. In the center of the monkey fist is a marble. That marble is analogous to our Savior Jesus Christ. He is the center of everything we do and makes it possible for us to be saved through his atonement and brought safely back to our Father in Heaven.