The Blind Men and the Elephant
**John Godfrey Saxe** (1816-1887)

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| It was six men of IndostanTo learning much inclined,Who went to see the Elephant(Though all of them were blind),That each by observationMight satisfy his mind. |
| The *First* approached the Elephant,And happening to fallAgainst his broad and sturdy side,At once began to bawl:"God bless me! but the ElephantIs very like a WALL!" |
| The *Second*, feeling of the tusk,Cried, "Ho, what have we here,So very round and smooth and sharp?To me 'tis mighty clearThis wonder of an ElephantIs very like a SPEAR!" |
| The *Third* approached the animal,And happening to takeThe squirming trunk within his hands,Thus boldly up and spake:"I see," quoth he, "the ElephantIs very like a SNAKE!" |
| The *Fourth* reached out an eager hand, And felt about the knee"What most this wondrous beast is likeIs mighty plain," quoth he:"'Tis clear enough the ElephantIs very like a TREE!" |
| The *Fifth*, who chanced to touch the ear,Said: "E'en the blindest manCan tell what this resembles most;Deny the fact who can,This marvel of an ElephantIs very like a FAN!" |
| The *Sixth* no sooner had begunAbout the beast to grope,Than seizing on the swinging tailThat fell within his scope,"I see," quoth he, "the ElephantIs very like a ROPE!" |
| And so these men of IndostanDisputed loud and long,Each in his own opinionExceeding stiff and strong,Though each was partly in the right,And all were in the wrong! |