

The Blind Men
and an Elephant

A Hindoo Fable



John Godfrey Saxe

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by John Godfrey Saxe

Blind Men and an Elephant

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant

John_Godfrey_Saxe: Blind Men and an Elephant

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant#John_Godfrey_Saxe

The Poems of John Godfrey Saxe: The Blind Men and the Elephant

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_poems_of_John_Godfrey_Saxe/The_Blind_Men_and_the_Elephant

The Elephant and the Blind Men (Three Versions)

<https://ofaphilosophicalnature.blogspot.com/2021/11/the-elephant-and-blind-men-three.html>

The Blind Men and an Elephant (Blog)

<https://ofaphilosophicalnature.blogspot.com/2022/06/the-blind-men-and-elephant.html>

The Blind Men and an Elephant (PDF)

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/theblindmenandanelephant.pdf>

The Blind Men and an Elephant (Slideshow)

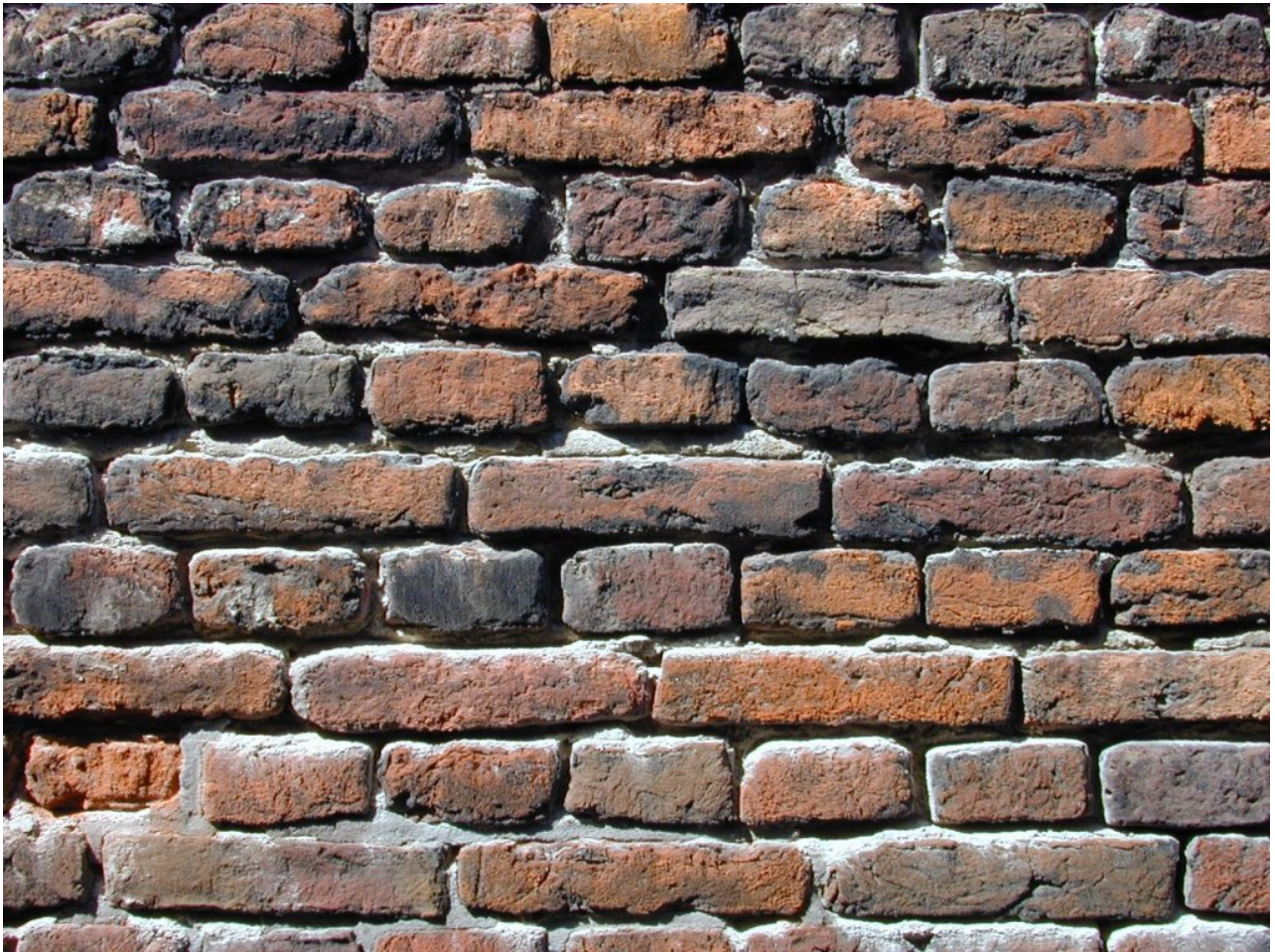
<https://theelephantandheblindmen.blogspot.com/>

