

Entry Task

Date: 3rd October

Title: Gods and Heroes

In your own words, describe this animal in **as much** detail as you can. Begin your sentence like this :

The animal on the board looks like ...



What we're learning about in this lesson

- **Learning Objective:**

(What the teacher wants from this lesson):

- **To analyse the story of the Blind men and Elephant and apply it to Hindu ideas about God.**

- **Learning Outcomes:**

(How we will do this):

- Level 3: Listen to the story and identify the main ideas.
- Level 4: Explain what the story is trying to say.
- Level 5: Apply that idea to the Hindu understanding of God.

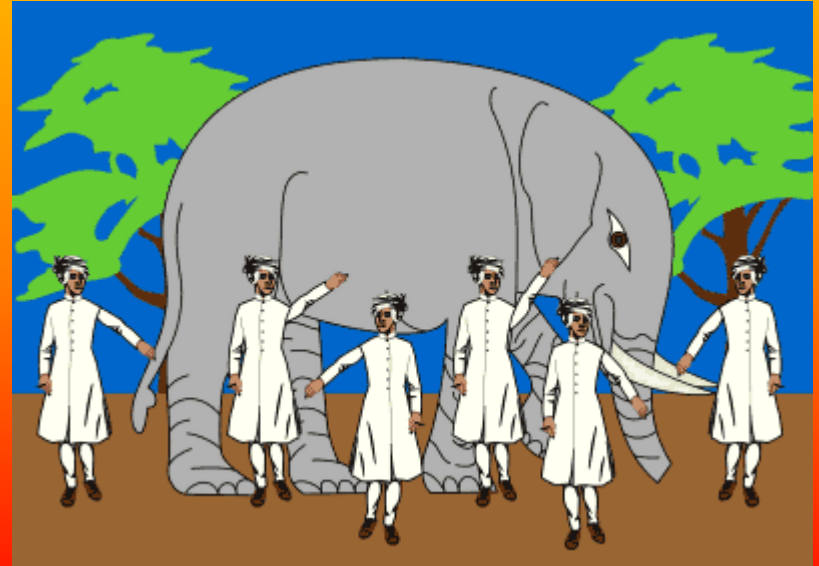
Hook into learning

The Blind men and the Elephant

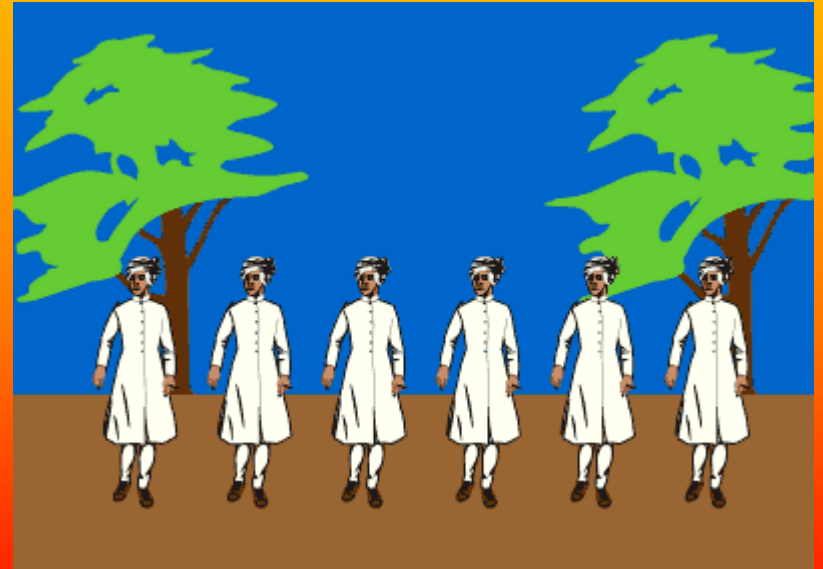
- Once upon a time, there were 6 blind men who lived in a village.
- There was great excitement one day because an elephant had wandered into the village.



