CAMI Evening Meeting

October 20th, 2020

A Puzzle from the Museum of Mathematics
PUZZLE: Coconut Classic

Five men and a monkey, marooned on an island, collect a pile of coconuts to be divided equally the next morning. During the night, however, one of the men decides he’d rather take his share now. He tosses one coconut to the monkey and removes exactly \( \frac{1}{5} \) of the remaining coconuts for himself. A second man does the same thing, then the third, fourth, and fifth.

The following morning the men wake up together, toss one more coconut to the monkey, and divide the rest equally. What’s the least original number of coconuts needed to make this whole scenario possible?