

## The Six Blind Men and the Elephant

There were once six blind men who wanted to know everything and who liked to be right at all times. There was great excitement in their village one day at the appearance of an elephant. Well, the blind men had never come across an elephant before and they very much wanted to know what one was like. So together they went to find the elephant.

The first stepped forward boldly and took hold of the elephant's tail. 'Ah,' he said, 'so an elephant is thin and stringy like a rope.'

The second meanwhile had bravely taken hold of its trunk. 'What do you mean?' he said. 'An elephant is long and wavy, like a great snake.'

The third however had found a leg. 'You're talking nonsense,' he said. 'Why, an elephant is thick and rounded, like a tree trunk.'

'Don't be ridiculous,' said the fourth, who had caught hold of an ear. 'An elephant is flat and flaps, like a fan.'

'Rubbish,' snapped the fifth, examining a tusk. 'An elephant is a great curving pipe.'

'Well, you're all wrong,' said the sixth firmly, with his hand on the elephant's side. 'An elephant is a solid wall.'

They were all convinced that they were right and they begin to argue, each insisting that he knew what an elephant was and that the others didn't know what they were talking about. A passing stranger stopped to ask what on earth the matter was.

'Tell us who is right!' they begged. 'What is an elephant?'

'Why, you're all right,' the stranger replied. 'You're each touching a different part of the elephant. An elephant is all of those things put together!'