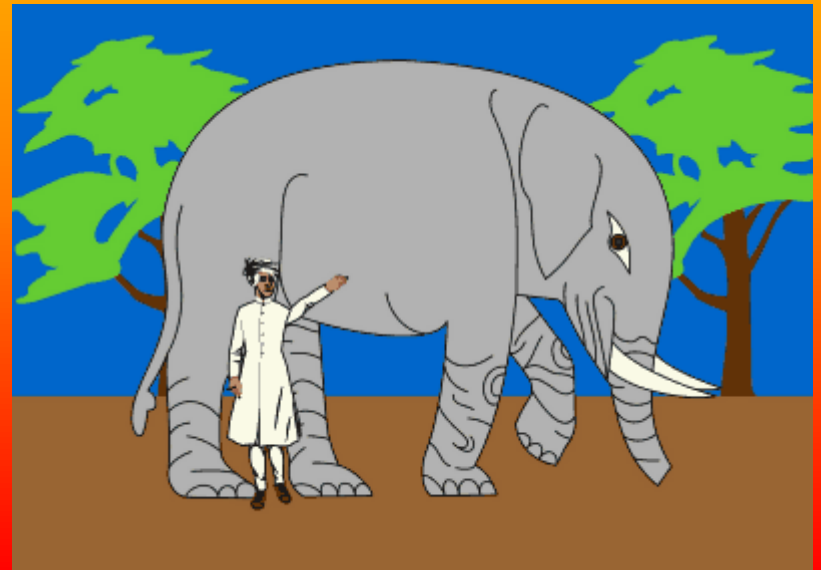
- The men had no idea what an elephant was or what it looked like, but because they were so excited they decided to go anyway.
- They thought that by touching it they would be able to decide what kind of thing it was.
- Here is their story ...



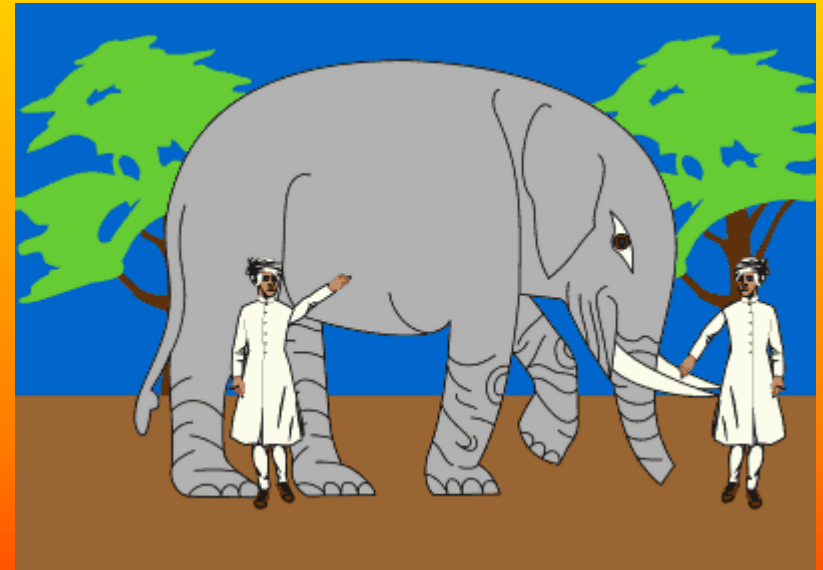
- **There were six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.**



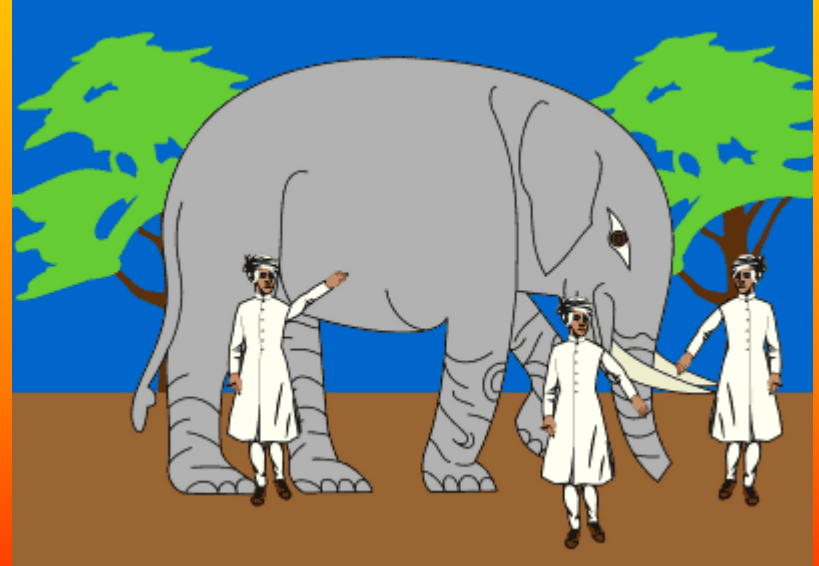
- **The First approached
the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and
sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
God bless me! but the
Elephant
Is very like a wall!**



