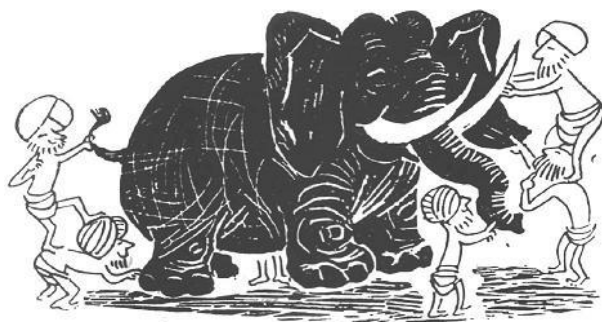


## The Blind Men and the Elephant



Drawing by [Friedel Stern](#)

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.

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!"

The Second, feeling the tusk,  
Cried, "Ho! what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me 'tis very clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very like a spear!"

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

The Fourth reached out an eager hand,  
And felt about the knee:  
"What most the wondrous beast is like  
Is very plain," quoth he;  
"Tis clear enough the Elephant  
Is very like a tree!"

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

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

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,  
They all were in the wrong!

- John Godfrey Saxe

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העורים והפיל

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