The Elephant and the Six Wise Men

A traditional tale from India retold by Alan Trussell-Cullen

Illustrations by Luke Jurevicius and Toby Quarnby





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Chapter 1

The Six Wisest Men in the Whole World

Many years ago in a town in India, there were six men who were sure they were very wise. In fact, they called themselves the 'Six Wisest Men in the Whole World'!

They had spent their whole life gazing up at the stars and the moon and even the sun – because they thought that would make them wise.



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But it hadn't made them wise. Instead, all that gazing at the sun and the moon and the stars had done was hurt their eyes. In fact, they had all become blind – which just goes to show how silly they really were!



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One day an elephant came to the town. None of the Six Wisest Men in the Whole World had ever seen an elephant before. They asked a little boy to take them close to the elephant.

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"We want to see what this animal looks like," they said.

"But you are blind!" said the little boy.

"Yes, but we can feel with our hands and because we are so wise, we will know what it looks like," said the Six Wisest Men in the Whole World.

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Chapter 2

What Does the Elephant Look Like?

The boy took them to the elephant.

The first Wise Man put out his hands to feel the elephant and he touched the elephant's side. "Goodness me!" said the first Wise Man. "This animal is like a strong brick *wall*!"



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"That can't be right," said the second Wise Man. He put out his hands to feel the elephant and he ran them over the elephant's sharp tusk. "Goodness me!" he said. "This animal is like a dangerous *spear*!"

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