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

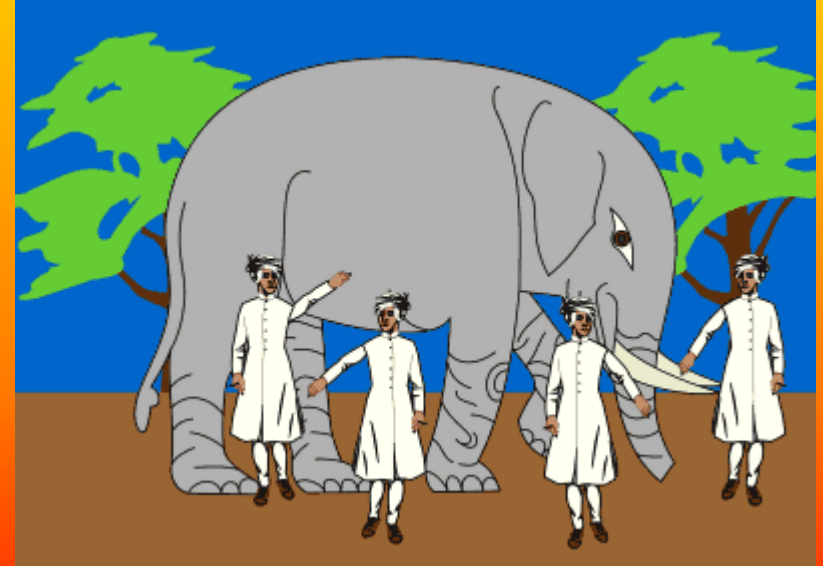


- **The Third approached
the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk
within his hands,
He boldly up and
spoke:
I see, said he, the
Elephant
Is very like a snake!**

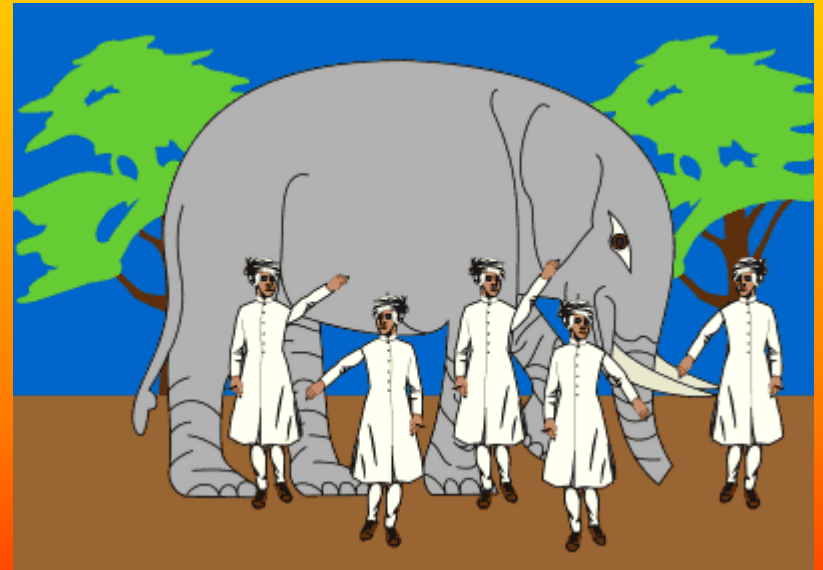


- **The Fourth reached out
an eager hand,
And felt about the
knee.**

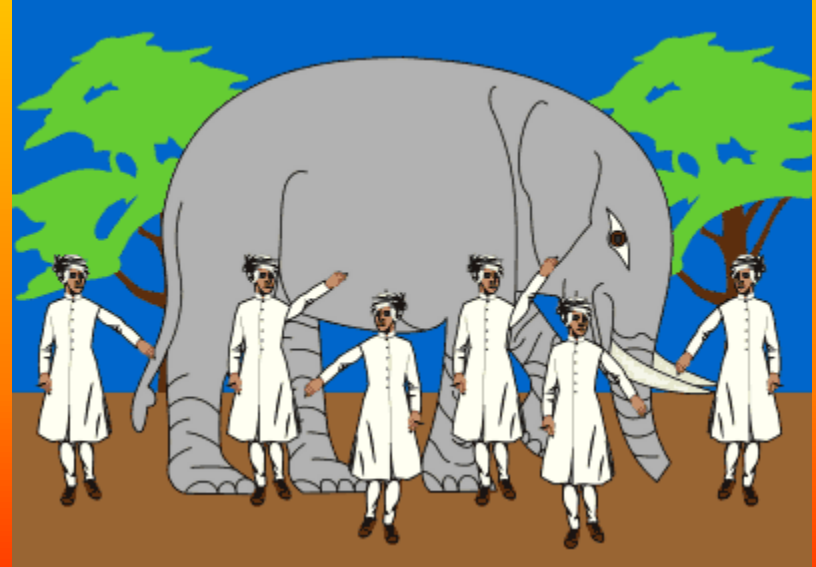
**What most this
wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain, said he;
'Tis clear enough the
Elephant
Is very like a tree!**