I.



It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.

II.



The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! – but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

III.



The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried: "Ho! – what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 't is mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

IV.



The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"

V.



The Fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee.

"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;

"'T is clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

VI.



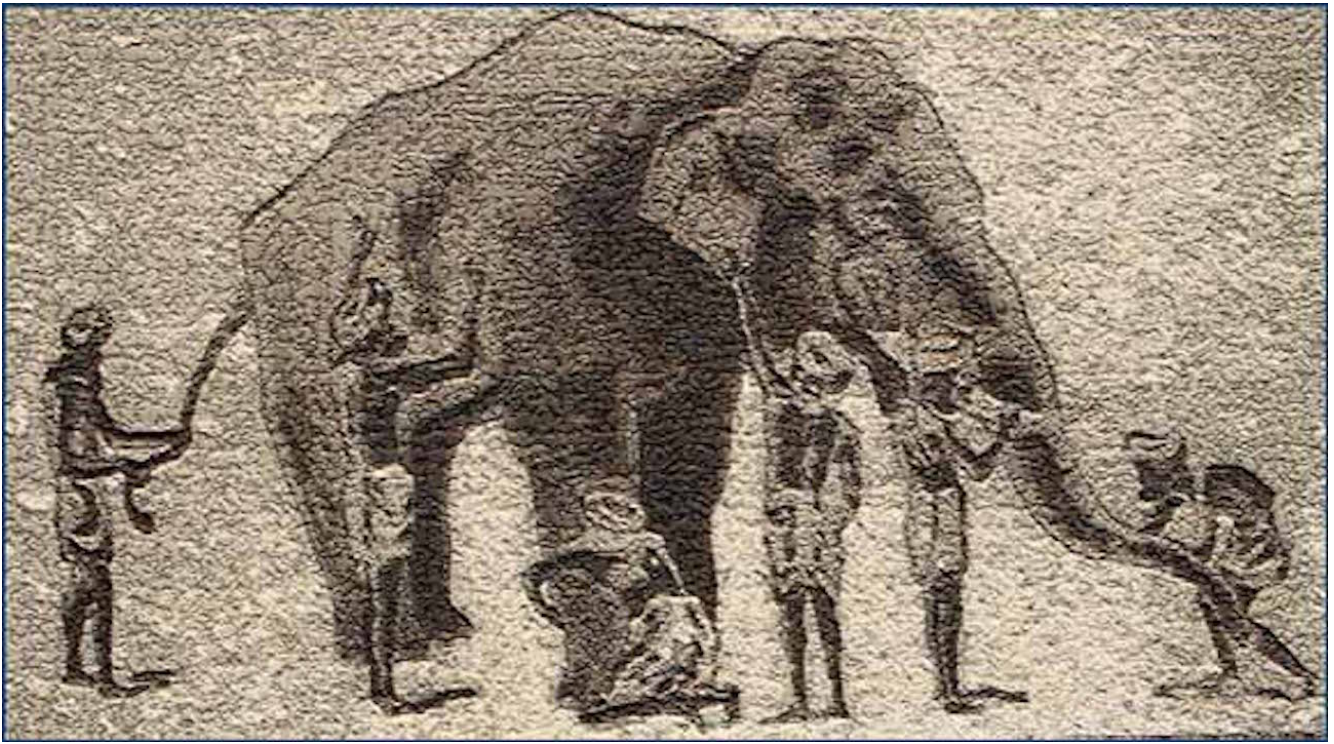
The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

VII.



