

(1) The Blind Men and the Elephant

Long time ago, there were six blind men who stood by the road every day. They had often heard of elephants, but they had never seen one.

One morning, there was an elephant driven down the road where they stood. When they were told that the big, great animal was before them, they asked the driver to let the elephant stop so that they might see it. Of course they could not see the big animal with their eyes, but they could touch and know what the animal would be like.

The first one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well! I see!" he said, "Now I know all about this great beast. It is exactly like a rough wall. I am sure that an elephant is just like a tall and rough wall!"

The second man reached out his hands and touched the elephant's tusk.

"My brother," he said, "you are wrong. Let me tell you about this elephant. It isn't like a wall at all. It is round, smooth and sharp. An elephant is more like a spear than anything else."

The third happened to take hold of the elephant's trunk.

"Wait a minute, both of you are wrong," he said.

"Anybody who knows anything can see that this elephant is like a snake. It's long and curly."

The fourth reached out his arms and grasped one of the elephant's legs.

"Oh, how blind you are," he said. "It is very clear to me that this big animal is round and tall like a tree."

The fifth was a very tall man, and he happened to take hold of the elephant's ear. "The blindest man should know that this beast is not like any of the things that you say. An elephant is exactly like a huge fan."

The sixth man was very blind indeed, and he took a while before he could find the elephant.

“There you are!” he said. At last he seized the giant beast's tail.

"How foolish my fellows," he cried, "you surely have lost your senses. This elephant is not like a wall or a spear or a snake or a tree and not to mention that it's like a fan. But any man with special sense can see that a big elephant is exactly like a rope. It is thin and short."

“That’s not a real elephant!” shouted the first man.

“You should believe what I say.” cried the second man.

“Nope, I am the right one!” the third man said with anger.

Then the elephant left and the six blind men sat by the road all day and quarreled about it. Each one of them believed that he knew just how the animal looked like, and they didn’t accept each other’s opinion because there’s no agreement among them. Just like people who have eyes sometimes may act foolish.