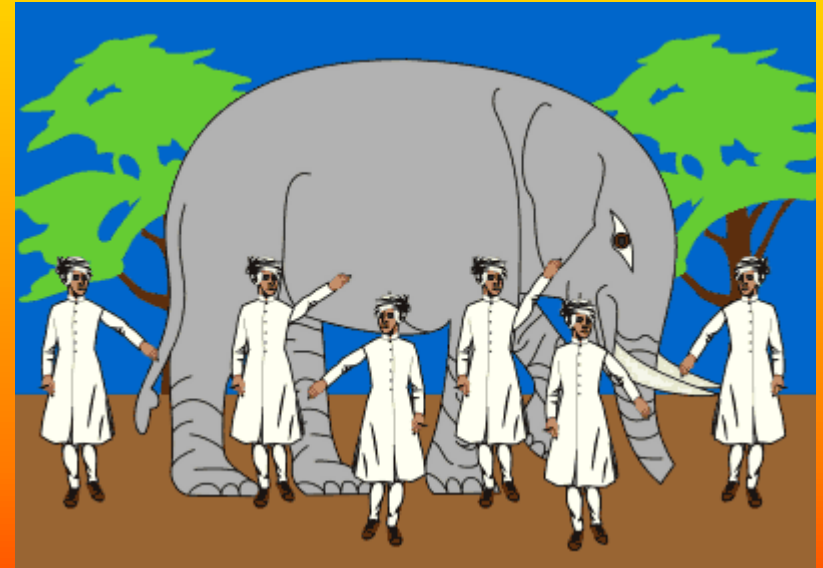
- **The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: Even the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!?**



- **The Sixth no sooner
had begun
About the beast to
grope,
Than, seizing on the
swinging tail
That fell within his
scope,
I see, said 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,
And all were in the
wrong!**



What we're learning about in this lesson

- **Learning Outcomes:**
(How we will do this):
- Level 3: Listen to the story and identify the main ideas.
- Level 4: Explain what the story is trying to say.

- In your books:
- When they blind men touched the elephant they compared the ----- to a ---- (etc.)
- I think that the story means that ...

Let's remind ourselves what Hindus believe about God.

- God has three main sides. God is a creator, a protector and destroyer.
- The creator side of God is called Brahma.
- The protector side of God is called Vishnu.
- The destroyer side of God is called Shiva.



But God can also be known through other parts of His/Her nature.

- Just like you can be known in many different ways (son, daughter, pupil, friend) ... so can God.
- Can you see how this has a link to the story of the blind men and the elephant?



God is loving

- To some people, God has a playful, mischievous but loving side.
- Hindus have a deity called Krishna who represents God's love.



God is generous

- Other people think that praying to God can bring them money and wealth.
- Hindus have a deity called Lakshmi who represents God's generosity.



God is intelligent

- Other people think that praying to God can bring them luck.
- Hindus have a deity called Ganesh who represents God's wisdom.



God has creative intelligence

- Other people think that God gave them the talent of music, art and creative knowledge.
- Hindus have a deity called Saraswati who represents God's creative side.



God can ease suffering

- Other people think that God can take away your suffering.
- Hindus have a deity called Durga who represents God's powerful kindness.



God of time and death

- Other people think that God is in control of the universe.
- Hindus have a deity called Kali who represents God's control of time and death.



What we're learning about in this lesson

- Level 4: Explain what the story of the blind men and the elephant is trying to say.
- Level 5: Apply that idea to the Hindu understanding of God.

- In your books:
- The many Hindu deities explain how Hindus understand God.
- I think this links to the story of the blind men and the elephant because ...

And now for something completely different 😊

- Hindus have many stories about their deities.
- Each of them help humans in some way and have special powers to help us, a bit like super heroes.

- Can you name any super heroes?
- What powers do they have to help people?

In some ways, the stories about Hindu deities are very much like other stories about superheroes.



- They show that Hindus believe God can interact with humans and use powers to help us.

Choose one of the Hindu deities outline pictures.

Research what powers your deity has, or how it has helped humans in some way.

Around the outside of your picture, write down 10 things you have found in your research.

HOMEWORK