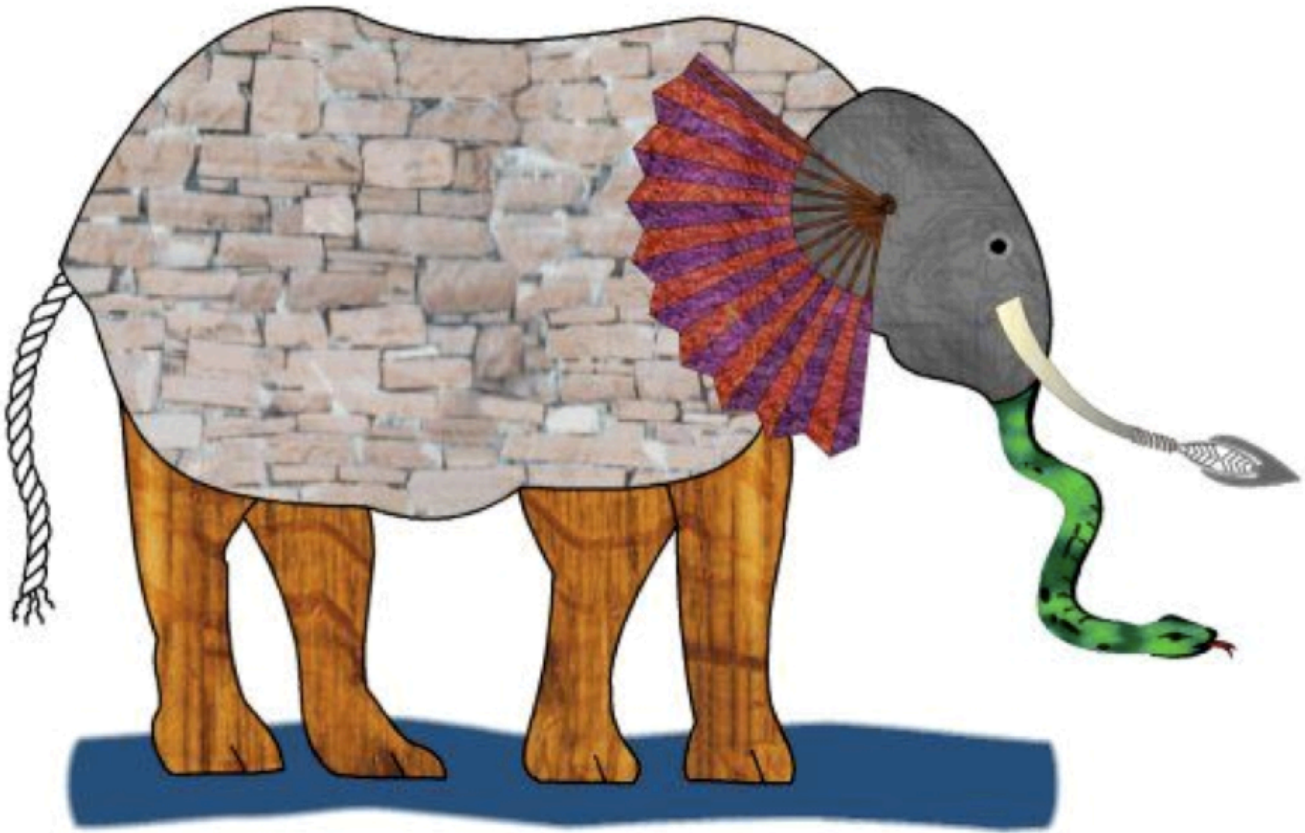
The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

VIII.



And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

Moral



So, oft in theologic wars
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!