

STD-VI



Obstinacy and heat in argument are the surest proofs of stupidity. There are people who always think they are right. They start quarrelling if anybody contradicts them. They know nothing but think they know everything. They see a part and think it is the whole. What would you call such people? Blind! Yes, there is none so blind as they that won't see.



Now read this poem:

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

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

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

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- inclined** : having the desire to do something.
observation: careful watch or study of something.
sturdy : strong and big; well-built.
bawl : shout
God bless me! : an exclamation of surprise.
tusk : either of the two long pointed teeth that project from the mouth of an elephant.
mighty(adv.): very.

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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!"

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The fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee:
"What most this **wondrous** beast is like
Is mighty plain," **quoth** he;
" 'Tis clear enough the elephant
Is very like a tree!"

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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!"

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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!"

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And so these men of Hindostan
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.

— J.G. Saxe